

For Immediate Release

International Academy of Design & Technology Attains CIDA Re-Accreditation for Interior Design Program

Tampa, Fla. (March 19, 2009) – The International Academy of Design & Technology-Tampa (the Academy) was notified this month that it has again been granted accreditation by the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) for its Interior Design (Bachelor of Fine Arts) degree program. This accreditation status has been continuously held since 1992. The Interior Design program was voluntarily placed before the scrutiny of CIDA to ensure that students receive an education that will serve them not only during their time at school but also prepare them for future professional growth. Students enrolled in an accredited interior design program can be confident that the program meets the quality standards recognized by the profession.

CIDA is an independent, non-profit accrediting organization for interior design education programs at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. For more than 35 years, this knowledge-driven organization has been passionately committed to the ongoing enrichment of the interior design profession through identifying, developing and promoting quality standards for the education of entry-level interior designers, and then encouraging, accrediting and supporting educational programs to aspire to those standards. The Council engages nearly 200 volunteers, all drawn from interior design practice and education, to carry out its work.

More than 150 interior design programs are currently accredited by the CIDA in the U.S., serving an estimated 20,000 students. CIDA is recognized as a reliable authority on interior design education by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation is professional level programs in interior design. The Academy is in an elite group of seven Interior Design programs in Florida that hold this accreditation status.

Phil Bulone, Interior Design Department Chair, will be presenting an account of the program self-study report and other accreditation visit preparation at the upcoming CIDA workshop at the Interior Design Educator's Council International Conference in St. Louis on Wednesday, March, 25.

"Phil and his team worked tirelessly to earn this re-accreditation," said Mark Page, President of the Academy in Tampa. "The preparation leading up to the visit was a reflection of what we do here at the Academy - every day!"

CIDA site evaluators visited the Tampa campus in November to partake in the intense examination of all aspects of the Academy's program. CIDA measured the consistency and continued excellence of the interior design education over a long period of time that resulted in a stellar review. The CIDA stated in its report that the program learning experiences and student work were, "unusually sophisticated and well considered." The report highlighted 16 program strengths including: professional discipline, value of community services, application of design elements and principles, interior color application, client and user need identification, space planning, lighting, ability to design custom interior elements, illustrative sketching, communication of three-dimensional space and form, manual and computer-aided drafting and rendering. The CIDA report concluded, "The Interior Design program at IADT-Tampa delivers a professional-level education that prepares students for entry into the interior design profession."

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About International Academy of Design & Technology

The International Academy of Design & Technology (the Academy – Tampa) provides educational programs that are designed to prepare students for professional opportunities and career success in select design and technology fields. The Academy has been an established institution for more than 25 years and has 10 other campuses across the US. Since it opened in 1984, the Academy - Tampa has served the needs of students for employment and career advancement and the needs of industry for highly qualified professionals at the Associate of Science and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree levels. The programs at the Academy focus on the highly specialized fields of fashion design & marketing, interior design, graphic design, fashion merchandising, recording arts, computer animation, digital photography and advertising & design. The Academy is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. For more information, visit www.academy.edu.

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