

Hepi Wachter, PhD, FIDEC, NCIDQ

Hepi Wachter, PhD, is a professor and department chair of the Department of Design in the School of Visual Arts, University of North Texas. Dr. Wachter has made important contributions to IDEC, interior design education, and the profession of interior design.

Dr. Wachter has achieved high accomplishments reflecting his commitment to higher education. With degrees in interior architecture, architecture, and fine arts, he has also earned a PhD. and has numerous professional licenses in interior architecture and architecture and certifications that include CIDQ, LEED AP, Certified Aging in Place Specialist, and GreenLeaders. He pursued a doctorate in Environmental Gerontology through an Interdisciplinary Studies program and his dissertation, *Exploring Educational Interests and Preferences of Older Adults*, reflects his commitment to understanding aging populations. Dr. Wachter's scholarly contributions include a diverse range of conference presentations in the United States and abroad, curated exhibitions, peer reviewed publications, and funding for teaching and research activities that includes a \$1,000,000 EPA grant. He engages students in research projects, thus building their skills and knowledge in evidence-based design approaches and advancing the profession. Dr. Wachter and his students have received multiple awards for their design and scholarly work at institutional, regional, and national venues. Dr. Wachter received the Design Excellence Award by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Oklahoma Chapter in 2010 and 2014.

Dr. Wachter has consistently served IDEC through conference abstract reviews for panels, design research, and teaching and learning submissions. He served as the Southwest Region chair where he strategically leveraged his professional network in creating memorable conferences for attendees. He has served as network chair for both integrated practice and international membership. Dr. Wachter also contributed his invaluable leadership in the three-year commitment as IDEC president. That multiyear leadership role highlights his genuine interest in the advancement and celebration of interior design educators. One of his most notable contributions is the establishment of the IDEC Service Charette, a significant part of the Annual Conference. The charette was established as a way of giving back to the places that challenge, inform and delight IDEC conference attendees, and serve our host cities' communities in need.

Contributions to interior design education can be seen in Dr. Wachter's many roles as invited critic, invited speaker, advisory board member, design program reviewer, sophomore entry admission reviewer, and tenure and promotion reviews for multiple institutions around the United States and beyond. His contributions do not end there. Dr. Wachter has served interior architecture and design and architecture communities through his active memberships on executive boards and committees for ASID, International Interior Design Association, American Institute of Architects, and civic organizations such as Rotary Club and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.