

**Interior Designers** plan the space and furnish the interiors of private homes, public buildings, and commercial or institutional establishments, such as offices, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, and theaters. They also plan the interiors for additions to and renovations of existing structures. Most interior designers specialize, and some further specialize in a related line of work. For example, some may concentrate in residential design, and others may further specialize by focusing on a particular room, such as kitchens or baths.

With a client's tastes, needs, and budget in mind, interior designers prepare drawings and specifications for interior construction, furnishings, lighting, and finishes. Increasingly, designers use computers to plan layouts that can be changed easily to include ideas received from the client. Interior designers also design lighting and architectural details, such as crown molding, coordinate colors and select furniture, floor coverings, and curtains. In addition to structuring space and drawing blueprints, interior designers are responsible for choosing furniture, carpeting, paint, and fixtures. Interior designers must design space to conform to Federal, State, and local laws, including building codes, capacity, flammability, and stress levels. Design plans for public areas also must meet accessibility standards for the disabled and elderly.

In most design careers, you'll move up the ranks from **Intern** or **Junior Level Designer** to **Senior Level Designer**, **Art Director**, or **Creative Director**, based on your ability and the amount of experience you have. At the junior level, you'll usually assist veteran designers. The academic and professional requirements for most areas of design are fairly general, with the emphasis on portfolio development and professional experience. However, interior design has nationally standardized requirements.

**Salary Information:**

- Interior Design, Associate in Applied Science  
\$17,125 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2003)
- Interior Designer  
\$24,280 Entry Salary (Finger Lakes Region, NYS Department of Labor, 2004)  
\$21,000-\$39,180 Median Salary Range (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004)  
[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

**Additional Information:**

- American Society for Interior Designers: [www.interiors.org](http://www.interiors.org)
- Foundation for Interior Design Education Research: [www.fider.org](http://www.fider.org)
- NYS Interior Design License Requirements: [www.op.nysed.gov/interior.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/interior.htm)

