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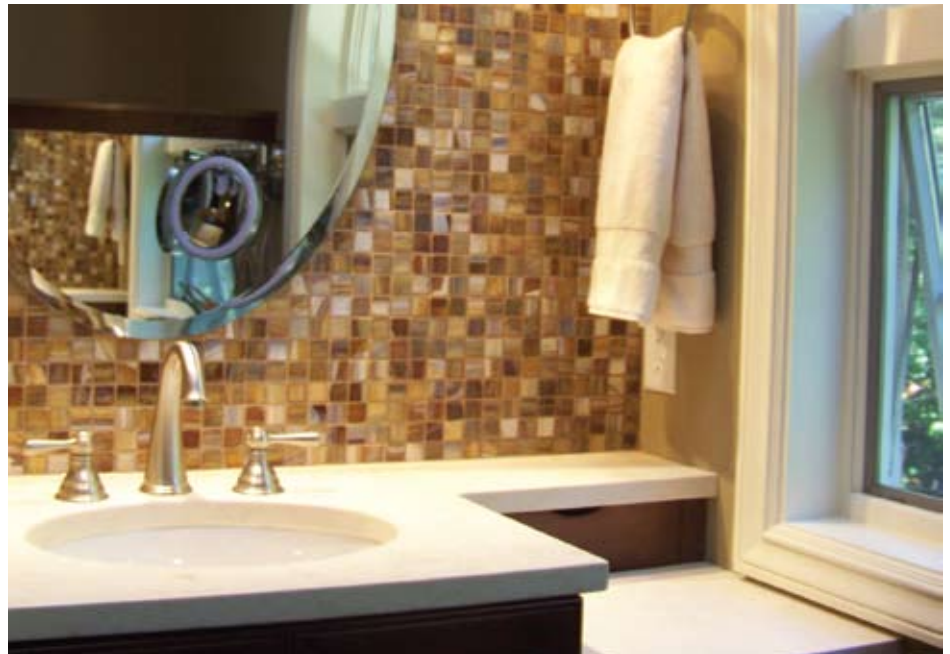


Photo courtesy of Design Studio B.

If you are building a new home, you'll want to find an Interior Designer sooner than you may think. A designer can be valuable to the building process. Interior Designers often work with architects and can offer much with respect to the final fit and finish of rooms and how they flow. They can help with plan reviews by offering insightful and creative ideas for space planning and furniture placement. By involving the designer early in the design phase, the architectural plans can be modified with ease prior to construction. A designer also helps with colors, materials, finish palettes and fixtures coordination of a home that is well worth the cost.

**How much will it cost?** The method by which Interior Designers work is as varied as the finished products they provide. They may charge a set price based on square footages or estimated number of hours or on a cost-plus for goods purchased. A retainer fee may be requested in advance. Determining a budget prior to commencing with the interior design project is suggested. The client can establish an amount not to exceed in the budgeting phase.

**How do I know I will like what you design?** The design process is collaboration between the client and the designer. The designers do not design what they want but base their designs on the client's requests.

**What are the life cycle costs/quality differences between what you offer and what I can get online or at a store?** An interior design professional may have access to provide top of line products. These products shouldn't need to be replaced as soon or as often as those from retail stores. This will help your initial investment last longer, which help pays for the cost of the designer itself.

**What services/products do you offer?** Ask an Interior Designer what products or services they do and do NOT offer. Some designers specialize in services and products while others offer a full range of management and design services.

**A few trends in the interior design of homes right now:**

- a. Glass tile
- b. Natural products with varying degrees of texture
- c. "Green" products.

When planning a home it is good to plan in the extras to make the house feel like a home. Backsplashes, fireplace surrounds and shower wall accents are popular amenities that can be built into a home. Consider using stone, slate, limestone, granite, metal and wood for flooring to countertops. There are many ways to incorporate green products into your new home from bath fixtures to flooring and fabrics.