



# Interior Designer

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## Job Description:

Interior designers plan and design spaces and furnish interiors.

*Gross Monthly Income:*

**\$5,100**

## Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$62,000 a year in Utah.

**Schedule:** Some work full time, but a lot do it freelance as a second job. Sometimes work nights and weekends, but generally set their own schedule.



## Advancement:

Beginning designers often need one to three years of experience before they advance to higher-level positions. Experienced designers in large firms may advance to chief designer or other supervisory positions. Some designers become teachers in design schools. Some experienced designers open their own firms.

## Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree in Interior Design

## High

## School Courses:

- ◆ Art
- ◆ Computer-Assisted Design
- ◆ Drawing & Painting
- ◆ Interior Design
- ◆ Accounting

## Work Conditions:

- ◆ Medium level of social contact—must work closely with clients and may supervise assistants.
- ◆ Often are self-employed. Can set own hours, but deal with stress of finding clients and keeping them, as well as running a business.
- ◆ Nearly always work indoors. May share same office or work space with others.
- ◆ Work in a moderately competitive environment.
- ◆ Travel: Travel to different job sites

## Job Outlook:



## Hours a Week:

**30**

*Leisure Time:*

**High**

## Knowledge:

- ◆ Design
- ◆ Customer & Personal Service
- ◆ Building & Construction
- ◆ Administration & Management
- ◆ Sales & Marketing
- ◆ Public Safety & Security
- ◆ Fine Arts



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## Overview

When First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy first saw the inside of the White House, she thought that much of it looked like a "second-rate hotel." She, along with a committee of interior designers and important social figures, set about redecorating it. She didn't want to make it a modern, swingin' 60's pad, however. (She was First Lady during John F. Kennedy's presidency, which was from 1961-1963.) Instead, she chose to return it to its original, 1800s style. This was quite an undertaking, as the White House has 132 rooms, including 35 bathrooms and eight staircases. It also has 28 fireplaces and 147 windows (that's a lot of curtains!).

Interior designers design and furnish the interior of private homes, public buildings, and commercial buildings such as offices or hotels. They may design the inside of boats, planes, or other enclosed spaces. They also plan additions or remodels to homes or other buildings. Some interior designers specialize in furnishing private homes. Some specialize in particular rooms of homes, such as kitchens or baths.

Interior designers first meet with clients to learn what they want. They consider the client's tastes, budget, and safety needs. They also consider how the space will be used, such as for entertaining, cooking, or relaxing. When designing for a business, they consider the purpose of the space, such as selling merchandise or meeting clients. Designers also consider the physical details of the space and whether it should be remodeled. They measure the space so they know the exact dimensions. In addition, they consider local building codes and standards for access to public buildings.

Interior designers draw sketches for the client. These include plans for interior remodeling, furnishings, lights, and finishing touches such as color. They meet again with the client to advise and get feedback. Interior designers often use Computer Aided Design (CAD). This is a program that prints a detailed design from a computer drawing. These designs can be changed easily to include ideas from the client. When the client accepts the design, interior designers create a detailed plan. Included in the plan is an estimate for costs and materials that will be needed. The plan may also include designs for furnishings.

Interior designers submit the plan to government agencies if major remodeling is involved. When the plan gets final approval, designers may oversee the subcontractors who do the work. They may hire people who install carpet or light fixtures, or paint and hang wallpaper. Designers may also select and purchase furnishings, such as furniture or artwork. Interior designers who work for large firms may also supervise assistants throughout the job.

Pathway:  
***Family & Consumer  
Science***