A HISTORY OF IDCEC:
MAJOR MILESTONES AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Authored by the IDCEC Chairs
- 1983-1987 CEU Forum | Dorothy Fowles, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University
- 1988-1990 CEU Forum | Virginia North (deceased)
- 1991-1993 CEU Forum, changed to IDCEC | Buie Harwood, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University (IDEC Historian and article editor)
- 1994-1999 IDCEC | Jane Kucko, Texas Christian University
- 1999-2001 IDCEC | Jill Pable, Florida State University
- 2001-2006 IDCEC | Janine King, Florida International University
- 2006-2009 IDCEC | Holly Cline, Radford University
- 2009-March 2011 IDCEC | Linda Nussbaumer, South Dakota State University (liaison representing IDEC)
- March 2011 IDCEC becomes an independent entity | Brynell D’Mello, Director

Introduction
In 1983, coordination of continuing education activity in interior design was formally initiated through the formation of the Continuing Education Forum. In 1991, it was renamed the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC) to better reflect its purpose and representation. Until early in 2011, it operated through the auspices of IDEC and other member organizations. The IDEC representative served as chair and member organizations representatives and staff people facilitated communication, operations, and implementation processes. In March 2011, IDCEC became an independent entity with its own director and a headquarters office in Toronto, attesting to an increase in continuing education activities and to responsibilities in the profession.

Prologue
In 1978, the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) establish guidelines for continuing education (CE) courses (IDEC Board Minutes, 1982). ASID asks IDEC President Dorothy Fowles to sit on their committee to discuss common interests in professional development because ASID and the Institute of Business Designers (IBD) wanted IDEC to develop the CE programs. As a result of motions passed, IDEC proposes a commission and establishes guidelines to investigate subject matter areas to be delivered, to coordinate CE needs for representative organizations, to investigate alternative delivery systems, and to address CE approved credit. At the 1982 ASID International Annual Conference in San Francisco, the first CE course is presented to interior designers.

1983-1987 CEU Forum
1983, January: The first Continuing Education Forum in interior design was convened by Dorothy Fowles in the Herman Miller showroom at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Those attending include the American Institute of Architects (AIA; James Ellison), ASID (Odette Lueck), IBD (James Ferguson), Interior Designers of Canada (IDC; Ron Strandberg), National Home Fashions League (NHFL; Peggy Wood), and IDEC (Dorothy Fowles, Chair). Several other organizations are invited to attend, but decline.

The group exchanges information on the status and direction of interior design professional development/continuing education in each organization. By April, IDEC Board Minutes note that ACT will register CEUs for ASID, and IDEC members will present CE courses at the ASID conference in Boston.
1983, June: The second CEU Forum convenes, during which time IDEC is asked to set up a clearing house for programs and schedules.

1983, August: At the second International Federation of Interior Designers/Interior Architects (IFI) Forum on Interior Design Education in Winnipeg, Canada panel presentations discuss “The Obligation of the Professional Magazines to the Continuing Education of the Profession” and “Continuing Education: A Collaborative Effort Update,” with Dorothy Fowles as a participant.


1984, January: ASID Educational Foundation awards the first Joel Polsky Prize for research to Dorothy Fowles to survey 1800 members of ASID and IBD. Additional funding for the research comes from IBD, ASID, NHFL Chicago Chapter, and Iowa State University Graduate College.


1985, April: “Continuing Education for Interior Design: What is its Future?” is presented by Dorothy Fowles at the IDEC Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

1987, July: NHFL drops out of CEU Forum participation.


1991-1993 CEU Forum, changed to IDCEC

1991, Spring: The CEU Forum name is changed to the Interior Design Continuing Education Council (IDCEC) to better reflect its more expanded member representation, its more comprehensive responsibilities, and its need for a more formal administrative identity.

IDCEC invites staff members in charge of CEs at ASID and IBD to participate in IDCEC meetings to help facilitate better communication, operation, and implementation processes.

IDCEC researches, formalizes, and publishes CE categories for teaching and evaluating content so the linkage between the two is more complete.

IDCEC develops and publishes an operations manual for CEU presenters, organization representatives, and CEU evaluators.

IDCEC formulates and publishes guidelines for teaching and evaluating CEU courses.

IDCEC continues and expands communications with IDEC, ASID, IBD, and other member organizations.

IDCEC meets with AIA representatives when they start to address offering CE courses.

1999-2001 IDCEC

1999: “NCIDQ [begins] development of a monograph program to provide self-study continuing education courses for interior designers related to health, safety, and welfare” (NCIDQ history, 2011, p. 100).

IDCEC addresses ways to help practitioners who seek convenient and time-sensitive methods of receiving CE credits (attending workshops at a conference or NEOCON for example).

IDCEC reviews and updates the operations manual. Member representatives discuss alternative CE course delivery methods, such as online and tour-style courses to ensure rigor and appropriate review.
IDEC continues to provide reviewers to the other IDCEC member organizations for the processing and approval of CE course applications, and IDEC itself serves as a provider of select courses.

The IDEC Academy forms as an entity within IDEC that fosters continuing education content for educators and the review of conference workshops. Procedures permit attendees at IDEC conferences to earn CE credit for academic presentations and other events.

NCIDQ serves as the generator of IDCEC course numbers and the repository for CE credit information by learners from all the IDCEC member organizations.

IDCEC discusses the acceptance of certain IDCEC courses for members of the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality and the International Association of Lighting Designers.


2001-2006 IDCEC

Continuing education course delivery across the United States increases with the growth of interior design legislation during the 1990’s. Many new presenters emerge to fill this need.

IDCEC approves the first online CE courses, as well as many short and long course offerings.

IDCEC centralizes and codifies information and processes to promote and communicate the benefits of IDCEC approval to jurisdictions, CE providers, and to practitioners.

IDCEC creates a brand/logo to increase awareness (a check mark incorporated with IDCEC to indicate the concept of approval).

IDCEC produces its first organizational website.

The IDCEC chair begins participating in and presenting the benefits of IDCEC to NCIDQ delegates at yearly meetings.

The IDCEC chair begins reporting at IDEC town hall meetings.

IDCEC prepares a common presenters’ guide and a shared Policies and Procedures document for use by all member organizations to reduce confusion and increase consistency, and makes it available with other important information on the IDCEC website.


2006-2009 IDCEC

2006, Fall: Core IDCEC members receive CEU credit for participating in the bi-annual IDCEC meetings.

2007, May: IDCEC course reviewers are trained at the IDEC Annual Conference to ensure a more consistent review process. Each reviewer receives CEU credit for the initial review of an IDCEC approved course. IDCEC discusses the idea of a small group of paid reviewers who are trained and collaborate on approval decisions.

2008, March & June: The IDCEC chair presents at NeoCon and the IDEC Annual Conference on “How to get into the CEU Business” in attempts to encourage higher-level CEUs from practice and education.

2008, May: Executive Directors from the core member organizations and appointed taskforce members from the respective groups review the structure of IDCEC. The charge of the taskforce is: “Provide analysis and comments on the nature and extent of future formalization, centralization, and staffing of IDCEC. The task force would also be asked to recommend a process to validate the IDCEC Continuing Education standards in comparison to current CE Standards.”

2008, Nov.: IDCEC taskforce members recommend that NCIDQ assume the administrative leadership for IDCEC and that IDCEC become a recognized individual entity.

2009-March 2011 IDCEC

2009, November: The Executive Directors and Presidents of ASID, the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), and IDC inform the IDCEC leadership that they are developing a plan to create a new IDCEC entity. IDEC would not be a core organization but would have the opportunity to be an associate member with a representative.

IDCEC experiences a significant increase in CE submissions, which are processed by ASID, IIDA, and IDEC. (Currently, 1400 CE courses are listed by IDCEC.)

2010, November: IDCEC is incorporated as an independent organization.

2011: “NCIDQ [launches] a free CE Registry for its active Certificate holders in March, enabling them to have 24/7 access to their registry
through MyNCIDQ* (NCIDQ history, 2011, p. 102).

March 2011-present: IDCEC becomes an independent entity

2011, March: Brynell D’Mello is hired as Director of IDCEC. The IDEC representative is no longer chair of IDCEC.

2011, April: Meetings focus on sharing knowledge and streamlining and centralizing processes by ASID, IIDA and IDC with IDCEC.

2011, May: Brynell D’Mello with education directors from ASID, IIDA and IDC conduct focus groups to obtain feedback from key stakeholders such as reviewers, providers and learners.

2011, June-Aug.: IDCEC releases an RFP externally to interested vendors concerning the scope of an online project, and those shortlisted present solutions to IDCEC, ASID, IIDA and IDC.

2011, September: Navantis Inc. is awarded the IDCEC online project contract.

2011, November: IDCEC holds its first Board meeting as a new entity.

2012, January: IDCEC centralizes all administrative operations centralized and updates the IDCEC website to direct stakeholders queries to the Toronto office. IDCEC hires a coordinator hired to manage administrative processes.

2012, April: IDCEC will launch its new online portal and website.

Quoted Reference: