

# Career Profile: Interior Designer

Interior Designers plan and detail commercial, residential, industrial and retail building interiors for effective use with particular emphasis on space creation, space planning and factors that affect our responses to living and working environments. They may work on construction or the redevelopment of building interiors; considering the purpose, efficiency, comfort, safety and aesthetic of the interior space to arrive at an optimum design, and custom design or specify furniture, lighting, walls, partitions, flooring, colour, fabrics and graphics to produce an environment tailored to a purpose.

**Also known as:** Commercial Interior Designer, Environmental Designer, Residential Interior Designer

## What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Understand and ensure compliance with relevant building legislation
- ▶ Design, draft, read and interpret plans and provide design concepts for client approval
- ▶ Ensure the space is effective and efficient to its needs
- ▶ Liaise with the client to determine the requirements
- ▶ Provide advice to the client on the design and specifications of a space
- ▶ Work with architects and other tradespeople to design a space
- ▶ Estimate costs of material, labour and works to be completed
- ▶ Ensuring all work completed is up to the required standard
- ▶ Prepare and administer tender and contract documents
- ▶ Arrange for labour, material and supplies to be on site when required
- ▶ Manage, coordinate and supervise the project from start to completion

## I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I have a creative flair and eye for detail, design and colour
- ▶ I enjoy keeping up to date with trends in fashion and design
- ▶ I am a people person and enjoy helping others
- ▶ I enjoy subjects such as Maths, English, Visual Arts, Fashion and Design or Design and Technology
- ▶ I can think 'outside of the box' and enjoy practical activities

## Working conditions and hours

As an Interior Designer you may be required to organise the modification of building structures, the purchasing of materials and furnishings and the contracting and supervision of the tradespeople required to implement a project. You may be self-employed or work in a design team for a larger company and will be required to visit clients in their homes or on site, working long extended hours to complete the project. You will need to be proficient with computers and technology as you will use computer aided design (CAD) software and design software to create plans, illustrations and concepts. You may work part time or full time (up to 45 hours per week) and/or on a contract basis.

## How do I become an Interior Designer?

To become an Interior Designer, you usually need a formal qualification and may also require a construction white card if working on a building site in Western Australia. If you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Paraprofessional (Business) pathway. Otherwise, you may like to complete an Advanced Diploma in Interior Design through a Registered Training Provider, which can take up to 12 months to complete.

## Future pathways and opportunities

You could work for a construction company or design company or set up your own interior design company. With further study your career could lead you to complete a degree in interior architecture so that you can expand the types of buildings and clients you can work with.

## Average Pay

Up to **\$1,146** per week

depending on your qualifications and experience

(Source: Job Outlook)

## What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Have a careful and patient approach to work
- ▶ Have good time management and organisational skills
- ▶ Have good interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with a range of personalities
- ▶ Demonstrate enthusiasm and motivation for the job role
- ▶ Have good active listening skills
- ▶ Be a problem solver



## Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – [www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au](http://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au)
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – [www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au](http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au)
- ▶ Job Outlook – [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)
- ▶ Design Institute of Australia – <https://www.design.org.au/>