

Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful for almost every type of building: offices, homes, airport terminals, shopping malls, and restaurants. They select and specify colors, finishes, fabrics, furniture, flooring and wallcoverings, lighting, and other materials to create useful and stylish interiors for buildings.

Interior designers typically do the following:

- Determine the client's goals and requirements of the project
- Consider how the space will be used and how people will move through the space
- Sketch preliminary design plans
- Specify materials and furnishings, such as lighting, furniture, wallcoverings, flooring, equipment, and artwork
- Prepare final plans using computer applications
- Create a timeline for the interior design project and estimate project costs
- Oversee installing the design elements
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Council. Such certification indicates that a building or its interior space was designed with the use of sustainable concepts.

Universal designers renovate spaces to make them more accessible. Often, these designs are used to renovate spaces for elderly people or people with special needs; however, universal designs can benefit anyone. For example, an entry with no steps may be necessary for someone in a wheelchair, but it is also helpful for someone pushing a baby stroller.

Kitchen and bath designers specialize in kitchens and bathrooms and have expert knowledge of the variety of cabinets, fixtures, appliances, plumbing, and electrical solutions for these rooms.

Lighting designers focus on the effect of lighting for home, office, or public spaces. For example, lighting designers may work on stage productions, in gallery or museum spaces, or in health care facilities to find appropriate light fixtures and lighting effects for each space.

Closet designers design closet space for homes to maximize storage and increase orderliness. They work with both fixed structures and stand-alone storage systems.

Interior designers held about 56,500 jobs in 2010. Most interior designers work in clean, comfortable offices. About 30 percent of interior designers were self-employed, and some of these designers worked from home. Technology has changed the way many designers work. For example, rather than using drafting tables, interior designers now use complex software to create 2-D or 3-D images on the computer.

As shown in the following tabulation, about 27 percent of interior designers worked in the specialized design services industry. About 14 percent of interior designers worked in the architectural, engineering, and related services industry. About 4 percent of interior designers are employed in the construction industry, but many others are heavily dependent on the industry to generate new construction or renovation projects for them to work on. Another 8 percent worked in the furniture and home furnishings stores industry.

Specialized design services	27%
Architectural, engineering, and related service	14%
Furniture and home furnishings stores	8%
Building material and supplies dealers	4%
Construction	4%

Most interior designers work full time. They may need to adjust their workday to suit their clients' schedules and deadlines, meeting with clients during evening and weekend hours when necessary.

Interior designers also travel to the clients' design sites.

- Detail oriented. Interior designers need to be precise in measuring interior spaces and making drawings so that furniture and furnishings will fit correctly and create the appropriate environment.
- Interpersonal skills. Interior designers need to be able to communicate effectively with clients and others. Much of their time is spent soliciting new work and new clients and collaborating