



5 Things to consider when choosing an interior designer

1. Do you relate to them and can they relate to you?

It's important you feel comfortable with the person who is going to help you create the home you're wanting to create, so it's just right. You need to feel as though they understand you and know what you're trying to achieve. Meeting a potential designer before engaging their services is an essential part of this process. It's critical you feel comfortable around them. Warts and all!

2. Engage early – it's never too early

When building a new home or renovating an existing home, it's never too early to engage an interior designer. They can provide a sanity check on your floor plans before you get heavily involved in working drawings and the stages that follow. They look at different elements than what a building designer or architect may – for example space planning and the flow of a space, furniture layout, and if there is enough stack back for the curtains, right down to ensuring there's room for your grandmother's sideboard to fit exactly where you want it. A good interior designer will ask lots of questions about how you want to live in the home, your lifestyle and make spaces flexible for future proofing – just to name a few! Once a project is completed, it's often too late to rectify some items (like inbuilt pelmets) or it's a costly exercise, so engage an interior designer early, at floor plan stage or earlier, to save on costly mistakes.

3. Educate and collaborate

A good interior designer will educate you along the way, ensuring the decisions you make reflect your aesthetic desires, the functionality you require and that recommend materials are within your budget. A good designer keeps themselves abreast of the latest materials and products, giving you access to a wider selection than you may find on your own. They should suggest alternatives and ensure you are aware of advantages and disadvantages of the materials chosen so there are no nasty surprises when you finally move in. Ask your potential designer how they specify materials and how involved you are in the selection process as they need to be flexible depending on how involved you wish to be.

4. Reputation

Review testimonials and reviews about a designer before you engage with them. Speak to previous clients. Have they got the experience to guide you on one of the biggest projects you'll ever embark on? Do they have build experience to be able to guide you on the process and prepare you along the way? Have they worked on a project similar to yours in the past? Designers are adaptable, so just because they haven't worked on a style of house just like yours before doesn't mean they are unable to, but look for experience that spans across projects.

5. It's someone who can talk with your architect or draftsman

Interior designers and building designers and architects generally speak the same language, so when it all seems like gobbledey gook to you, chances are your designer will be able to explain it all in simple terms. Your interior designer is also someone who can liaise and converse with your architect and builder on your behalf in a more efficient and effective way, giving you the best outcome.

More questions, or still not sure?

Get in touch – we'd love to help out.

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