

# Interior designer

## Alternative titles for this job include

Interior designers plan the internal layout and decoration of public, commercial and residential buildings and spaces.

## How to become

Explore the different ways to get into this role.

You can get into this job through:

- A university course
- A college course
- An apprenticeship
- Working towards this role

## University

You could take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a subject like:

- interior design
- art and design
- interior architecture
- spatial design

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

## More Information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [student finance for fees and living costs](#)
- [university courses and entry requirements](#)

## College

You could complete a college course, which may help you afterwards with applications for design assistant jobs or university courses.

Examples include:

- interior design
- art and design
- T Level in Craft and Design

#### **Entry requirements**

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T Level

#### **More Information**

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [funding advice](#)
- [guide to T Levels](#)
- [search for courses](#)

## **Apprenticeship**

You could apply to do a Furniture Design Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship, which may lead into an interior design assistant role.

#### **Entry requirements**

To get onto an apprenticeship, you'll find it useful to have:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

#### **More Information**

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [guide to apprenticeships](#)

## **Work**

You could start as an interior design assistant with a company. With further training and qualifications you could become an interior designer.

## More Information

### Professional and industry bodies

You could [join the British Institute of Interior Design](#) for professional development and to make contacts in the industry.

### Further information

You can get more details about careers and training in interior design from the [British Institute of Interior Design](#) and [The Society of British and International Interior Design](#).

## What it takes

Find out what skills you'll use in this role.

### Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- design skills and knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- customer service skills
- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- knowledge of building and construction
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

## What you'll do

Discover the day to day tasks you'll do in this role.

### Day-to-day tasks

As an interior designer, you could:

- work with clients to understand their ideas and what they want
- advise on use of space, colour schemes, fabrics, fittings and furniture
- prepare detailed 2D and 3D plans using design software
- provide estimates for materials, work and timescales for different design options

- find suppliers of fittings, furniture, fabrics, and wall and floor coverings
- draw up instructions for contractors, or act as a project manager from start to finish

## **Working environment**

You could work in an office, from home, in a creative studio or at a client's business.

## **Career path and progression**

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

With experience, you might move into related work, for example:

- theatre set design
- visual merchandising
- exhibition design
- lighting design
- furniture design
- ergonomics