

Interior Designer



Alternate title Designer (Interior)

Description Interior designers design and supervise the construction or redevelopment of building interiors.

Interior design requires an understanding of building construction, lighting, colour and furniture. Interior designers may work alone as consultants or with a design group. They visit clients in their homes and offices, and can often work long hours, sometimes in the evenings or at weekends. They usually work for clients on an agreed fee basis.

Typical duties

- talk to clients and architects to work out client needs and intentions, and to make sure that safety requirements are met;
- develop designs that are appropriate, functional and aesthetically pleasing;
- prepare working drawings and specifications for interior construction, materials, finishes, space planning, lighting, furnishings and equipment;
- estimate costs of materials, labour and time, and give estimates to clients for approval;
- organise supplies and prepare detailed instructions for tradespeople;
- inspect the work of suppliers and tradespeople, and maintain time, cost and quality controls;
- work with specialists in technical areas concerned with fire, hydraulics, and mechanical, electrical and structural design, making sure that industry regulations are met;
- prepare and administer tenders and contract documents;
- re-design the interiors of old buildings and design furnishings to be made by cabinetmakers, antique furniture restorers and other tradespeople;
- design exhibitions, commercial display stands or stage, film and television production sets.

Personal requirements

- creativity and artistic flair;
- good at problem-solving and lateral thinking;
- able to work as part of a team;
- able to work independently;
- good communication skills;
- aptitude for technical drawing and illustration.



An Australian Government Initiative



Construction and Property
Industry Skills Council

- Qualification** The names of qualifications vary from institution to institution and include:
- Diploma of Interior Residential Design
 - Advanced Diploma of Interior Design
 - Bachelor of Interior Design
- Entry pathway** Entry to this occupation is generally through a diploma, advanced diploma, or bachelor degree. This occupation requires high levels of creative talent or personal commitment and interest as well as formal qualifications or experience.
- An interview, aptitude test and presentation of a portfolio of your recent design work may be required. The various institutions have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements. Contact the institutions you are interested in for more information as requirements may change.
- Job prospects** Interior designers can work on a wide range of projects, from residential to commercial, retail, hospitality, and institutional projects such as schools and hospitals. A few work as designers on stage, film and television productions.
- Major employers include large construction firms, architects, some government departments and large retail stores. Opportunities exist for self-employment as consultants.
- Competition for jobs can be very high. Initially, interior designers may look for work interstate or overseas where a wider range of experience is available.
- Related Jobs**
- Graphic Designer
 - Industrial Designer
 - Interior Decorator
 - Set Designer
- Further information**
- Design Institute of Australia [www.dia.org.au/]
 - Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
 - Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]