

Interior Designers

SOC: 27-1025 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$63,490

Median Salary

87,100

Employment

+3.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Artistic ability, Creativity, Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills, Problem-solving skills, Visualization

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Interior Designers are creative professionals who plan and design **functional, safe, and visually appealing interior spaces** for homes, offices, healthcare facilities, retail environments, and public buildings. They balance aesthetics with usability by considering layout, lighting, materials, color, and building codes to create spaces that support how people live, work, and interact. Rather than focusing only on decoration, interior designers solve spatial problems and improve the quality of interior environments.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy creativity, design thinking, and collaborating with clients and construction professionals to bring ideas to life.

What Do Interior Designers Do?

Interior designers develop design concepts and detailed plans that guide how interior spaces are built or renovated. Their work spans creativity, technical planning, and client coordination.

Common responsibilities include:

- Meeting with clients to understand needs, goals, and budgets
- Creating design concepts, layouts, and mood boards
- Selecting colors, materials, furniture, lighting, and finishes
- Developing floor plans and specifications
- Using design software to create drawings and visualizations
- Coordinating with architects, contractors, and vendors
- Ensuring designs meet building codes, safety standards, and accessibility requirements

Types of Interior Designers

Interior designers may specialize by environment or design focus:

- Residential Interior Designers: Design homes, apartments, and living spaces.
- Commercial Interior Designers: Work on offices, retail stores, hotels, and restaurants.
- Healthcare Interior Designers: Design hospitals, clinics, and care facilities with safety and efficiency in mind.
- Corporate and Workplace Designers: Create productive and ergonomic office environments.
- Sustainable or Green Designers: Focus on environmentally responsible materials and energy efficiency.
- Kitchen and Bath Designers: Specialize in highly functional residential spaces.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Interior designers blend artistic vision with technical knowledge.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Most interior designers enter the field through formal design education and experience:

- Bachelor's Degree: Commonly in interior design or interior architecture
- Design Software Training: Proficiency in CAD and visualization tools
- Supervised Work Experience: Internships or entry-level design roles
- Licensure or Certification (varies by state): Required for certain titles or regulated work
- Continuing Education: Ongoing learning to stay current with design trends and codes

Licensing requirements vary by jurisdiction, especially for commercial design work.

Where Do Interior Designers Work?

Interior designers are employed across residential, commercial, and public sectors:

- Interior Design and Architecture Firms
- Construction and Development Companies
- Furniture and Design Showrooms
- Corporate Facilities and Real Estate Firms
- Healthcare, Hospitality, and Retail Organizations
- Self-Employed and Freelance Practices

Work may involve both office-based design work and on-site project coordination.

How Much Do Interior Designers Earn?

Earnings vary based on experience, specialization, and client base:

- Entry-Level Designers: Typically earn professional starting salaries
- Experienced or Specialized Designers: Often earn higher pay in commercial or niche markets
- Self-Employed Designers: Income depends on project scope and reputation

Compensation can vary widely by location and type of design work.

Is This Career Difficult?

Interior design is creatively demanding and deadline-driven. Designers must balance client preferences, budgets, regulations, and practical constraints while delivering visually compelling results. The challenge lies in managing multiple stakeholders and translating abstract ideas into functional spaces.

Who Should Consider Becoming an Interior Designer?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy creative problem-solving and visual design
- Like working with people and interpreting client needs
- Are detail-oriented and organized
- Want a career blending art, technology, and functionality
- Are comfortable managing projects from concept to completion

How to Prepare Early

- Take art, design, and drafting courses
- Learn basic design software and digital tools
- Study color, materials, and spatial layouts
- Build a portfolio of design projects
- Explore internships or assistant roles in design firms

Interior designers transform interior spaces into functional, inspiring environments that support how people live, work, and connect every day.