



SO YOU WANT TO BE AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

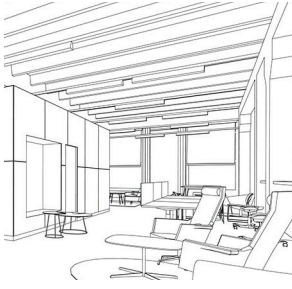
What is Interior Design?

Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically pleasing.

An interior designer is someone who works with clients and other design professionals to develop design solutions that are safe, functional, attractive, and meet the needs of the people using them.

Interior designers listen to a client's needs and interests and then create a design (sometimes multiple designs) that would accommodate all of the programmatic requirements of the project scope for the client's future space. Aside from knowing how to plan a space, interior designers must also know how to present a concept visually so that it can be effectively communicated to the client.

Their responsibilities include knowing about the materials and products that will be used to create and furnish the space, as well as how texture, color, lighting and other factors interact to make a space cohesive. In addition, certified interior designers are trained to understand structural requirements of their plans, the health and safety issues, building codes and other technical aspects that encompass a project.



Types of Interior Design:

Interior design can generally be divided into two main categories — residential and commercial. Within these general areas there are additional specialties.

Residential Design:

Designers work on private living spaces, primarily designing rooms for new or existing homes.

Commercial Design:

Designers plan public spaces — government buildings, private businesses, or other corporate entities. Offices are often a focus for this type of design, but schools, banks, hotels, restaurants, hospitals and retail establishments are also common. Each field requires specific knowledge of how a space can be used effectively by both patrons and employees.

How do I prepare to become an interior designer?

Pre College Years

Art classes – Drawing, painting, sculpture, and photography will be helpful in developing your ability to visualize, conceptualize and think creatively, which are important skills to a designer.

College Years

Courses – Drawing, painting, design, fibers, textiles, photography, public speaking, art history, architectural history, graphic design, Revit and drafting are all great tools to have.

Internships are key experiences to have before graduating college and also look great on a resume.

NCIDQ Exam

After obtaining your bachelor's degree in interior design, you may take the first part of the NCIDQ exam (Design Fundamentals) without work experience. After you pass that section of the exam and complete all the necessary work experience, you may take the two remaining sections of the exam (Interior Design Professional Exam and the Practicum Exam). After passing all three, you earn your NCIDQ Certification.

State Registration

In some US states and in all the Canadian provinces, a certified interior designer may apply for a special interior design title or license. Depending on the state's law, an interior designer may use a protected title or stamp drawings and pull building permits. This would be similar to allowing only a medical doctor to use the title "M.D." or a structural engineer signing and stamping their drawings.

Check out these websites for more information:

IIDA Mid America Chapter: <http://iidamidamerica.org/>

ASID Missouri West/Kansas: <http://asidmowestks.org/>

Missouri Coalition for Interior Design:

<http://mocoalitionid.org/>

NCIDQ Exam & Eligibility:

www.ncidqexam.org/exam/eligibility-requirements/