

why hire a professional designer?

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.



ABOVE: Lynne T. Jones, president, American Society of Interior Designers Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

ABOVE RIGHT: This West University breakfast room was recently remodeled by Houston interior designer Karen Moore, ASID, of Moore Interiors Inc. Photography by Miro Dvorscak



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.

Whether 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 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.

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. 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.

"If you live in Houston and want to work with an interior designer for your next project, you are in luck," says Lynne T. Jones, president of the American Society of Interior Designers Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. "This city has literally hundreds of very talented professional designers to select from. My advice would be to start with a licensed designer and who is an active member of ASID. This will give you the assurance that the designer you are hiring is knowledgeable and has the adequate training to properly assist with your project."

To locate a qualified designer in the Greater Houston area to help you with your specific project, visit www.asidtgcc.org or call 713.626.1470. You also can visit the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners Web site at www.tbae.state.tx.us to see a list of every licensed interior designer in the state of Texas.

