

## **1. What are qualifications of an interior designer? Who may use that title?**

In the province of Saskatchewan IDAS outlines the qualifications of an Interior Designer as being individuals who have achieved a combination of seven years of education and professional experience. The education component thereof shall be a minimum of four years of Interior Design education as recognized by the Association. All applicants for registered membership shall be required to successfully complete the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination (or other such other examination(s) as the Association shall find acceptable). Registered and Intern members of IDAS are also required to do continuing education on an ongoing basis.

In the province of Saskatchewan we have a titles act which outlines that no person other than a registered member of IDAS may use the title "Interior Designer".

## **2. What are the job prospects in the industry right now?**

There is a lot of opportunity in Saskatchewan right now if you have a good education and are willing to work hard. Keep in mind the more education you have the more value you have to potential employers. Consult our list of recommended schools for further information.

## **3. What high school classes would you recommend if I am interested in interior design as a career?**

Art, Sciences (Physics), Math 30, English 30, Drafting/AutoCAD (if available). Look into a few schools that you think you may attend and see what their requirements are. Many high schools now offer a class called interior design, be aware that these classes seem to be more focused on interior decorating. Read our answer on the differences between interior decorating and interior design to get a better idea of which career path might be the right one for you.

## **4. What is the difference between an Interior Designer and Interior Decorator?**

Interior Designers have graduated from a recognized college or university interior design program and have seven years combined education and work experience. They must have also passed the National Council for Interior Design Qualification Exam (NCIDQ), the international standard examination for Interior Designers. In Saskatchewan and many, the title of Interior Designer is regulated and can only be used by Registered Members of IDAS.

An Interior Designer is familiar with the provincial building codes and laws and the code of ethics ensures that comply. Health and life safety is incorporated at the fundamental level of the design. Interior Designers have a wide range of options to practice collaboratively with other design professionals such as architects and engineers.

As with any regulated profession the consumer can expect a minimum body knowledge and experience when hiring an interior designer

A decorator fashions the "look" of a space and its outward decoration—paint, fabric, furnishings, light fixtures and other materials. In addition to enhancing the total visual environment, an interior designer creates a space that is functional, efficient and safe to protect and enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public.

Decorators may have some training or education; however the title is not regulated and therefore there is no education or work experience requirement to call oneself a decorator.

## **5. How do I choose an Interior Designer?**

Many Interior Designers are hired based on referral. Ask your friends, acquaintances, co-workers and family for names of Interior Designers they have employed and recommend. Remember, before hiring an Interior Designer, check on our website and click on "Find a Designer" to verify

that they are a registered member who meets the IDAS high standards of education, experience and examination.

For large projects, particularly commercial, a Request for Proposal can be distributed to various Interior Design firms. This ensures that you receive the best quote and that your needs are fully understood and met by the Interior Designer you employ. Our sister Association in Ontario has developed an online form to assist business users develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). (ARIDO website <http://www.arido.ca/Files/Arido%20PM.pdf>)

To ensure quality of work, take time to interview a selection of Interior Designers. An Interior Designer will explain the design process, their work schedule and their billing costs and ask you in-depth questions about your needs. Before working with an Interior Designer you must feel comfortable with the designer's approach to design

To ensure that the final project and the design process is of the highest quality and within budget, always sign a contract with the Interior Designer prior to any work commencing.

**6. Do I need to involve a professional interior designer if I already have an architect working on my project?**

Depending on the nature of your project, many professionals may work collaboratively to achieve the project goals; these may include mechanical, electrical, structural and civil engineers, interior designers, architects and construction manager for example. Interior designers have specific training, knowledge and experience related to the development of interior spaces. Their expertise is that of meeting clients' functional needs – how space is utilized - to ensure an effective work or living space. With that primary need clearly leading the work, detailed design then addresses the envisioned 'look and feel' of the space.