A review of the Journal of Interior Design (JID) and its predecessor, Journal of Interior Design Education and Research (JIDER), provides a legacy of vision, insights, issues, and scholarship relevant to the profession. It also provides a record of incredible hours of volunteer service by Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) members. There was a modest start in 1975 with 2 issues a year printed at a copy center, no budget, and four IDEC leaders handling all function of review. Contrast that with the journal today: 4 issues a year, transitioning to an electronic format, an international publisher (Wiley-Blackwell), and a complicated budget arrangement with the publisher. To publish JID today involves a Board of Directors, an Editor and two Associate Editors, 2 assistants, a Review Board of 36, and a list of 25 Ad Hoc Reviewers.

In 1975, publishing a journal was viewed by the IDEC leaders as a risky venture, but one that was needed to fill the gap of “serious and scholarly work addressed specifically to problems of the profession” (Arnold Friedman, JIDER, 1(1), p.2). Dr. Friedman noted that “this publication will focus on research in the field of interior design.” A year later Kate Ellen Rogers, the first editor of the JIDER, noted that “the purpose of the Journal is that of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas; research findings; teaching methodologies...The Journal is particularly receptive to design research” (2(2), 1976, p. 1). This exchange of ideas has continued for the past 38 years. While many of the design issues have changed and the format for the exchanges is modified, the vigor and diversity of the issues has not diminished.

Additionally, Dr. Rogers envisioned a substantial list of possible areas of interest for publication, many of which have regularly or sporadically been included in the Journal: review of books, evaluation of new audio-visuals and technologies; interviews or dialogues with people important to interior design education, and other information pertinent to interior design. Early examples are reports on IFI conferences, NCIDQ and FIDER (CIDA) information, and IDEC recognition and awards. The first issue had excerpts from a symposium discussion with behavioral scientists Irwin Altman and Henry Sanoff. Two recent focused issues evolved from symposiums: teaching history (24(2), 1998) and the history of interior design (34(1), 2008).

Letters were encouraged in the early issues but did not appear until 2005 except as editorials. Recently, interior design graduate education has fostered the type of exchange envisioned by the journal founders with a Perspective essay, White Paper, respondents, and letters to the Editor (2007).

The second issue of the journal (2(1), 1976) focused on historic preservation and historic research. This was the first of several focused or topical issues of the Journal including: health, safety and welfare (16(2), 1990); criticism (23(1), 1997); history and design education (24(2), 1998); narrative inquiry (26(2),
Discourse related to criticism and theory has been ongoing for all 38 years of the Journal. An author in the second issue noted the need for the “development of a methodology for self-criticism in the profession of interior design” (Don Sherman, 2(1), p.73). Critical reviews of interior design have been a reoccurring theme in the Journal including Windows of the World (3(1), 1977), Pompidou Center (4(1), 1978), Trump Tower (11(1), 1985), State of Illinois Center (1(1/2), 1985), The Galleria (12/1, 1986), Emory University’s Carlos Hall (13(1), 1987), Cincinnati Arnoff Center and Firestone Baars Chapel (23(1), 1997), Thorncrown and Cooper Chapels (27(2), 2001), and La Maison de Verre (34(1), 2008).

An international perspective has been a consistent element of the Journal, though varied in content. Research on German interior design education (Willis) was published in the first issue. In the next three years global topics included comparison of Chinese and Korean furniture (Lee, 1977 & Higa, 1977), an evaluation of Edinburgh New Town (Covington, 1977), essays by an English interior design educator (Thomson, 1977 & 1978), and a report on the 1978 IFI conference (Friedmann, 1978). Interior design education in Germany was recently revisited (Pottgiesser, 36(4), 2011).

From its inception, the Journal was intended to serve not only educators and students, but also practitioners. This has been an ongoing initiative – and challenge. Periodically practitioners have written published articles. The second issue (2(1), 1976) included an article by a practitioner from Philadelphia (Maurer). Several IDEC and IFI conference addresses by practitioners were published including Mentula (1979), Smith (1979), Hardenberg (1983), Hewlett (1985), Fairbrass & Harris (1986), and McAlpine (1987). Occasionally practitioners have published in the Journal, mainly in Perspectives or Reports: Barie and Gandy (11(1), 1985), Budd (26/2, 2000), Vining (28/2, 2002), Blackmer (31(1), 2005), Stieg (32(1), 2006) and Budd (2011).

For several years in the 1980’s IBD and ASID were listed as Patrons (donating $500 per year). Serious attempts were made during that decade to have ASID and IBD include a subscription to JIDER as a member benefit. In 1997, the first color issue of the Journal was sent to all ASID members. Practitioners were added as ad hoc reviewers in 2004. Ongoing interest and effort continues to engage more practitioner interest and participation in the only scholarly journal in interior design.

The first issues of JIDER were printed on campus at the University of Missouri with Kate Rogers as editor. Authors submitted their articles as camera-ready copy which were duplicated at a copy center and encased in black cover stock paper. Black and white line graphics were the only acceptable visuals. Editor Art Hawn reformatted the Journal in 1979: typeset, a two column layout, half-tone illustrations, and a glossy cover using a single interior illustration.

The next formatting change occurred in 1985 by Editor Dorothy Fowles with a change to a slick paper stock, three column format, and typeface modifications. Manuscripts began to be submitted on computer floppy disks and the typesetting was computerized. A copy editor and graphic designer added consistency to the Journal’s appearance. The cover illustra-
tion became a montage of images in 1987. A list of interior design theses and dissertations were first published in 1991. Major changes in the Journal occurred in 1993 by Editor Paul Eshelman and Associate Editor Sheila Danko: A new name (Journal of Interior Design), an issue index on the cover, and reformatted page layouts and typeface. In addition to articles, literature/technology reviews and indices, three new components were added: invited essays (Perspective), letters to the editor; and Focus Reports on emerging ideas and research.

This format has continued with slight modifications in content: creative scholarship awards were added in 1996, literature/technology reviews were last published in 2002, and focus reports were dropped in 2005. Other improvements include the first use of color printing in 1997 (23(1)), an increase to three issues a year with the first e-JID in 2004, and the move to 4 issues per year in 2011. 2012 will see JID take on an entirely electronic format.

In its 38 year existence the Journal has had ten editors. During this time the responsibilities of the editor and the organizational support has changed. The first editorial board consisted of an editor (Kate Ellen Rogers) and 3 reviewers. In 1979 Art Hawn added a circulation manager: a position that continued until 1997. He increased the Editorial Review Board to seven members. This board increased to 11 members in the 1980’s and included an indices writer. This group was involved in setting the editorial direction and overseeing the management aspects of JIDER. In 1986 Ad Hoc Reviewers were added to provide content specific expertise to the review process.

In 1988 a 5 member Publication Board was established to manage the financial and publication issues of the Journal. An assistant to the editor began to be paid by the Journal in 1991. An associate editor was first appointed in 1991. A distinction between the Editorial Board and Editorial Review Board was made in 1993 with the Editorial Board assuming direction for editorial content. Eventually the Publication Board assumed this responsibility and it became the Board of Directors. In 1992 and 1993 two additional associate editors were added for literature and technology reviews (until 2002) and focus reports (until 1998). An editor for design and publication existed from 1992 – 1998. An e-Editor was first appointed in 2002 and continued through 2007. An associate editor was appointed again in 2010 and replaced by two associate editors in 2011.

The financial balance sheet provides additional insight into the Journal history. Kate Ellen Rogers indicated after publishing the second issue that the journal account sheet was in the black. The expense for each initial issue was about $200 with 300-400 copies produced. Art Hawn began fund raising initiatives that were expanded by Jane Stolper.

Three categories of donors were recognized in each issue: $500 Patron, $100 Sustaining Member, and $25 Friend. These donations as well as subscriptions supplemented the $10 per IDEC member allocated for JIDER.

In 1987 IDEC rather than IDECF resumed financial management of the Journal. JIDER expenses in 1988 were about $11,000, outside income was over $6000, and circulation was about 500. Less than a decade later expenses had more than doubled and circulation was about 750.
Expectations that the editor’s university would support the editorial assistant continued until about 2005. In the last ten years, JID has assumed financial responsibility for the various assistants as well as providing a small stipend for the editor and associate editor. With Wiley-Blackwell assuming all of the publishing and marketing responsibilities of Journal in 2008, a more complicated financial arrangement has evolved: IDEC pays a $25 subscription fee per member per year, Wiley pays IDEC for editorial costs, and IDEC receives royalties from profits over a certain amount, etc.

While the Journal operation is more complicated, the participation of reviewers and authors has increased, and the topics have become more complicated. But, the original vision of JIDER remains in JID: to provide a scholarly outlet for discussion and dissemination of the current issues of the profession.