

# DHARA DUSIJA, NCIDQ

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Strategic and detail oriented Senior Design Leader with over 20 years of international experience in hospitality interior design, specializing in midcycle renovations, conversions, and PIP compliance. Proven success in leading multidisciplinary teams across the Americas region, driving consistency in design standards, brand alignment, and guest experience enhancement. Adept at managing large-scale hotel renovations, developing FF&E strategies, and overseeing prototype and standardized room décor programs. Trusted partner to top hospitality brands including Marriott, Hilton, IHG, Wyndham, and Hyatt, with deep expertise in ADA compliance, building codes, and stakeholder engagement.

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Hotel Makeover- Houston TX**

November 2017 to January 2025

*Senior Design Manager*

- Directed strategic execution of midcycle renovations and conversion PIPs for 30+ properties across major hospitality brands including IHG, Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, and Choice Hotels
- Led a team of 8 designers through all phases of design, ensuring alignment with brand narratives and operational goals
- Oversaw FF&E strategy, custom specifications, and production of detailed specification books (400-500 pages) supporting brand standards and warranty documentation
- Conducted site visits, field reviews, and construction administration across multiple states, ensuring code compliance, ADA standards, and safety protocols
- Facilitated consultant coordination, building permit processing, and prototype design implementation
- Spearheaded proposal development and budget planning for projects ranging from \$1.5M to \$6M
- Developed vendor relationships and negotiated sourcing solutions to meet budget, design, and lead time requirements
- Provided design direction for FF&E, art, accessories, landscape, graphics, and wayfinding to ensure brand consistency and guest experience enhancement
- Maintained client relationships with ownership groups and franchise partners, resolving conflicts and promoting schedule integrity
- Mentored junior designers and fostered a high-retention, collaborative studio culture

#### **Key Achievements:**

- Recognized for exceptional ability to translate brand vision into compelling interior environments
- Successfully led multi-property rollouts across tight timelines from concept through implementation
- Advocated for inclusive and diverse hiring practices; mentored new hires through onboarding and project immersion

### **E2 Experiential Environments — Singapore**

Jan 2011 to August 2013

*Senior Client Manager & Senior Designer*

- Delivered concept-to-completion design for retail and commercial spaces in financial, F&B, telco, and mixed-use sectors
- Managed resource planning, budgets, vendor coordination, consultants, invoice approval, and project schedules
- Led all client communications and stakeholder alignment across complex multi-region projects

**Aedas Interiors**- Singapore and Dubai  
*Project Manager/ Interior Designer*

March 2008 to May 2010

- Integral team member for the Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort project from pre-construction to final handover
- Managed site RFIs, change orders, consultant coordination, and procurement of FF&E tailored to local availability
- Responsible for issuing drawing revisions to all stakeholders and tracking updated set

**New World Design Builders**, Clifton, NJ  
*Project Designer*

August 2004 – July 2007

- Designed boutique wellness and salon environments with high emphasis on emotional impact and material innovation
- Conceptualizing and documentation of details such as fire and water elements, custom joinery, ceiling and lighting details and other architectural elements.
- Led detailed documentation for architectural features and finishes, sourcing globally for bespoke FF&E
- Established high standards of construction through punch lists assisting team members with project management, FF&E installation, and specifications of building construction materials.

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## EDUCATION

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY — Boston, USA

**May 2003**

**Master of Art, Interior Architecture**

H.R. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS - Mumbai, India

**June 1998**

**Bachelor of Commerce, Major in Advertising, Sales, Marketing**

SOPHIA POLYTECH - Mumbai, India

**June 1998**

**Diploma in Interior Design and Decoration**

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## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

### Leadership & Strategic Management

- Team mentoring, hiring & retention strategy
- Cross-functional collaboration across design, construction, and ownership groups
- Strategic planning for PIP execution and renovation rollouts
- Client and franchise partner relationship management
- Budget development and proposal strategy

### Software & Tools

- Microsoft Office Suite
- FF&E Specification Software
- Adobe and AutoCAD

### Design & Technical Proficiency

- Interior architecture & spatial planning
- FF&E sourcing, budgeting, and documentation
- ADA compliance, building codes, and permit coordination
- Construction administration & shop drawing review
- Prototype and standardized room décor program implementation
- Sustainability and integrated design practices

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## CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- NCIDQ Certified
- Registered Interior Designer, Texas
- LEED Green Associate
- Member, NEWH – The Hospitality Industry Network