



How to Partner with an Interior Designer

By Kristine Kay

I am often asked what an Interior Designer will contribute to a project, and about the process of working with a Designer. Let's break this down together.

An Interior Designer will ensure that your project is thoughtfully planned from beginning to end. He or she will work to make your space functional for your family or business, that it sets a mood and showcases your personality.

Of course each designer has their own unique process, so it's beneficial to meet with a couple to determine who is the best fit for your project.

PREPARE

Some things to consider in preparation for your first meeting with an Interior Designer:

- How do you plan to use your space?
- What are your needs? And wishes? Shucks, let's even consider those dreams.
- What is currently working and not working?
- Is there a certain feeling or mood you'd like to create?
- Gather inspiration photos.
- Gather items such as a favorite piece of art that you'd like to incorporate.

FUNCTION

After learning more about you and your project, an Interior Designer will start by making sure your space functions well. He or she will consider:

- space planning
- storage
- traffic patterns (Ever opened a fridge and blocked traffic flow



- in to the kitchen? GRR that's no good!)
- a focal point
- furniture layouts, materials and sizes (Oh, the stories I could tell about clients who purchased a sofa that didn't fit in their room!)
- lighting for both task and ambiance
- sound control

ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere creates a look and sets the mood of the space such as a chill beach vibe, a high-end doctors office or even a fun family restaurant.

Crafting an atmosphere is harder to quantify as this is where a Designer uses his or her innate talent to "do their thing." It's that whole right-brained intuition that a Designer uses to take your space from "OK" to "WOWSA." Some of the things a Designer will work through:

- colors and how they transition throughout a space
- textures, patterns and shapes
- balance and symmetry
- a bit of shine (Which happens to be my favorite.)

PERSONALITY

Finally, we get to layer in pieces that showcase your personality

and history. A favorite piece of art, Grandma's old rocking chair, a vacation souvenir. . .it's all about YOU.

And then we BREAK THE RULES... because sometimes

it's fun to throw the rules out the window!

Kristine Kay is the principal designer at Kristine Kay Interiors, a full-service Interior Design firm specializing in custom homes and commercial spaces. We'd love to be a part of the team that helps your business soar. Check us out at www.kristinekayinteriors.com and give us a shout at 616-460-1564.



With lifestyle and budget in mind, our creative team will help you design a home that suits your needs... and make your dreams a reality!

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