



## **CCIDC Announces New “Single” Certification Examination – The IDEX California**

(San Marcos, Calif...February 12, 2009) The California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC) is pleased to announce that beginning in 2009 there will be a new “single” examination for interior designers in California in order to become a “Certified Interior Designer.” Dubbed IDEX California – for Interior Design Exam California – the IDEX will become the only examination required to fulfill the examination portion of the certification process in California. No longer will designers be required to take a combination of the CCRE (California Codes and Regulations Examination), and one of the three national examinations (CQRID, NCIDQ, NKBA) none of which address or test for California building codes or Title 24.

The past requirement imposed more work, more expense, and more exams on certification candidates in California than any other state. By going to one exam, that burden is removed and the entire certification process is streamlined by allowing candidates to take the new exam right after graduating from a minimum two year interior design college program, while they are still in the studying mode. Those with 5 years minimum working experience as an interior designer will also qualify to take this new single exam. This doesn't make them a Certified Interior Designer until they fulfill the work experience requirements as written in to the California certification statute.

Faced with the new California building codes, introduced in 2008, and the necessity to update the existing CCRE, the timing was appropriate to undertake this change. The CCIDC board has determined it is in the best interest of California interior designers to transition to one inclusive examination that would be available to all potential candidates including graduating students.

The IDEX Task Force, comprised of 12 subject matter experts, has already conducted a series of weekend meetings along with representatives from Castle Worldwide, the psychometricians who are developing the IDEX, where they completed the classification phase of the examination. You can view the new classification system on the CCIDC web site at <http://www.ccidc.org/idex-classification.html>. The IDEX Task Force is now in the item writing stage in preparation for the completion of the exam prior to launch.

To sit for the IDEX California, a candidate will first need to apply to become a Certified Interior Designer and pay the standard \$150 application fee. Requirements to sit for the exam include two years of education (40 semester units) in Interior Design or five years of work experience (approximately 9000 hours). The IDEX will be available at 39 testing sites across California, and at other testing locations across the country, starting in the Spring of 2009. The cost to take the IDEX will be \$300 plus a \$75 testing center fee. It will be an online only examination and will be given for a month in the Spring (May/June) and

a month in the Fall (October).

The CCIDC will continue to honor those who have passed one of the current national examinations and the CCRE through to the end of the year 2012. After that all certification candidates in California must take and pass the IDEX.

To receive news on 2009 IDEX dates, study materials, etc. visit <http://www.ccidc.org/interest.html> and fill out the form. This is a separate list only for those interested in taking the new exam.

Since this is such an expensive undertaking, the CCIDC is seeking donations to help offset the expense of developing this new exam. This will also benefit students and candidates by defraying their cost of taking the IDEX. If you are seeking options to reducing your tax liability and you desire to assist the interior design profession in California, the CCIDC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donation is tax-deductible. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.ccidc.org](http://www.ccidc.org).

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