aahid

American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers

Career Roadmap:
6 Milestones on Your Healthcare Design Journey

I'm Curious about Healthcare Design/Architecture

- What is a Healthcare Interior Designer/Architect FAQ
- See How CHIDs are Involved at Every Phase of the Design Process
- Read CHID Spotlights
- View the CHID Directory
- Sign-up for the AAHID Insider e-blasts
- Follow AAHID on LinkedIn and Instagram
- Listen to healthcare design focused Podcasts
- Read HERD Journal articles

1

I'm in High School and/or College

- Choose an Interior Design/ Architecture School and Degree
- Take the right classes: Healthcare design blends creativity with science - both art and STEM subjects are helpful.
- Talk with your Alumni & Educators
- Explore interior designer state practice requirements
- Join a professional membership association
- Search for internships or a CHID to job shadow
- Utilize resources from AAHID's Allied Organizations
  - Mentorship opportunities
  - Student Design Competitions
  - "Student Days" at conferences

2

I'm Looking for Experience/Exploring Specialty Areas

- Read how CHIDs started in healthcare interior design/ architecture
- Job Search Websites
  - ONet website
  - IIDA Career Insights
  - Interior Design Careers
- Look for opportunities from AAHID's Design Firm Partners
- Attend external conferences
  - Look for grant funding to support attendance
- Review a list of codes/guidelines healthcare interior designers should be aware of
- Contact local product reps to learn from their expertise

3

I Want to Grow My Skills

- Consider NCIDQ or NCARB certification
- Sign-up for webinars
- Read AAHID White Papers
- Attend CEU events
- Review Books & Resources on the CHID exam
- View a list of influential reading materials/ documentaries that aren't specific to the exams.
- Watch recorded Community Connections
- Consider attending Conferences & Events
- Consider EDAC certification
- Find a mentor

4

I'm Ready for CHID Certification

- Sign-up for AAHID e-blasts for deadline reminders
- Attend Community Connections – About the Exam Events
- View eligibility pathways
- Start working on your application
- Annual Application Deadline: May 15th
- Purchase the CHID Self-Assessment
- See if you know a local CHID
- Connect with CHIDs on LinkedIn

5

I'm CHID Certified. Now What?

- Add your Digital Badge to your Linkedin and email signature
- Update your CHID Directory
- Attend Community Connections
- Attend the AAHID Annual Reception at HCD
- Join an AAHID Committee
- Apply for the AAHID Board
- Consider submitting a white paper
- Log-in to connect with your fellow CHIDs in the CHID Connect Forum
- Speak at a conference
- Start earning your CEUs for CHID renewal
- Consider additional higher degrees

6

VOICES FROM THE PROFESSION



HEALTHCARE INTERIOR DESIGNER

"I've always believed healthcare design could be more than creating beautiful spaces. It's an opportunity to make a meaningful difference—creating environments that inspire healing, support recovery, break down barriers, and positively impact lives."

- **Ashleigh Cotter**, CID, CHID, IIDA, LSSYB



HEALTHCARE ARCHITECT

"My career in healthcare design began by chance but became my passion—because what we design goes far beyond buildings and interiors. It's about people, their well-being, and creating healing environments that support the care they need, when they need it."

- **Antonio Amadeo**, AIA, ACHA, CHID, LEED AP, EDAC



HEALTHCARE FACILITIES SPACE PLANNER

"My grandmother's experience with dementia inspired my passion for designing spaces that support older adults. That experience shaped my career and continues to drive my commitment to creating healthcare environments centered on patients."

- **Kristin Ellingsen**, CHID, NCIDQ, EDAC, CHD Affiliate

ABOUT AAHID

AAHID advances excellence in healthcare interior design through the Certified Healthcare Interior Designer® (CHID) credential, recognizing professionals with specialized knowledge and experience in designing healthcare environments.

WHY PEOPLE LOVE THIS PROFESSION

Healthcare design combines creativity and compassion to make a meaningful difference. Designers create spaces that support healing, comfort, and better care for patients, families, and healthcare professionals.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Join a Professional Membership Organization

Joining a professional membership organization is about more than building your resume. It's about finding a community where you belong, building meaningful connections, and accessing mentorship, education, and opportunities to grow throughout your career. AAHID is proud to partner with organizations that support interior designers, healthcare professionals, and educators at every stage of their careers.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Connects interior designers and students through professional development, networking, advocacy, and career resources.

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH DESIGN

Advances healthcare design through evidence-based research, education, and resources that demonstrate how the built environment impacts health and well-being.

INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATORS COUNCIL

Supports interior design educators and students through teaching, research, scholarship, and professional collaboration.

IIDA

Provides a global community for interior design professionals and students, offering networking, mentorship, education, and career development.

NIHD Nursing Institute for Healthcare Design

Brings nursing and design professionals together to improve healthcare environments through clinical insight and interdisciplinary collaboration.

AMFP ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL FACILITY PROFESSIONALS

Connects professionals involved in healthcare facility planning, design, construction, and operations through education and networking.

LEARN, CONNECT & GROW

Explore Healthcare Design Conferences & Events

Attending industry conferences is a great way to explore career opportunities, discover emerging trends, and connect with professionals who share your passion for creating better healthcare environments. From educational sessions and innovative products to networking and mentorship, these events offer valuable opportunities to learn, grow, and become part of the healthcare design community. AAHID is proud to collaborate with industry conferences that support professional development and advance healthcare design.

PDC SUMMIT

Brings together healthcare designers, architects, facility managers, and construction professionals to explore innovations and best practices in healthcare facilities.

Typically held in Feb/Mar annually

NeoCon

Showcases the latest products, materials, technologies, and trends in commercial interior design, including healthcare environments.

Typically held in June annually

healthcare design CONFERENCE + EXPO

Focuses on healthcare architecture and interior design, featuring educational sessions, research, innovative products, and networking opportunities including AAHID's Annual Reception.

Typically held in Oct/Nov annually

environments for aging Conference + Expo

Focuses on designing supportive, safe, and engaging environments for older adults, including senior living and long-term care settings.

Typically held in Mar/Apr annually

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES symposium and expo

Connects healthcare designers, architects, facility leaders, and industry experts to share ideas and solutions for improving healthcare environments.

Typically held in Sept annually

INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATORS COUNCIL IDEC

Fall Virtual Symposium

Brings together interior design educators, students, researchers, and professionals to explore emerging topics in interior design education, share research, and exchange ideas that help shape the future of the profession.

Typically held in Nov annually

FIND YOUR PASSION IN HEALTHCARE DESIGN

Explore Healthcare Design Specialties

Healthcare interior design offers opportunities to make a meaningful difference in a variety of environments. From spaces that support healing and recovery to those that promote comfort, safety, and well-being, each specialty presents unique design challenges and opportunities. As you explore your career, consider which areas align with your interests and passions! *Special thanks to AAHID's Industry Partners and Design Firm Partners for contributing to this resource. View photo credits here.*



Acute Care & Hospitals

Patient rooms, emergency departments, surgical suites



Mental & Behavioral Health

Psychiatric hospitals, behavioral health units, crisis stabilization centers



Senior Living & Aging

Assisted living, memory care, long-term care



Outpatient & Ambulatory Care

Medical offices, specialty clinics, urgent care



Rehabilitation & Therapy

Physical therapy, inpatient rehabilitation, recovery centers



Community Health & Wellness

Community clinics, preventive care, wellness centers



Specialty Treatment & Diagnostics

Oncology, infusion, imaging, dialysis



Pediatric & Family-Centered Care

Children's hospitals, NICUs, pediatric clinics

Patients may never know your name, but the spaces you design can shape their healthcare journey in ways they'll never forget.