



CHID

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

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What is your favorite part of your job or what is the best thing about your job?

My favorite part of my job is mentoring designers and watching them grow in their skills and confidence. It's incredibly rewarding to see the projects we work on come to life and witness the positive impact they have on the people who use those spaces. The combination of guiding talent and seeing tangible results makes it all worthwhile.

What advice do you have for someone new to the healthcare industry?

My advice for someone new to the Healthcare Design industry is to be patient and open to learning. Healthcare design is complex and ever-evolving, so take the time to understand regulations, user needs, and functionality. Don't be afraid to ask questions, seek feedback, and collaborate with others. Building a strong foundation of knowledge and fostering a collaborative mindset will set you up for success.

What drew you to healthcare design?

I grew up in hospitals because my younger sister was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, and I saw firsthand how much of a difference well-designed spaces made during our stays. The comfort and functionality of certain hospitals made a huge impact on my mom and sister, and that experience drew me to healthcare interior design, where I could help create environments that truly support healing and care.

What is the best design decision you ever made?

The most impactful design decision I've made was in an apheresis space, where we shifted our focus from the overall space to the patient's experience in their treatment chair. By considering what patients see and feel during treatment, we incorporated elements like soothing graphics and television to make the environment more welcoming and less clinical. This thoughtful change significantly enhanced the comfort and experience for patients during a challenging time.

Have any lessons learned from a project?

Throughout my experience with various projects, I've learned several valuable lessons. First and foremost, collaboration is key; involving all stakeholders early in the design process ensures that the final solution meets everyone's needs. I've also discovered the importance of user-centered design, prioritizing the end-user's experience to create more effective and meaningful spaces. Flexibility is essential, as projects often evolve, and being adaptable can lead to innovative solutions. Clear communication among team members and clients helps avoid misunderstandings and keeps everyone aligned.

How do you keep your expertise up or how do you keep current?

To stay current in the field of Healthcare Interior Design, I actively engage with industry publications and journals, attending conferences and webinars to learn about the latest trends and best practices. Networking with colleagues and professionals in the field allows me to share insights and gain new perspectives. I also participate in professional organizations, like the IIDA, and AAHID which provides valuable resources and opportunities for collaboration and learning. Additionally, I keep an eye on innovative projects to understand how emerging designs and technologies can enhance patient care and experiences. This ongoing learning helps me continually refine my approach and deliver impactful designs.

What is your favorite type of healthcare space to design and why?

My favorite type of healthcare space to design is operating rooms (ORs). I love the challenge of coordinating complex equipment and layouts, which requires a keen attention to detail. The end results are truly life-changing, as these spaces play a critical role in patient outcomes and surgical success. It's rewarding to know that my designs can directly contribute to improved healthcare experiences.

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What pushed you to get certified?

I was motivated to obtain my CHID certification to deepen my expertise in healthcare interior design and to demonstrate my commitment to the field. The certification process not only expanded my knowledge of healthcare regulations and best practices but also enhanced my ability to create effective and patient-centered environments. I believe that being certified elevates my professional credibility and allows me to advocate more effectively for thoughtful design that improves patient outcomes. Ultimately, the CHID certification aligns with my passion for creating spaces that truly support healing and well-being.

How has being a CHID been beneficial to your career?

Although I just received my CHID certification, I can already see how beneficial it will be for my career. It enhances my credibility in the field of healthcare interior design and demonstrates my commitment to understanding the complexities of healthcare environments. The knowledge I gained during the certification process has equipped me with valuable insights into regulations and best practices, allowing me to design more effectively and advocate for patient-centered spaces. I'm excited to leverage this certification to further my professional development and contribute to meaningful projects in the healthcare sector.

What do the next years look like in healthcare?

The next few years in Healthcare Interior Design are poised to be significantly influenced by advancements in technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI). AI can transform how we approach design by analyzing vast amounts of data to predict user needs and optimize layouts for efficiency and comfort. This could lead to the creation of adaptive environments that respond in real time to patient and staff interactions, enhancing workflow and improving patient experiences. Overall, the future of healthcare interior design will be characterized by a harmonious blend of innovative technology and human-centered design principles, driving a new era of spaces that prioritize health, comfort, and efficiency.

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