



interior designers of canada
designers d'intérieur du canada



IDCANADA.ORG

Professional Design Solutions

WORKING WITH AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

ABOUT INTERIOR DESIGN

Whether you're ready to evaluate, renovate, or establish a new facility, hiring a professional interior designer can help keep your project on time and on budget. Interior designers are skilled at assisting clients realize their goals and at creating built environments that enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants. Interior designers create spaces that are functional, profitable and aesthetically attractive. Interior designers also ensure that the design complies with all regulatory and legal requirements and that the health, safety and welfare of the occupants are protected.

Interior design encompasses a variety of disciplines, including corporate/workplace, retail, health-care, hospitality, and residential design. Interior Designers have unique training and are qualified through a rigorous process of education, experience and examination. With fees making up only a small portion of the overall real estate/construction costs, hiring a qualified interior designer is a wise investment in the successful outcome of your project. Many interior designers across Canada have national and international portfolios.

Interior designers across Canada are required to meet the standards of their provincial association and government. In addition, all interior designers are required to:

- Comply with the government qualification and registration requirements under the Building Code Act
- Carry liability insurance
- Participate in ongoing regular professional development
- Uphold a professional code of ethics and standards of practice

Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) is the professional association for Interior Designers in Canada. IDC's mandate is to advance the profession of interior design across Canada as well as internationally. It does so through advocacy with government and the public, and by providing continuing education opportunities and business practice support services to members. For more information on IDC, please visit idcanada.org.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

Typical projects that fall under the scope of services of an Interior Designer include:

- Corporate, professional and business offices
- Health-care facilities including hospitals, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, medical and dental facilities and spas
- Hospitality spaces including restaurants, bars, nightclubs, hotels, inns and clubhouses
- Retail spaces selling products or services including stores, retail banking, food courts, shopping centres, entertainment venues, showrooms, exhibit designs and marketing centres
- Public and institutional spaces including museums, galleries, libraries, universities and schools
- Residential spaces including homes, condos, cottages, chalets and yachts



WHAT INTERIOR DESIGNERS DO

While each project is different and the scope of services to be provided varies, an Interior Designer will generally perform the following services on any interior design project:

- Manage the interior design process, including strategic planning, project planning, budgeting and schedules
- Analyze the client's needs and goals
- Integrate findings with knowledge of interior design, sector and economic trends, legal and regulatory requirements
- Formulate preliminary design concepts that are functional, fiscally appropriate and aesthetically pleasing
- Develop and present final design recommendations
- Prepare working drawings and specifications for interior construction, space planning, materials, finishes, furnishings, fixtures and equipment
- Collaborate with other practitioners who offer professional services in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical and structural design as required for regulatory approvals (building permits)
- Prepare contract documents and administer bids as the client's agent
- Review and evaluate construction during implementation and coordinate completion of project with consultant team



Bistro Lecoq, Halifax | Design 360 Inc.
Photo: Chris Dickson

As well, on some projects an Interior Designer may:

- Act as Project Manager on behalf of the client to manage the project teams through all phases of the project
- Develop and implement a branding and communications strategy in relation to the project
- Undertake feasibility studies on potential facilities and coordinate with real estate professionals

iQmetrix, Vancouver | SSDG Interiors Inc.
Photo: Ema Peter



THE PROJECT TEAM

While Interior Designers work on a specific scope of services, they may act as the Prime Consultant and Project Manager for the client and are trained and experienced at retaining and working with a number of other consultants or suppliers who may be required to complete the project.

The list of specialists an Interior Designer may retain, or assist the client to retain, includes:

- Acoustical consultants
- Architects
- Art consultants
- Audio visual/technology solutions consultants
- Building code consultants
- Communications, branding and graphics consultants
- Contractors and/or construction managers
- Cost consultants
- Filing and record systems suppliers; storage and display systems suppliers
- Furniture and fixtures suppliers
- Lighting consultants
- Market analysts
- Mechanical, electrical, communications and/or structural engineers
- Merchandising and visual display consultants
- Real estate consultants
- Relocation consultants and moving companies
- Security consultants
- Signage and/or wayfinding consultants

Be sure to consider the project in terms of other consultants whose expertise will be required and the timing and budget implications that need to be incorporated.

HIRING AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

When you are ready to begin your search, a good place to start is **FINDinteriordesigner.org**, IDC's online referral search engine. It allows you to search a database of IDC members and helps you narrow your search by location and project type so you can find the right interior designer in your area.

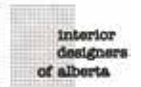
For larger scale commercial projects, a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** can be a great way for a business or facility manager to find the right interior designer for the job. An RFP describes the project, identifies the project needs, and lists the scope of services required. Once distributed to a number of potential design firms, this document outlines the format for the proponents' response. IDC has developed standard templates and brochures to help you construct the most comprehensive RFP. Visit **idcanada.org** to download the standard RFP template for retail or corporate projects.

If you need any assistance finding a professional interior designer for your project, please contact IDC at **1.877.443.4425** or **info@idcanada.org**.



Modern Family Home, Toronto
Douglas Design Studio
Photo: David Whittaker

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FINDinteriordesigner.org is Interior Designers of Canada's referral search engine. This service offers clients looking to hire an Interior Designer a web-based, user-friendly system to search through. You will have access to comprehensive profiles of interior design firms capable of helping you with your upcoming project.

START YOUR SEARCH: FINDinteriordesigner.org