

What does it take to become an **INTERIOR DECORATOR**?

Interior decorators are concerned with the appearance and functionality of indoor spaces. They use furniture, paint schemes, carpeting and decorations to transform the interior of a building. When starting a new design job, they meet with the client to determine style, budget and needs. The decorator then plans the space, often using a computer-assisted design program, and determines color palette, furniture options and interior layout. This role shares some similarities with, but also differs significantly from, the role of an interior designer. The primary difference is that interior decorators don't make architectural changes, and instead work to improve the existing room.

Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in arts and drawing and computer science are considered useful for prospective interior decorators, who need a good sense of visual awareness; and a high level of attention to detail. Interior decorators are well-versed in the principles of design, and know how to balance color, flow, and unity to ensure that all decorative elements work cohesively. This role also requires a high level of creativity, as decorators need to come up with creative ways to reinvent spaces. They need excellent communication and client service skills and the ability to make changes to ideas and rooms to accommodate the client's wishes throughout the decoration process.



Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions. Many interior decorators complete an apprenticeship with a design firm, independent interior decorator

or furniture store. Industry experience, whether paid or unpaid, is crucial to honing skills and building a reputation. Interior decorators who work on a freelance or consulting basis should have some education and experience with principles like composition, layout, and color design, since these elements strongly influence interior decoration.

Working Conditions

Managing budgets, schedules and deadlines is equally important, as interior decorators must maintain a steady workflow and meet client expectations to stay profitable. In many cases, interior decorators also oversee and direct the activities of subcontractors. They may hire painters, floor refinishers, or carpenters to work in a client's space. They ensure these subcontractors complete their work according to schedule and without causing excessive inconvenience to the client. Interior decorators may also pay these subcontractors directly and bill the amount to the client. They travel often.

Job Prospects

Many interior decorators freelance, as salaried positions are scarce. Compensation varies, but those with established clientele, especially bigger corporate clients in the hospitality and services sectors, tend to earn more. Interior decorators must keep their projects within the client's budget while also maintaining profitability for their own business.

You too can live your passion and qualify as an Interior Decorator. If you are creatively minded, and interested in working on creating or improving the aesthetics of indoor spaces, a career as an interior decorator might just be the right career for you.

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