AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS
CAROLINAS

2027 OTTO ZENKE STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

STUDENT PACKET

Deadline for entries: **January 10, 2027, no later than 11:59 pm EST**
Awards Presentation: February 2027

2027 OTTO ZENKE RULES AND GUIDELINES

Competition Objective

The objective of this competition is to evaluate students' interior design skills. The code requirements have been modeled after the NCIDQ practicum exam. Creativity in design and diversity of project types are encouraged, but meeting the minimum criteria, programming, codes, and deliverables outlined below is required.

Cost to Submit & Who Can Submit

Free to submit.

Any undergraduate student enrolled in an Interior Design or Interior Architecture program in North or South Carolina can enter the contest. You do not need to be a student member of ASID to submit.

Project Criteria

Projects submitted must be produced individually and can be Residential, Commercial, or Mixed-use in nature. Group projects are not eligible for submission. To be eligible for submission, all projects must meet the criteria below. The minimum project square footage is 2800 square feet. No standard floor plan or template is required; any suitable building shell may be used.

Students can repurpose completed projects if they meet the competition requirements. Projects entered in other competitions (local or national) are still eligible for submission. If the project previously won an Otto Zenke award, it cannot be re-submitted.

Code Requirements: Commercial

The code requirements listed are for the purpose of this project only. Your project will be juried for compliance with these code requirements. Using the following codes, develop your design solution for the total space as necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

1. Interior doors shall NOT project more than 7" into the building corridor.
2. Provide at least 2 means of egress for spaces with an estimated occupant load of 1-500, 3 for an estimated occupancy load of 501-1000, and 4 for an estimated occupancy load of 1001 and beyond.
3. Egress (exit) doors in a commercial setting MUST open in the direction of exit travel.
4. In a commercial setting, there must be at least two exits “remotely” located from one another:
    a. 1/2 the diagonal distance (of the entire building or space) apart from each other
    b. 1/3 the diagonal distance if the building is sprinkled
5. ALL paths of travel MUST be accessible (barrier-free) and provide a 5’-0” turning circle (shown as a dotted line) at changes of travel direction. (Turning into a room does NOT require a 5’ turning circle.) You must consider the open dimension of storage elements such as closet doors and file drawers if you choose to locate them along the interior path of travel. (In a commercial setting, this open dimension may NOT restrict the MINIMUM required clear width of the direction of travel).
6. Paths of travel leading to an exit may NOT pass through a secondary space subject to closure by doors, containing storage materials, or with items that project into the path of travel.
7. The minimum corridor width shall be 44 inches. Exceptions:
    a. Twenty-four inches—To access and use electrical, mechanical, or plumbing systems or equipment.
    b. Thirty-six inches—With a required occupant capacity of less than 50.
    c. Thirty-six inches—Within a dwelling unit.
    d. Seventy-two inches—In Group E with a corridor having a required capacity of 100 or more.
    e. Seventy-two inches—In corridors and areas serving gurney traffic in occupancies where patients receive outpatient medical care, the patient is not capable of self-preservation.
    f. Ninety-six inches—In Group I-2 in areas requiring bed movement.
8. ALL egress door openings shall be a MINIMUM of 3’-0” wide with a 1’-6” clear space on the pull side of the door and a 1’-0” clear space on the push side of the door.

9. ALL restrooms MUST be accessible (barrier-free) or provide accessible stalls with a 5’-0” turning circle (shown as a dotted line). Any door swing may encroach into a turning circle a MAXIMUM of 12”.
10. Restroom/bathroom grab bars MUST be indicated in appropriate locations on the plan. This includes two (2) grab bars for a toilet, and three (3) grab bars for an accessible (barrier-free) shower.
11. ALL restrooms/bathrooms MUST have a sink with clear-knee access.
12. Flooring in ALL restrooms/bathrooms MUST be slip-resistant.
13. Walls in ALL restrooms/bathrooms MUST be impervious to moisture up to 5’-0” AFF.
14. There MUST be a MINIMUM of 44” between parallel kitchen work surfaces.
15. Walls MUST NOT terminate into glazing.
16. Handrails on stairs must extend 12" past the last step, parallel to the floor.
17. All sleeping rooms MUST have an operable window or an exterior means of egress and must be at least 20 inches wide by 24 inches high, with an opening no higher than 44 inches from the floor.
18. Coat closets and bedroom closets MUST have a minimum interior depth of 2’-0”

Code Requirements: Residential (ADA)

The code requirements listed are for the purpose of this project only. Your project will be juried for compliance with these code requirements. Using the following codes, develop your design solution for the total space as necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

1. Provide at least 2 means of egress for all sleeping spaces; to include doors at a minimum of 32” wide (36” wide for accessible spaces) and windows at a minimum of 20”W x 24”H.
2. ALL paths of travel MUST be accessible (barrier-free) and provide a 5’-0” turning circle (shown as a dotted line) at changes of travel direction. (Turning into a room does NOT require a 5’ turning circle.) You must consider the open dimension of storage elements such as closet doors and file drawers if you choose to locate them along the interior path of travel.
3. Paths of travel leading to an exit may NOT pass through a secondary space subject to closure by doors, containing storage materials, or with items that project into the path of travel.
4. The minimum corridor width shall be 44 inches. Exceptions:
    a. Twenty-four inches—To access and use electrical, mechanical, or plumbing systems or equipment.
    b. Thirty-six inches—Within a dwelling unit.
5. At least one bathroom MUST be accessible (barrier-free) and comply with the following:
    a. Provide a 5’-0” turning circle (shown as a dotted line).

b. Any door swing may encroach into a turning circle a MAXIMUM of 12”.
c. Must have a sink with clear-knee access.
d. Grab bars MUST be indicated in appropriate locations on the plan. This includes two (2) grab bars for a toilet, and three (3) grab bars for an accessible (barrier-free) shower.
e. Walls must be impervious to moisture up to 5’-0” AFF.
f. GFCI outlets must be noted in wet locations within 2’-0” of sink

6. Flooring in ALL restrooms/bathrooms MUST be slip-resistant.
7. Kitchen MUST be accessible (barrier-free) and comply with the following:
    a. There MUST be a MINIMUM of 44” between parallel kitchen work surfaces.
    b. GFCI outlets must be noted in wet locations within 2’-0” of sink
    c. Countertops: Must be 34” AFF and at least one section at 30” wide with open knee space
    d. Must show turning circles at 5’-0”
    e. Appliances must be designed within reach from a wheelchair
    f. Cabinet and door hardware must be easy to grasp with users with limited hand strength
8. Walls MUST NOT terminate into glazing.
9. Handrails on stairs must extend 12" past the last step, parallel to the floor.
10. All sleeping rooms MUST have an operable window or an exterior means of egress and must be at least 20 inches wide by 24 inches high, with an opening no higher than 44 inches from the floor.
11. Coat closets and bedroom closets MUST have a minimum interior depth of 2’-0”

Program Requirements

The following graphic requirements must be met for projects to be eligible for submission.

1. Code/Label ALL furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) and finishes used in the project. These items must be incorporated into your Floor Plan and listed in your schedules.
2. Your Floor Plan MUST be in a computer-generated format and submitted to scale. The scale must be noted on each plan using a graphic bar scale.
3. Include gross square footage with floor plan
4. Label ALL rooms with room names.
5. Draw ALL walls, doors, door swings, and other components that are part of your Floor Plan and include ALL the Project Code Requirements.
6. The Floor Plan must include overall room dimensions for each space and other dimensions as needed to convey design intent.
7. All wall thickness MUST be graphically indicated.

8. Label furniture and any other items, spaces, or features where necessary to provide clarity to the jurors.

Deliverables

Students must submit all the following components for the competition.

1. Boards: **A maximum of eight (8) digital boards, 11" x 17" size only, may be submitted electronically.** Digital boards must be submitted in PDF format only. Digital boards must have high-quality images and be able to be read at both distant and magnified views. **Your name and school can NOT appear on any final boards.** All boards must include a project title and page numbers and be free of grammatical errors.
2. Cover Page: An optional cover page image may be submitted, the cover page will not be judged as part of the project. The cover page is not included as one of the eight boards. **Do not include your name or school on cover page.**
3. Concept Statement: Include a concept statement on one of the digital boards. The concept statement must describe the problem/objective of the project and set forth the central ideas and reasoning upon which your decisions for your solutions are based. One concept may cover all areas, or individual concepts for each area may be included where appropriate. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors are grounds for disqualification. (Maximum of 350 words)
4. Plans: Space Plans with FF&E and Finishes labeled for all areas must be included on the boards. All plans must be submitted to scale, and graphic bar scale must be noted. Plans must be computer generated (AutoCAD, Revit, etc.)
    a. Incorporate compatibility with existing architectural features.
    b. Show knowledge of the correct use of graphic bar scale.
    c. Provide circulation through the space that easily supports the space function.
    d. Provide appropriate space allocation to support needs.
    e. Provide furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) and finish requirements.
    f. Ensure that FF&E and finishes meet barrier-free requirements.
    g. Ensure that FF&E and finishes support the function.
    h. Identify all FF&E and finishes. Cross-reference to a Schedule on the Space Plan.
    i. Identify any sustainable materials used in the project – clearly label and cross-reference to a Schedule
5. Interior Renderings—Provide at least two interior elevations (to scale) and two interior perspectives. The renderings can be computer-generated, hand-rendered, or a hybrid of both. Select the elevations and perspectives that best illustrate your design concept and interior solutions.

6. Provide digital finish/material/color swatches for all areas on the boards. Include images of all finishes on the floors, walls, and ceiling. You may also include pictures of upholstery, window treatments, accessories, artwork, finishes and FF&E.
7. Include a computer-drafted, to-scale Reflected Ceiling Plan for each space. Include a symbol legend for light fixtures. The plan should reflect ceiling design elements, lighting fixtures, and emergency exit lights (in commercial spaces). It does not need to include electrical/switching.
8. A completed entry form must be submitted with the final project submission.

Reminders

A **maximum** of eight (8) digital boards can be uploaded.

Your name/school's name **CANNOT** appear on your final project submission.

A submission with more than eight boards and your name/school's name will be disqualified.

Awards

The competition has two categories: Residential and Commercial.
Awards will be given in both categories.

- First Place: $1,000 and Certificate of Achievement
    - $1,000 for the ASID Student Chapter or Design Club and one ticket to Fall Conference. (First Place winner current program)
- Second Place: $750 and Certificate of Achievement
- Third Place: $500 and Certificate of Achievement
- Honorable Mention: Certificate of Achievement

Participating schools will be notified if an award is given to one of their students. The students' names will remain anonymous until the awards are presented.

The 2027 Otto Zenke Student Design Competition Winners will be announced in February 2027. More details are coming soon.

Questions

Reach out to the ASID Carolinas Administrator at Administrator@nc-sc.asid.org and Otto Zenke Awards Chair, Nicole Edwards at longnicolee@gmail.com