

Your Guide to Finding the Perfect Interior Designer for Your Home Project

Embarking on your own bespoke interior design project can be both an incredibly exciting, and often daunting, prospect.

You should have a stunningly beautiful home space, designed and built just for you; something truly unique and personal to your taste and needs. But getting there can sometimes be overwhelming...

There's a wealth of interior designers available for you to choose from. How do you find the ones who work to the highest standards, and pick the one that's right for you?

That's where our guide to finding the perfect interior designer for your home project comes in. In this guide, we'll walk you through how and where to find the best interior designer for you, how to pick one that rises above the rest, and how to know if you're choosing a designer you can trust.

Here's your guide to finding the perfect interior designer for your home project.



Where to Find Interior Designers

When starting your search for the perfect interior designer, you'll want to start by researching what's available in your area. There are a few ways to find some great interior designers right on your doorstep, and here are a few to consider.

SEARCH ONLINE

Perhaps the simplest and quickest way to start the search is with a simple online search.

You should be able to quickly come across some local designers, take a look at their reviews and make your way through their website. A good online search should help you quickly build up a list of potential designers and start to get a feel for what their past work looks like.

HOUZZ PORTFOLIOS

Houzz is a fantastic site that's great for finding and comparing designers.

Here, you'll be able to search your local area, see designers' work and look at reviews from past clients. You'll also be able to filter your search by style and room, so you only come across designers who create the look you want.

GET A REFERRAL

If you have friends or family who've previously taken on

bespoke design projects, a referral from them may be the best place to start.

Getting referred to a designer means you'll already have a good idea of how they work, as well as the results they produce. You may even come away with a referral discount.

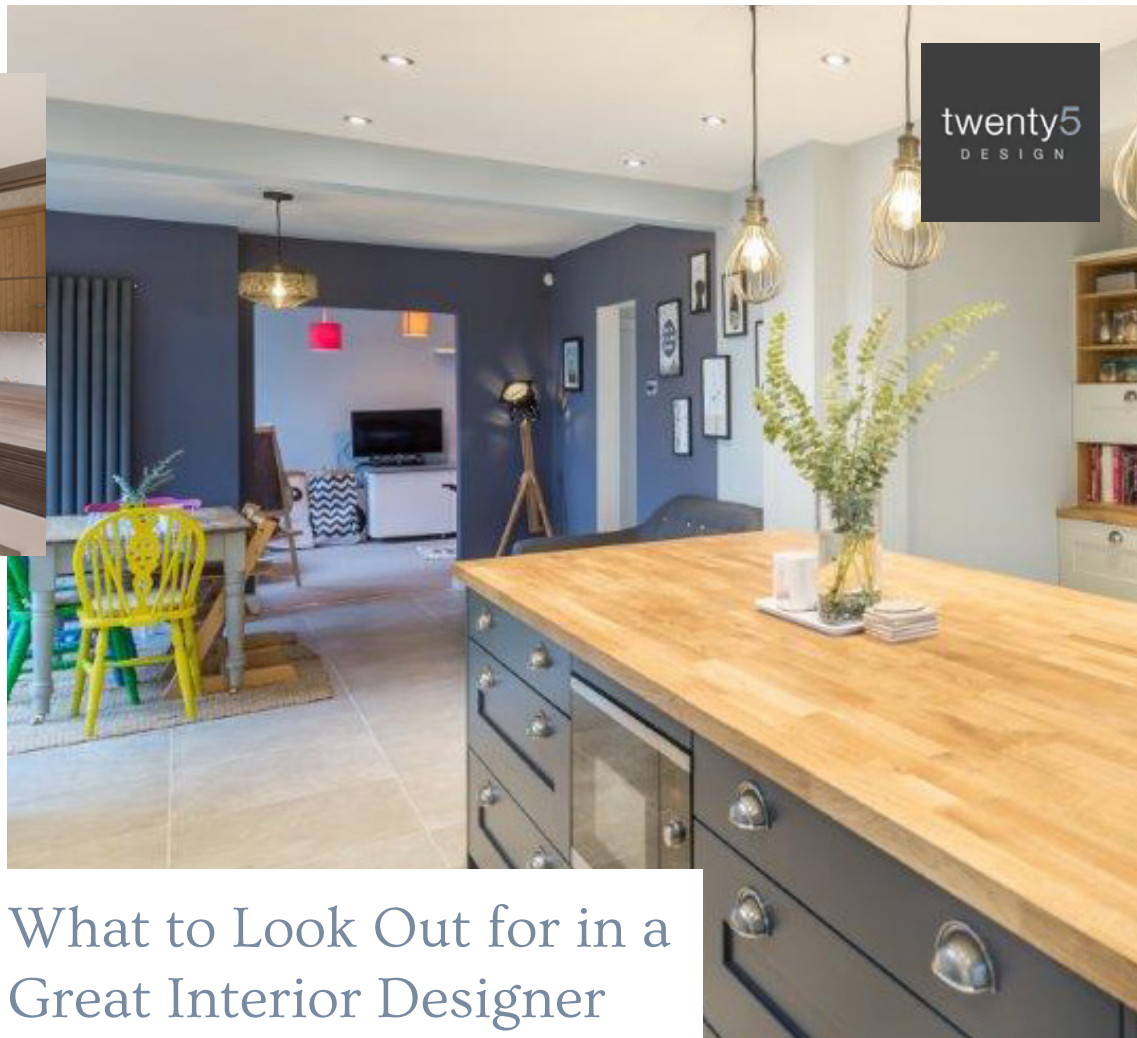
SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a fantastic place to find great interior designers. You'll be able to quickly see what others think of a designer's work, and start talking to promising designers for your project. Starting up a conversation on social media can help you get a better idea about a designer's expertise and approach before you actually meet them in person.

BRANDS

Finally, if you're looking at a certain brand for your bespoke space, they may have preferred designers or partners who are well equipped at turning pieces from your chosen brand into an awe inspiring space.

For example, we at Twenty 5 Design have great relationships with brands like Second Nature Kitchens, Bosch and Siemens.



What to Look Out for in a Great Interior Designer

Once you've done some research and come up with an initial list of potential interior designers to trust with your bespoke project, you'll want to cut down the list by looking for those designers who really stand above the rest.

Here are some key things to look out for...

AN AWE INSPIRING PORTFOLIO

Any interior designer that you really consider should have a truly amazing portfolio of work.

Start by taking a good look at their portfolio and see what their work looks like, and ultimately, whether you like it!

A great designer's portfolio should be inspiring, stunningly beautiful and cover plenty of different styles from ornate classical looks to sleek and modern designs.

If their work matches your vision for your own bespoke space, you'll likely have a better design at the end of it.

ACCOLADES

You can also look out for any accolades your interior designers have received. Has one of their spaces received recognition for its design, careful construction and attention to detail? Most likely they'll bring the same quality to your project.

Interior accolades can come from places as far ranging as design blogs to manufacturers, so take a look and see which of your designers have been recognised.

PUBLICATIONS

If your designers are truly on top of their game, their work might have been featured in design or home publications like Real Homes magazine or Apartment Therapy.

Look out for any designers who've received national, or even international, attention for the quality and originality of their work.

If you can find a designer like this local to you, snap them up quickly.

EXCELLENT REVIEWS

A great response from past clients is a sign of an excellent interior designer.

Look at everything from review sites to social media and a designer's website to find out what the experience of their previous and existing clients has been.

Even more so, look for designers with clients who come back again and again. A designer with loyal clients is definitely doing something right.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Finally, being a member of the Consumer Protection Association shows your designer's dedication to quality of service.

All members are fully vetted for everything from their quality of work to their customer service practices, so you can be sure of an excellent experience.



Meeting with an Interior Designer for the First Time

Once you've whittled down your initial list of potential interior designers down to a select few, it's time to meet them in person. Meeting potential designers in person will give you a better feel for how they work as well as give you a chance to see their showroom and work in person.

When meeting with an interior designer for the first time, you should be able to talk with them in detail about your vision, your project and what you want to achieve.

At this point, your designer shouldn't be trying to sell you anything, they should be listening, taking in your ideas and beginning to formulate some creative thoughts around your bespoke space.

This first meeting should be a casual conversation, and should give you a good idea about whether a designer is right for you.

Here are some good questions to ask your designer in the first meeting:

WHAT DOES YOUR DESIGN SERVICE COVER?

Find out what their services cover. Are you paying for a single design? How much of the project will they manage and what will you need to do yourself.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXAMPLES OF WORK THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MY PROJECT?

See if they've previously completed a similar project. This will give you a good idea of whether they'll be able to achieve the finish you want.

HOW DOES YOUR PAYMENT WORK?

Find out how and when you'd have to pay. Is everything up front? Do they charge per job or by hour? This can help you decide which designer's costs will be the most manageable.

HOW WILL YOU MANAGE MY BUDGET?

Everyone has limits when it comes to budget, so be clear with the designer as to what your budget is. Ask what they will do to manage your budget responsibly.

HOW MUCH TIME WOULD MY PROJECT REQUIRE?

The designer may not be able to offer you exact timings before you sign anything, but you can still ask for an idea of when they'd be able to start, and how long your bespoke project would take.

WHAT MANUFACTURERS DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO?

Finally, be sure to ask which manufacturers they have access to. Designers should be able to get furniture and appliances straight from the makers at discounted rates. Make sure you know what you have to choose from.



How to Pick the Right Designer for You

Now that it's almost time to make a decision, it's time to think carefully about which designer is right for you and your bespoke project. Here are three important questions to consider:

1. CAN THEY ACHIEVE YOUR DESIRED FINISH?

From meeting with designers, you should have a good idea of whether they'll be able to achieve the finish you are looking for.

You've seen their work in person, and you'll have a gasp of their expertise, experience and professionalism.

Ask yourself whether they have access to the manufacturers and skills needed to give you the look, feel and quality of finish you're looking for.

2. ARE THEY EASY TO WORK WITH?

From that first meeting, it's also important that your designer

is approachable, open to your ideas and easy to work with.

After all, you're embarking on a complex interior project with them and if they aren't personable, you won't end up with the space you really want in the end.

Ask yourself which designer would be easiest to work with as your project goes from just an idea to a fully fledged space.

3. DO THEY UNDERSTAND YOUR VISION

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, your designer must understand your vision.

You want to choose the designer who truly understands what you're trying to achieve, and is able to turn your ideas into detailed, beautiful designs.

If a designer doesn't understand your vision, those small decisions made throughout the project will leave you with an underwhelming space.

Time to start your own bespoke interior project...

Whether you're looking for a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom or build project, you should now have a great idea of how to get started on your bespoke interior journey.

Researching designers thoroughly and picking out the one that truly suits your style, personality and vision will give you a bespoke interior space to be proud of. One that forms the centre of your home for years to come, and one that delights you every time you enter.