



## Questions You Should Ask Your Interior Designer

Hiring your “interior muse” is an important beginning in the evolution of your space to meet and reflect your dreams. Selecting the right professional for your project is paramount to its success! When interviewing a designer, see how well his qualifications, experience, and work style fits with the needs of your project and you. Designing is a highly personal profession, so make sure you feel at ease with your designer. Here are a few questions you should consider asking your prospective “space doctor” to determine if together you are the best match for your space:

- **Do You Have a Portfolio?**

An Interior Designer should be able to produce a portfolio of his/her work for your viewing. It will serve as a resume, of sorts, as it will showcase their previous jobs and offer you insight of their particular skills. Keep in mind, however, that the designer was hired to perform work according to someone else’s wishes and won’t necessarily reflect the designer’s true tastes or styles.

- **Can I See Your References?**

Talk with their previous clients, business associates, and anyone else that has worked with your designer. Get a feel for their work ethic and personality, as well as checking to see how satisfied previous clients have been.

- **What Services Can You Provide?**

Make sure you understand what a designer can and can’t do. While many Interior Designers have numerous skills, they may have limitations as well. Know up front if they’ll need to collaborate with any other professional in order to get your job done.

- **How are the Finances to be Handled?**

Decide, before you hire, the type of budget you are looking at. Discuss payment arrangements, schedules, retainers, etc., that your designer may require. Also, inquire if there is a possibility of additional charges that may not be covered in the original budgeted amount – avoid chances of surprises down the road.

- **What’s the Time Frame?**

How long is the process going to take – from start to finish? Find out how the designer prefers to work; will he/she be on the project for a few hours here and a few hours there, or will it be completed in one fell swoop? Inquire if your designer has any other projects that they will be working on that might impose on your schedule, and if so, how will that be handled?

### **Knowledge is Power**

As with most decisions, when you are armed with a bit of knowledge you are able to better understand some important factors that will help you reach a decision that won’t leave you second guessing yourself – or in this case; your Interior Designer.

*Peter E.*