

ARIDO expands the conversation on Interior Design with month-long design celebration



TORONTO – 21 August, 2023

This October, the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) will broaden the conversation on interior design by hosting **Interior Design Month**, a major province-wide design event.

Now in its second year, this celebration of interior design will provide a multitude of places for Ontarians to learn more about the value of interior design and gain perspectives on the importance of working with a Registered Interior Designer. Building on the week-long event that took place in 2022, this year's edition is presented in partnership with Interior Designers of Canada, the national advocacy body for interior design.

Throughout October, Ontarians can receive design advice from Registered Interior Designers during scheduled events, hear about emerging topics and trends during the speaker series, and get a behind-the-scenes perspective of their local design community during open studios.

Throughout the province, Interior Designers create functional, accessible, and beautiful design solutions for homes, businesses, and offices in a collaborative process which considers a client's vision, lifestyle, and budget. By engaging more Ontarians in this conversation, ARIDO will showcase the value of hiring a Registered Interior Designer and that services and designs provided by Registered Interior Designers offer greater value than the cost within a renovation budget.

The celebration kicks off October 5, during the 40th ARIDO Awards Gala at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The ARIDO Awards celebrate interior design excellence by Registered Interior Designers and are one of the most highly regarded honours in the interior design community. The 2023 ARIDO Awards Gala will recognize completed interior design projects in the awards categories CARE (healthcare and wellness spaces), EAT + STAY (restaurants, bars, hotels, nightclubs), LEARN (education spaces including postsecondary facilities), and WORK (commercial offices spaces from 0 to 50,000 square feet), as well as the IMPACT AWARD which celebrates the vast and positive impacts of interior design.

Interior Design Month will end with Interior Designers of Canada's Value of Design Awards (VODA) during their Symposium from October 25 to 27.

Other events include student design charrettes which will engage high school students with their post-secondary peers and demonstrate the ways their daily lives are impacted by interior design. With this event, ARIDO is also focused on the next generation of interior design professionals and ensuring students from underrepresented communities can discover the multitude of valuable, rewarding career options offered by the interior design industry.

Events will take place across Ontario, from Ottawa to Windsor, and from Thunder Bay to St. Catharines, with the schedule of activities published in September.

Sabrina Carinci, ARIDO; President 2023/25; a Director at Flat Iron Building Group said “Interior Designers are specialists in the built environment by leading design from a human experience lens. Interior Design Month will celebrate the expertise of the profession and recognize our members as stewards of interior spaces. I’m thrilled that our profession is now spotlighted over the course of an entire month. It’s my hope that we can continue to engage with the public and truly show why working with Registered Interior Designers is of tremendous value.”

Jeremy Cheff, ARIDO; IDM Event Chair; Principal, CLIQ Interior Design said: “Interior Design Month is important to spotlight the importance of hiring a Registered Interior Designer to Ontarians. Registered Interior Designers possess years of experience and complete rigorous testing before having the ability to use the title ‘Interior Designer’. We are trained to go beyond simply designing for aesthetics- we consider the current and future use of spaces and ensure the safety of occupants is prioritized.”

Sharon Portelli, CAE; ARIDO Executive Director said: “The expansion of this initiative enables our connection to a greater population across Ontario, making interior design accessible to all communities and fostering a larger impact for Ontarians and the interior spaces they experience.”

Trevor Kruse, ARIDO; IDC Chief Executive Officer said “We are thrilled to be part of such an expansive event celebrating interior design in Ontario and offer our support to ARIDO in their efforts. We hope that our community of designers and design enthusiasts will see the immense value that interior designers bring to every facet of life.”

EVENTS and ACTIVATIONS

DESIGN CONSULTATIONS

During scheduled events, Registered Interior Designers will guide homeowners and business owners through an initial design consultation to provide design insight and advice on specific projects. By meeting with a Registered Interior Designer who specializes in their sector, business owners can tap into the expertise of a qualified professional and their specialized knowledge of designing retail, commercial, or hospitality spaces.

For homeowners, Registered Interior Designers can provide advice on homes, apartments, condos, and other residential spaces. They can provide clear, customized advice on interior design projects such as maximizing existing space for a new baby, downsizing strategies for empty nesters, or aging in place considerations for multi-generational housing.

SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series will present vibrant and thought-provoking talks and panels featuring Registered Interior Designers and other industry experts discussing the pressing issues in 2023. Panels will focus on topics for professionals as well as homeowners, including emerging trends for in residential projects, special considerations for landlords and property managers, the current state of co-living.

As an industry leader, ARIDO is focused on sharing the ways that Interior Designers can be part of building meaningful, progressive change towards diversity and belonging, and the ways that inclusive, accessible spaces play a part.

STUDENT DESIGN CHARRETTE

During these hands-on workshops high school students will learn how they can impact their environment through interior design interventions, and the ways design and design thinking show up in daily life. Led by post-secondary students, these workshops will demonstrate to high school students, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors that a career in interior design engages technical, communication, and problem-solving skills.

In line with ARIDO's commitment towards diversity and belonging, the Association is focused on demonstrating to underrepresented communities and newcomers to Canada that the interior design field offers many viable and rewarding career avenues.

OPEN STUDIOS

Design firms and studios around Ontario will open their doors for their local community to visit and get a behind-the-scenes look at the way a design studio operates. These Open Studios encourage members of the public to join the conversation and look more deeply at the spaces within their community.

Open Studios are also an opportunity for local youth, families, and school professionals to learn more about the rewarding and viable careers within the industry from established practitioners.

ARIDO AWARDS GALA

On Thursday, October 5, the 40th ARIDO Awards Gala invites members and industry partners to join the celebration of outstanding projects by Registered Interior Designers at the Fairmont Royal York. The 2023 categories will focus on CARE (healthcare and wellness spaces), EAT + STAY (restaurants, bars, hotels, nightclubs), LEARN (education spaces including postsecondary facilities), and WORK (commercial offices spaces from 0 to 50,000 square feet), as well as the IMPACT AWARD which spotlights design, commercial and environmental impacts through interior design.

Returning to the in-person format for the first time since 2019, this event will host 650 attendees in celebration of the Awards Program's 40-year legacy and set a course for the next 40 years and beyond.

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For further information, please contact Ali Moenck 416-921-2127 x 4235 or communications@arido.ca or Sara Joulai at SJoulai@idcanada.org

For all images and assets, [please download here](#).

ABOUT ARIDO

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario protects Ontarians to ensure every person using the title 'Interior Designer' is qualified. In accordance with the Ontario Titles Act, an individual cannot use the title 'Interior Designer' unless they are Registered with ARIDO

Registered Interior Designers have completed the necessary technical education and passed the required exams to meet ARIDO's rigorous standards for membership. Once qualified, Registered Interior Designers must keep their knowledge updated through professional development seminars focused on



topics including the Ontario Building Code, accessibility, sustainability, building and mechanical systems, inclusivity, etc.

Everyone benefits from good design ... hire a Registered Interior Designer.

#IDM23 #ARIDO #IDOntario

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