

SEVEN THINGS YOU COULD DO BEFORE YOU HIRE AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

Starting a new project is exciting and overwhelming — there are so many choices. The fear of making a mistake is often paralyzing, causing unnecessary stress which of course takes away from that joy. Asking for help isn't easy either, but you've made the decision to hire an interior designer. Here are seven things you can do to get your project started on a positive note.

1. How much of an investment are you ready to make?

During an initial consultation this topic must be discussed. It is imperative in moving forward with a project. Knowing the dollar value of what you are comfortable spending is a key element for a designer to narrow down not only where they can shop but the types of fabrics and finishings that can be selected. It also saves time and money as neither are wasted looking for items that don't fit the budget. Discussing your overall investment with your spouse or significant other will ensure everyone is on the same page. A designer will let you know how realistic that number is and what can be accomplished within that amount.

2. Put together an idea file.

Most clients know what they like, or at least what they don't like. Designers have ways of assessing your current space, but we aren't mind readers (although some days I wish I was!). Collecting images, tear sheets, websites, even blogs that you like is a great jumping off point in understanding your style and what appeals to you. Organizing by room, or category works well and be sure to note what about the room is appealing to you. Giving your designer as much information as possible will get the project off to a great start.

3. Assess your lifestyle.

Knowing how you live, and everyone in the house for that matter, is essential to achieving a successful end result. Only you know the inner workings of your home, how you cook, eat, sleep, watch TV, store your clothes, what rooms get used the most.... you get the idea. This is all critical information to creating a space, or several that are personalized to your needs and lifestyle. Having a good sense of this prior to meeting with your designer is a great help.

4. Prepare to trust.

When you hire a designer, you are bringing a professional into your home. A designer offers not only their opinion and advice but also knowledge and experience. Trusting their expertise will further enhance your experience. Second guessing, wanting multiple options and indecision all add time and in turn cost more money. Designers narrow down the choices to what they feel is best based on budget, lifestyle and the overall look that is being put together. Trust in their vision and it will yield fabulous results.

5. Create a "must have" and a "wish list".

With every project there are needs that exist and they must be prioritized, but let's face it, there are wants as well. Get as much as you can out of your renovation, new build or re-decoration by preparing a list of both. Even the little details matter. "I need a place for recycling", "I would love it to be in the the kitchen but easy to transport outside". Communication is key.

6. Have an open mind.

Designers will bring forth ideas you haven't considered, show you things you've never seen before and pull it all together effortlessly, right?! That's why designers are hired. Clients are typically less than satisfied with their space and realize they need help. Or they've embarked on a project that is far too overwhelming to take on without the expertise and knowledge of an interior designer. Keeping an open mind to the creativity that exists inside the mind of a designer will give you an end result that is sure to leave you feeling so great about your space you couldn't imagine not hiring a designer next time.

7. Choose a designer that is right for you.

I can't stress how important it is to find the right fit between you and your designer. Look at this as a long term relationship and you'll understand what I mean. Liking each other is critical. Respecting each other is essential. I have many clients who have become great friends. I value our relationship, friend or client your home is as equally important for me to get it as perfect as it can be. I love what I do, and I am extremely passionate about getting your design perfect, let's get started!