

# Designing Your Space

What is interior design?  
How do you work with an interior designer?  
How do you find an interior designer?



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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Design by Vicky Tsai, ASID, Vicky Tsai Interior Design. Photo by Tomoko Ishii.

# INTERIOR DESIGN

More Than Meets the Eye

**W**hether you're building a new home or remodeling a single room, you want the finished space to be attractive, comfortable and functional. It needs to fit the way you live, as well as reflect your personal style and taste.

Interior design addresses all these concerns and more. Images of beautifully appointed and arranged rooms are usually what first come to mind when one thinks of interior design. Color, fabric, furniture, art and ornamentation are indeed important elements in the overall design. How

**"An interior designer can help me bring the environment I imagine to life and make the house functional for busy lives.\*"**

the environments we inhabit look and feel greatly affect our mood and sense of well-being.

But interior design also involves many practical and technical considerations that affect comfort, function and safety.

Among these are lighting, acoustics, space planning, organization and storage, scale, accommodation of special needs, fire safety and compliance with local building codes.

Interior projects include new construction, renovation, historic restoration and model homes. Specialty areas within the home include the kitchen, bath, home theater, home office, and home health care and fitness areas.

\* Quotations are from consumers who responded to an ASID Web survey on interior design services.



Design by Kate Jarvis, ASID, CID, CKD, Jarvis Designs. Photo by David Durcan Livingston.

# DESIGN SERVICES

## The Professional Choice

An interior designer has aesthetic, practical and technical expertise in all the elements that make up an interior environment. He or she understands how people use and respond to these elements, not just individually but as the elements interact with one another. Any number of services and suppliers can provide and install items for the home. Some offer advice on selecting colors, patterns and materials or on arranging the furniture and accessories in a room. When you hire an interior designer, you get the benefit of an experienced professional who can solve problems, help you avoid costly mistakes and, most importantly, create an attractive, affordable space designed specifically to meet your lifestyle needs.

Professional interior designers can do so much more than recommend furniture, fabrics and colors. They have a creative eye and artistic flair, but that's only the beginning. In addition to their in-depth knowledge of products, materials and finishes, professional designers have the training and expertise to plan, schedule, execute and manage your project from start to finish.

**“The last time around, the general contractor handled everything, and we were not happy.\*”**

They know and work closely with many vendors, contractors and other service providers, coordinating and orchestrating the entire design team. Designers also provide specification and purchasing

services to procure materials, furniture, accessories and art, some of which you might not be able to find on your own.

Among the many areas of expertise a professional designer commands are

- Space planning and utilization, including organizational and storage needs
- Long-term project and lifestyle planning
- National, state and local building codes
- Safety and accessibility
- Ergonomics
- Design for people with special needs
- Conservation and green design
- Historic restoration
- Interior detailing of background elements, such as wall and ceiling designs
- Custom design of furniture, drapery and accessories
- Selection of appliances, plumbing fixtures and flooring materials
- Acoustics and sound transmission
- Audio/visual and communication technology
- Construction documents and specifications





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