

THE CID ADVANTAGE

A CONSUMER GUIDE TO CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS IN CALIFORNIA



DESIGN CONFIDENCE BEGINS WITH VERIFIED QUALIFICATIONS.

WHY HIRE A CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER?

A **Certified Interior Designer (CID)** brings verified education, diversified design experience, knowledge of California codes and regulations, and a commitment to professional ethics. For residential, retail, office, and other commercial projects, a CID can translate your goals into a functional design, guide complex decisions, and help you avoid costly mistakes.

01 Verified Qualifications

Education and diversified design experience are reviewed by CCIDC before certification.

02 California Code Knowledge

Every CID must pass the IDEX® California Examination, which tests California codes, laws, and professional practice.

03 Professional Accountability

CIDs agree to follow the CCIDC Code of Ethics and Conduct and maintain their certification.

04 Plans for Permit Review

CIDs may prepare and submit nonstructural, nonseismic interior plans and specifications to local building departments.

WHAT MAKES A CID DIFFERENT?

California's **Certified Interior Designer Title Act**, Business and Professions Code Sections 5800-5812, establishes standards for use of the title. **Only CCIDC determines eligibility for certification in California.** Each CID receives a unique certification number that consumers can verify online.

BEFORE YOU HIRE, VERIFY.

Confirm the designer's name, CID number, certification status, and expiration date. ccidc.org/verify-certification/

WHAT CERTIFICATION MEANS TO YOU



Clear qualifications. Professional accountability. A title you can verify.

THE QUALIFICATIONS BEHIND THE TITLE

To become a Certified Interior Designer in California, an applicant must satisfy a qualifying education and experience pathway and pass the IDEX® California Examination.

CORE UNITS*	QUALIFYING EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
80+	80 or more core semester units	2 years
60-79	60-79 core semester units	3 years
40-59	40-59 core semester units	4 years
8 YRS	Education, diversified design experience, or a combination totaling eight years	Total

CCIDC converts quarter units to semester units. All experience must meet CCIDC's diversified design experience requirements.

HOW A CID IS IDENTIFIED



Sample CID stamp

A CID receives a unique certification number. The stamp identifies the designer and their number.

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Every CID agrees to follow the CCIDC Code of Ethics and Conduct, including responsibilities to clients, the public, and the profession.

CONSUMER FAQ

Can a CID act as a general contractor?

Certification alone does not authorize contracting. A CID must also hold the required contractor's license to perform contracting work or hire subcontractors.

Can a CID address accessibility requirements?

Yes. CIDs demonstrate knowledge of accessibility requirements applicable to interior spaces as part of their qualifications and examination.

Can plans include mechanical or electrical work?

A CID may coordinate these elements, but engineering documents must be prepared and stamped by appropriately licensed engineers.

VERIFY A CID

Confirm current certification status before hiring.

ccidc.org/verify-certification/

HIRE A LOCAL CID

Search CCIDC's directory of qualified professionals.

ccidc.org/hire-a-cid/

Sources: California Business and Professions Code Sections 5800-5812, 5537-5538; CCIDC certification requirements and Code of Ethics.