opening statement
the founding of interior design/interior architecture educators association (IDEA)

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Interested Australian universities with Interior Design/Interior Architecture degrees held an inaugural meeting in Sydney in 1996 to elicit interest in an association to advocate Interior Design/Interior Architecture education and research. In 1997 IDEA was formalized to encourage and support excellence in the discipline. This is the inaugural publication of the annual 'IDEA Referred Design Scheme', one of the activities the IDEA committee promotes. Participating universities include: Curtin University of Technology, Queensland College of Art, Queensland University of Technology, Northern Territory University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Swinburne University of Technology, University of New South Wales, University of South Australia and the University of Technology Sydney.

IDEA Referred Design Scheme 1999
The scheme is intended to serve three purposes:
To promote the development of Interior Design and Interior Architecture with respect to its design quality and intellectual content and thus to promote academic rigor. To improve the standard of work and criticism and to assist the development of knowledge within the discipline.
To recognize design as a research activity relevant to its field and equivalent to publication of more traditional research in referred journals. To provide a regional framework for recognition of excellence by peer group and discipline experts.

To facilitate the public dissemination of the results of research and referred work carried out by the member universities.

We encourage educators, professionals and students to consider submitting for the 'IDEA Referred Design Scheme 2000'.

**IDEA Charter**

Mission—To encourage and support excellence in Interior Design/Interior Architecture education and research. To be the regional authority on, and advocate for Interior Design/Interior Architecture education and research.

Objectives—IDEA will:

- Be an advocate for a minimum 4 year Interior Design/Interior Architecture programs.
- Support the rich diversity of individual programs within the university sector.
- Create collaboration between programs in the university sector.
- Foster an attitude of lifelong learning.
- Encourage staff and student exchange between programs.
- Provide recognition for excellence through refereed citations awarded to Interior Design/Interior Architecture projects, design studios, and curriculum development undertaken by academic staff.
- Publish and disseminate results of research and refereed work carried out in member universities.

Membership—Membership will comprise: Heads of Programs in university based Interior Design and Interior Architecture degree courses. Each institution to contribute a yearly membership fee.

Constituency—IDEA seeks to serve the interests of students and academics, the profession and the community by providing a vehicle for the dissemination of information, political advocacy, critique on practice and education. To advise, influence and inform professional bodies representing Interior Design and Interior Architecture.

Procedure—The committee will meet bi-annually, the meetings hosted by a different university each year. The chair will be elected to serve a two-year term. The secretariat will be located at the Chairs’ university and be responsible for preparing the agenda, commissioning presentations, authorizing minutes and distributing information to the members. The host university will organize the public exhibition of awarded referred designs.