



What is an INTERIOR DESIGNER?

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The following definition was formulated by national interior design professional and educational societies coordinated by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). It appears as adapted by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research.

The professional interior designer is qualified by education, experience, and examination to enhance the function and quality of interior spaces for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity, and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The professional interior designer:

- analyzes the client's needs, goals, and life and safety requirements
- integrates findings with knowledge of interior design
- formulates preliminary design concepts that are aesthetic, appropriate, functional, and in accordance with the codes and standards
- develops and presents final design recommendations through appropriate presentation media
- prepares working drawings and specifications for non-load bearing interior construction, reflected ceiling plans, lighting, interior detailing, materials, finishes, space planning, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment in compliance with Universal accessibility guidelines and all applicable codes
- collaborates with professional services of other licensed practitioners in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical, and load-bearing design as required for regulatory approval
- prepares and administers bids and contracts documents as the client's agent
- reviews and evaluates design solutions during implementations and upon completion

Scope of Services

The interior design profession provides services encompassing research, development, and implementation of plans and designs of interior environments to improve the quality of life, increase productivity, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology. Research, analysis, and integration of information into the creative process result in an appropriate interior environment. Practitioners may perform any or all of the following services:

Programming. Identify and analyze the client's needs and goals. Evaluate existing documentation and conditions. Assess project resources and limitations. Identify life, safety, and code requirements. Develop project schedules, work plans, and budgets. Analyze design objectives and spatial requirements. Integrate findings with their experience and knowledge of interior design. Determine the need, make recommendations, and coordinate with consultants and other specialists when required by professional practice or regulatory approval.

Conceptual Design. Formulate for client discussion and approval preliminary plans and design concepts that are appropriate and describe the character, function, and aesthetic of a project.

Design Development. Develop and present for client review and approve final design recommendations for: space planning and furnishings arrangements; wall, window, floor, and ceiling treatments; furnishings,

fixtures, and millwork; color, finishes, and hardware; and lighting, electrical, and communications requirements. Develop art, accessory, and graphic/signage programs. Develop budgets. Presentation media can include drawings, sketches, perspectives, renderings, color and material boards, photographs, and models.

Contract Documents. Prepare working drawings and specifications for non-load bearing interior construction, materials, finishes, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment for client's approval. Collaborate with professional services of specialty consultants and licensed practitioners in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical, and load-bearing design as required by professional practice or regulatory approval. Identify qualified vendors. Prepare bid documentation. Collect and review bids. Assist clients in awarding contracts.

Contract Administration. Administer contract documents as the client's agent. Confirm required permits are obtained. Review and approve shop drawings and samples to assure they are consistent with design concepts. Conduct on-site visits and field inspections. Monitor contractors' and suppliers' progress. Oversee on their clients' behalf the installation of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment. Prepare lists of deficiencies for the client's use.

Evaluation. Review and evaluate the implementation of projects while in progress and upon completion as representative of and on behalf of the client.