

TODAY'S CUSTOM HOME

Charlotte's Complete Guide To Building or Remodeling Your Custom Home

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Flavor of Europe

– Family Home Blends Formality with Comfort

HomeArama Preview

– A Sneak Peek at the Plans

An English Enclave

– Interiors with a British Accent



What Does A Designer Do?



Duties Designed To Fit Clients' Needs

By Robbie Warren, Allied Member ASID and IDS

Interior Designers play many different roles. One thing does remain the same; they're all passionate about what they do. In the 15 years that I've been in this technical, creative and ever-changing field,

I've had the pleasure of working with many design professionals. I thought it would be interesting to explore some of the varied hats that a designer can wear.

There are interior designers who focus on adding the right draperies and soft furnishings to a room, while other designers choose to be involved in the actual production of those materials.

Other interior designers may choose to focus on designing appealing wall coverings or finding creative applications for tile.

Interior Designers, like doctors, often decide to specialize in a particular area, while others prefer to work on a much broader level. Many designers choose to work in home furnishings stores; in this case, the designer has to be well versed in the latest trends. These designers work with furniture layout and scale - often in the client's home - and help homeowners make the right choices for their lifestyles. Some specialty stores such as bedding and children's furnishings also offer design services.

Another area especially attractive to designers is tile and natural stone, such as granite and marble. More applications for these

materials are coming along everyday, and designers are staying on top of these trends.

Many designers choose to work for architects. They specify all of the furniture, window treatments and soft furnishings for clients after the structure is designed. They work hand-in-hand with the architect during the design process. Some builders hire interior designers as part of their staff; however, many custom builders recommend independent designers. Designers who work for builders usually work in a sales center and help homeowners make their selections.



Some interior designers choose to use their artistic abilities by working as faux finishers and muralists.

There are designers who go into textile design or furniture design. Have you ever wondered who is coming up with all of the wonderful new fabrics? Probably an interior designer!

There are independent designers who own their own businesses and choose to work solely on soft furnishings because they love the decorative arts. This involves furnishings, draperies, art, accessories and

antiques - all of the wonderful things that go into a home to make it beautiful and unique.

Then there are designers like myself who choose to wear many hats. Some designers enjoy taking a project from the beginning and seeing it through. The initial architectural stage of a project is the perfect time to bring in this type of designer. An independent interior designer can take you

Avoid the predictable.



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Some designers work closely with builders, architects and cabinet makers to create appealing architectural elements.

step by step through a project and work with the other professionals - architect, builder, sub-contractors, and even other design professionals to ensure that the project runs smoothly and efficiently.

Some other designers choose supporting roles such as running drapery workrooms or representing manufacturers that sell products to designers. There are designers who

Interior designers have chosen to obtain advanced training — concentrated study in design, architecture, textiles, art history, furniture history, construction, business practices, etc...



work behind the scenes with cabinetmakers and carpet installers. There are some designers who choose to put their artistic ability to work as faux finishers and muralists.

The bottom line is that whenever you're working with an interior designer in whatever role he or she has chosen, you can rest assured that you're working with someone who is creative, passionate, talented, maybe a little eccentric, but always professional.

Look for my final article in the series "Myers Park Makeover" in the next issue of Today's Custom Home.

No matter what type of interior designer you work with, he or she is sure to bring his or her own talents and artistic vision to your project.