

CAREERS IN INTERIOR DESIGN

There are many skills and personal attributes an interior designer must possess. Some of these are listed below:

ATTRIBUTES

insight
enthusiasm
creativity
flexibility
perception
efficiency
organization
attention to detail
drive for growth

SKILLS

business
social
artistic
visual communication
technical drawing/drafting
space-planning
research
analytical
technical knowledge

There are many jobs an interior designer is expected to do:

1. Prepare documents and letters of agreement
2. Complete space planning
3. Programming or analyzing housing needs
4. Planning design development
5. Working knowledge of building systems
6. Identify furnishing and materials
7. Prepare working drawings
8. Maintain good business relationships with clients and other professionals
9. Oversee installation and carry-through of plans
10. Evaluate to make certain jobs are done correctly
11. Educate others in the use of space planning, function, aesthetics, color, materials, and design

There are many types of education required of an interior designer. The degree you seek will depend upon what you want to do. Interior design education can be obtained through workshops, vocational/technical schools, colleges, universities, and apprenticeship programs.

Some of the professional organizations are:

1. American Association of Housing Educators (AAHE)
2. American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
3. Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research (FIDER)
4. Institute of Business Designers (IBD)
5. Interior Designers of Canada (IDC)
6. Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC, which publishes *The Journal of Interior Design*)
7. International Federation of Interior Architects/Interior Designers (IFI)
8. National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)
9. National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ)
10. International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA)

Interior designers must be aware of resources that are available to them. There are many trade shows and sales representatives that can help them find the items they need for their jobs.

Interior designers also require specific tools to complete their work.

1. Drafting instruments
2. Presentation materials
3. Filing systems
4. Catalogs
5. Samples
6. Computers and relevant software

The career possibilities for a qualified interior designer seem to be endless. They include:

AMUSEMENT PARK DESIGNER
AQUARIUM DESIGNER
ART AND ACCESSORY DEALER
COLOR CONSULTANT
DRAFTER
ENTERTAINMENT CENTER DESIGNER
FLOOR COVERING DESIGNER
FURNITURE BUYER FOR A STORE
FURNITURE DESIGNER
FURNITURE SALESPERSON
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
GREENHOUSE DESIGNER
HEALTH CLUB DESIGNER
HOTEL DESIGNER
IN-STORE CONSULTANT FOR PAINT, WALL-COVERINGS, LIGHTING, ETC.
JOURNALIST
KITCHEN DESIGNER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
LAW OFFICE DESIGNER
LIBRARY DESIGNER
LIGHTING DESIGNER
MEDICAL FACILITY DESIGNER
MODEL HOME DESIGNER
MUSEUM DESIGNER
OFFICE DESIGNER
PUBLICIST AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSON FOR A DESIGN FIRM
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER
RESTAURANT DESIGNER
RETAIL DESIGNER
SALON DESIGNER
SET DESIGNER
TRANSPORTATION DESIGNER
WINDOW TREATMENT DESIGNER