

Classroom Resources

Career Facts & Figures for Interior Design

Definition:

FIDM Interior Design Chairperson Dina Morgan defines **FIDM's** Interior Design educational curriculum as a "... comprehensive program combining theoretical elements of interior design with practical creative approaches to the solution of functional and aesthetic design problems in the living, working, and recreational human environment."

The **ASID/American Society of Interior Designers** uses the following definition. "...Interior design concerns itself with more than just the visual or ambient enhancement of an interior space; it seeks to optimize and harmonize the uses to which the interior environment will be put."

The **NCIDF/National Council for Interior Design Qualification** states that "... interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically attractive."

Professional Skills, Proficiencies, & Competencies Necessary

- **Written Communication** – letters; memos; reports; presentations
- **Analytical Ability** – complex problem solving; detail orientation; conceptual; visual branding; math; design
- **Computing Ability** – software and hardware technology applications and trends including architectural drafting, CAD illustration, and graphic presentation
- **Oral Communication** – active learning; active listening; critical thinking; public speaking
- **Social Skills** – teamwork; coordination; motivation; negotiation; persuasion
- **Systems Skills** – judgment and decision making; visioning; systems evaluation; multi-tasking
- **Resource Management Skills** – management of materials, people, and time
- **Technical Skills** – page design and layout; thumbnails; storyboards; comp and final art printing; typography
- **Business Practices** – retail, wholesale, entrepreneurial

Interior Design Career Options

Interior Design Firm -- Residential or Commercial Wholesale/Showroom – Set Decorating

0-3 years

- Sample Librarian
- Design Assistant
- Draftsperson

4+ years

- Assistant Designer
- CAD Operator
- Junior Designer
- Interior Designer
- Owner/Designer

10+ years

- Project Manager
- Senior Designer
- Owner/Designer

Wholesale/Showroom

0-3 years

- Sample Librarian
- Showroom Assistant

4+ years

- Showroom Sales Representative
- Field Sales Representative
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10+ years

- Sales Manager
- Showroom Manager

Set Decorating

0-3 years

- Customer Services Representative
- Prop Sales & Rentals

4+ years

- Assistant Set Decorator
- Prop Designer
- Set Decorator

10+ years

- Art Director

Products & Services Created by These Professionals

- Color Consultant
- Flooring Specialist
- Furniture Designer
- Home & Office Accessories Designer
- Home/Office Organizer
- Interior Landscape Designer
- Kitchen & Bath Designer
- Model Home Designer
- Retail Store Planner
- Space Planner
- Staging Expert
- Window Treatment Specialist

Work Environment

Interiors Designers specialize as either residential or commercial (contract) specialists. Some specialize in even smaller environmental spaces, i.e. kitchens, bath, home offices, etc. Examples of interior design projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

Residential:

- Historic Restoration
- Home Renovation
- New Construction

Commercial/Contract:

- Entertainment Environments
- Government Offices
- Hotels

- Institutional Buildings
- Medical Facilities
- Offices
- Restaurants
- Stores

Median Annual Income

	0-3 years	4+ years	10+ years
Interior Design Firm – Commercial / Residential	\$20-65k	\$35-70+k	\$60-150k
Wholesale/Showroom	\$22-50k	\$30-80+k	\$45-150k
Set Decorating	\$19-50k	\$25-80k	\$35-80+k

Estimated Number of United States & California Workers

- According to the *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook* <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos293.htm#conditions>,
- 65,000 jobs in 2004
- One out of ten are self-employed.
- One out of ten work in architectural and landscape architectural services.
- Two out of ten work in a specialized design service.
- The remaining provide design services in furniture and home-furnishing stores, building material and supplies dealers, and residential building construction companies.
- Many freelance
- Employment is expected to grow as fast as average for all occupations through 2014.

Professional Associations for Further Information

AAHID/American Academy of Healthcare Designers

<http://www.aahid.org/about.html>

American Feng Shui Institute

<http://www.amfengshui.com/>

American Lighting Association

<http://www.americanlightingassoc.com/>

Art & Antique Dealers League of America

<http://www.dir-dd.com/aadla.html/>

ASID/American Society of Interior Designers

<http://www.asid.org/Channels/>

Foundation for Design Integrity

<http://www.ffdi.org/>

IDEC/Interior Design Educators Council, Inc.

<http://www.idec.org/>

IFDA/International Furnishings and Design Association

<http://www.ifda.com/>

IIDA/International Interior Design Association

<http://www.iida.org>

ISPO/Institute of Store Planners

<http://ww3.ispo.org/>

NAHB/National Association of Home Builders

<http://www.nahb.org>

National Council for Interior Design Accreditation

<http://www.accredit-id.org/>

OBD/Organization of Black Designers

<http://www.focusondesign.org>

Student Competitions – FIDM

National Scholarship Competition: five (5) one-year scholarships to attend **FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising**. Scholarships are available to High School students. The deadline is April 30th of each year.

- Interior Designer of Tomorrow
- Fashion Designer of Tomorrow
- Fashion Merchandising Executive of Tomorrow
- Graphic Designer of Tomorrow
- Visual Designer of Tomorrow
- Digital Artist of Tomorrow