

The Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) seeks proposals to enter into a contract to conduct a global study of interior design education and quality assurance. Proposals will be received at the CIDA office, 206 Grandville Ave. Suite 350, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via e-mail to holly@accredit-id.org until 5:00 p.m. EST on April 11, 2012. CIDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Background – Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA)

For 40 years, CIDA has been providing quality assurance for interior design higher education through the process of specialized accreditation. Often acknowledged as outstanding among specialized accreditors, CIDA plays a vital role in the development of the interior design profession. Fostering rigor and relevance in educational preparation, CIDA is committed to its mission, “to provide the foundation for future excellence in the interior design profession by setting standards for education and accrediting academic programs that meet those standards.”

The Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) was established in 1970 under the name Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER).¹ The founders, the American Institute of Interior Designers, the National Society of Interior Designers, and the Interior Design Educators Council, used the legal structure of an Indenture of Trust for the new organization.

With the support of the founding organizations, CIDA was restructured in 1999 into a Michigan nonprofit corporation, designed to maintain productive connections with all “communities of interest”. The new structure separated the work of accreditation (assigning it to the Accreditation Commission) from governance, fundraising, and public relations, assigned to a 9-member Board of Directors. The 1970 Trust Indenture, developed by AID, NSID, and IDEC, was dissolved and all assets transferred to the new corporation effective January 1, 1999.

Another wave of change took place in 2005 with board deliberation about the organization’s identity and the challenges of creating greater awareness of the value of accreditation. Deeper understanding of core values, attributes, and mission led to a new name, announced in January 2006, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).

Who benefits from CIDA’s quality mission? The primary beneficiaries are the students who are enrolled in CIDA-accredited interior design programs. There are thousands of students enrolled in CIDA accredited programs, and over a thousand graduate and enter the profession each year. Because interior design programs have ranked CIDA standards among the most influential factors in curriculum development, CIDA has a significant impact on the education of graduates entering the profession. The profession recognizes this and works through CIDA to ensure that graduates receive a quality education that will lead to future excellence.

Beyond interior design students and the profession as a whole, other significant constituents in quality interior design education include employers, parents of interior design students, industry partners, collaborative professions, and higher education administrators.

¹ The US Internal Revenue Service has continuously recognized CIDA (formerly FIDER) as a 501 (c)(3) organization, exempt from federal taxes.

From the first cadre of six programs to be accredited in 1973, the number of CIDA-accredited programs has grown to 172. This growth has occurred in tandem with CIDA's growth, incrementally raising the bar on the standards that are used to evaluate the quality of interior design education. Interior design programs continue to meet the challenge of new and heightened expectations as the profession evolves. Some significant examples of how CIDA standards have reflected evolving expectations in practice include the introduction of accreditation criteria addressing computer-aided techniques and technical knowledge in the 1980s; an increased emphasis on educational content related to health, safety, and welfare in the 1990s; and strengthened expectations related to sustainability and global perspective in the 2000s. As of January 1, 2010 CIDA accredited programs all culminate in professional-level bachelor's and master's degrees.

The current Professional Standards implemented in 2009 (updated in 2011) elevate the highly valued characteristics designers offer in the current knowledge-driven economy, such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and innovation. Once again, CIDA has been proactive in ensuring that graduates are well prepared for an evolving profession.

Details about CIDA and the core business of accreditation are available online at www.accredit-id.org. Additional information about the interior design profession can be found at www.careersininteriordesign.com.

Project Summary

CIDA recognizes that the global economy is a reality and preparation of future interior design graduates to practice across international borders is key to the continued growth and success of the profession. CIDA would like to strengthen connections within the global interior design community and provide a rich base of information from which to:

- Promote the value of CIDA accreditation to eligible interior design programs outside the US and Canada
- Develop services that enhance the coordination of quality assurance efforts internationally, where appropriate, for example, reciprocity or equivalency metrics
- Enhance CIDA accreditation standards for interior design education related to practice in a global market
- Provide a valuable resource to the interior design education and practice community about the global state of interior design education and quality assurance

The study will identify interior design programs located outside of North America that are eligible to seek CIDA accreditation, resulting in increased understanding of opportunities for international expansion. The study will also collect data about quality assurance methods for interior design education in selected countries in order to create a basis upon which to assess opportunities for collaboration. CIDA will broadly disseminate the results of this study to benefit allied organizations and the global professional community as a whole.

Notably, the recent global dialogue hosted through the International Federation of Interior Designers and Interior Architects (IFI) called *Design Frontiers: The Interiors Entity (DFIE)* ensures that this proposal to expand CIDA services beyond North America is both timely and beneficial to the profession across the globe. In 2010, IFI Think Tanks were held throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. This global conversation manifested

itself in the *IFI DFIE Interiors Declaration* that attests to the value, relevance, responsibility, culture, business, knowledge, and identity of the interior design profession globally.

Project Objectives

In December 2008, CIDA's Board of Directors voted to expand accreditation eligibility to interior design programs outside of North America that are approved or recognized by the appropriate higher education agency or authority in the country of origin. An international program must also demonstrate that the higher education agency or authority in the country of origin acknowledges the institution is seeking CIDA accreditation for the interior design program.

CIDA staff consistently receives inquiries from students interested in earning an accredited interior design degree abroad. Currently, one program located at a satellite campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar is CIDA-accredited. Identifying and collecting information about other eligible international programs would enable CIDA to develop targeted communications that provide these programs with information about the value of CIDA accreditation.

CIDA may also develop services that offer support for coordination among quality assurance entities in countries outside North America. These efforts may in turn motivate agreements of mutual recognition of quality assurance between countries and support the mobility of graduates in a global market. Ultimately, CIDA seeks to ensure that our quality assurance mission continues to be relevant and serves an increasingly global profession.

Scope of Work and Project Timeline

CIDA seeks to hire a qualified consultant to investigate and compile information from specific geographical regions of interest. Specifically, the study will document:

- Countries that recognize interior design as a profession with an educational component
- Quality assurance processes and published standards for higher education in place in those countries
- Interior design programs in those countries that are eligible to seek CIDA accreditation

The timeline and scope of work are as follows:

<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Activity</u>
February 2012	CIDA issues request for proposals for global study of interior design education and quality assurance.
April 11, 2012	RFP's due to CIDA. All RFP's will be reviewed to ensure they meet requirements. All responsive RFP's will be forwarded to the selection committee.
May 4, 2012	CIDA notifies bidders about decision. Negotiation may be required to reach final agreement.

<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Activity</u>
May-December 2012	Consultant fully develops scope of information gathering in consultation with CIDA. Consultant designs information gathering methodology.
January-December 2013	Consultant completes information gathering. Consultant designs format for organizing and communicating study results. Consultant recommends methodology for tracking and updating information in the future.
March 31, 2014	CIDA publishes study results.

CIDA staff and appointed representatives will provide administrative support and consultative guidance as needed throughout the project. Funds have been allocated to hire technical or other support to assist with publishing study results in 2014.

Budget

The total budget should not exceed \$60,000, and should be broken down by work segment and address ALL expenses. The budget should exclude any travel required for CIDA personnel.

Submittal Requirements

Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, April 11, 2012, and must include:

1. Contact information for the individual and/or firm proposing to do the work.
2. A brief history of qualifications. Include a background statement of qualifications and strengths that would single out the individual or firm as the best to accomplish the proposed project. Provide a brief description of credentials and relevant experience of individuals who might work on the project.
3. Samples of work if appropriate.
4. Work program and tentative project schedule. Describe the process that will be followed to execute the project. Include information about total hours anticipated on the project by various personnel.
5. Budget proposed for this project.
6. List of references.

Submit proposals to:

Holly Mattson, Executive Director
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Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Or holly@accredit-id.org
Telephone 616.458.0400