

Interior Decorator



Alternate title Designer (Interior Decorator)

Description Interior decorators plan and implement decoration schemes for homes, offices, shops and professional rooms.

Interior decorators may sometimes have to work extended or irregular hours to meet clients' needs. They may need to travel to their clients' home or office and spend a great deal of time there. Decorators also have to be diplomatic in the sense their clients may not have the same tastes. It helps if the decorator has good sales techniques in order to sell their ideas to their client.

Typical duties

- advise clients on the selection of colour schemes, layout, lighting, furniture, floor coverings, curtains, paint, wallpaper and hardware products (e.g. curtain fittings);
- provide sketch designs, specifications and cost estimates to the client for approval;
- supervise and coordinate the installation and arrangement of furniture and furnishings;
- visit clients' premises to look at existing conditions and make measurements;
- be involved in direct selling if working in a retail shop.

Personal requirements

- creative;
- good sense of colour;
- able to promote ideas;
- awareness of fashion trends;
- able to get on with a variety of people.

Qualification The names of qualifications vary from institution to institution and include:

- Certificate IV in Arts (Interior Decoration)
- Diploma of Interior Residential Design
- Advanced Diploma of Interior Design



Entry pathway Entry to this occupation is generally through an AQF Diploma or higher qualification or at least 3 years relevant experience. In some instances relevant experience is required in addition to the formal qualification.

Entry to the certificate courses usually requires at least Year 10. Entry to the diploma courses usually requires completion of Year 12 with passes in English and studio arts or art. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details. Applicants may also be required to attend an interview or present a folio of work.

Job prospects Interior decorators work as retail decorator consultants, freelance decorators, consultants and managers with large department outlets, architectural support staff, colour scheme coordinators, retail sales assistants and decorators for the wholesale sector of the profession. Some experienced decorators establish their own businesses.

Many decorators are employed to decorate new residential and commercial properties.

Opportunities are limited and competition for employment is very strong. A good deal of training takes place on the job and, as with other artistic areas, those who can demonstrate a high degree of talent and flair are more likely to gain employment.

Specialisations The two main specialisation in Interior decoration are industrial decoration which is decorating such things as Resorts, Entertainment venues, Special events (art shows, fashion shows etc.). The other Specialisation is residential which is decorating people's homes and also working on small projects such as office spaces.

Related Jobs

- Interior Designer
- Picture Framer
- Print Finishing Artist
- Visual Merchandiser (Window Dresser)

Further information

- Design Institute of Australia [www.dia.org.au/]

Revised January 2013