L6 Interior Designer - Standard Draft Preview

Overview of the role

Interior Designers plan the internal layout of public, commercial and residential buildings to create functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces.

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Standard in development
L6: Interior designer
Version 0.0

Title of occupation

Interior designer

UOS reference number

ST1361

Core and options

No

Level of occupation

Level 6

Occupational maps data

Route: Creative and design
Pathway: Craft and Design
Cluster: Design professional

Typical duration of apprenticeship

36 months

Resubmission

No

Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace and existing framework?

No

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

Regulated occupation

Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

No

Occupational summary

This occupation is found in the design sector, typically in organisations that employ Interior Designers. These organisations include specialist interior design studios, architectural practices, property development companies, construction companies, care home providers and branding agencies. Interior design teams typically consist of a design director or creative director supported by one or more senior designers, designers and assistant designers.

Interior design teams work to design interior spaces within all built environment and industry sectors including private residential, commercial residential (property developers), education, healthcare, retail, hospitality, food and beverage, workplace and transport. Interior Designers may also work in other design related occupations such as architectural technology, furniture design, graphic design, product designer, textile design and interior styling and home staging.

Interior design teams work closely with their clients and the intended building users, teams of built environment professionals such as architects, structural engineers, services engineers, project managers, cost consultants and construction teams including specialist subcontractors. The Interior Designer is predominantly office or studio based with some supervised visits to project building sites, suppliers and other offices.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to assist senior members of the design team to design, source and specify the specific elements required to make any interior space function appropriately and meet the needs of the people who will use that space, including analysis and definition of those requirements. In practice the successful delivery of interior design projects involves different phases, and the Interior Designer will be required to work on all of these. Broadly the stages are as follows:

- Brief analysis & feasibility: Working with clients to establish their detailed requirements including project budget and duration.
- Carrying out extensive research and site analysis to determine that the client's requirements can be accommodated on the site.
- Concept Design - creating initial concept designs to provide the client with an overview of the design direction of their project and the research carried out up to this point. In practice this divides into space planning and the preparation of architectural layouts rendered sketches and basic 3D models may also be completed during this stage.
- Spatial coordination and design development
- Developing the detail of the scheme incorporating information from other consultants including architects, structural engineers and services engineers (to ensure sufficient space is allowed for mechanical and electrical plant, cabling and service routes through the structure).
- Dimensioned internal plans, identifying key materials for floors, walls and ceilings are also produced within this stage.
- Technical and detailed design.

• Preparing the full package of detailed design drawings and specifications that allow a project to be signed off by the client and priced and programmed ready for construction.
• Detailed design drawings and specifications such as general arrangement plans, demolition drawings and floor finishes drawings.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for assisting the rest of the design team in the successful delivery of their projects, through the production of professional design documentation. Duties of an Interior Designer may include:

• Working on projects from concept to completion
• Researching new materials and finishes
• Ordering samples and updating the material library
• Developing representations of design options for further discussion by the project team
• Contributing and assisting senior designers in the design and production of proposals
• Assisting in the presentation of design proposals to clients, taking on board feedback and amending design proposals accordingly until finalised and signed off by the design team and the client
• Ensuring orders are placed on time from suppliers, liaising with suppliers and tradespeople and managing time appropriately, to ensure the project is completed to agreed deadlines.
In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts collaboratively with other members of the design team, with the broader professional construction team, suppliers, tradespeople and the on-site team to deliver the finished interior spaces in accordance with the client's requirements. Interior Designers will also be expected to work alongside the wider interiors team to produce a deliverables document that outlines all the drawings required as part of a package of information that can go out for tender.

Typical job titles

Interior designer

Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

No

Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 1 Attend initial client meetings to discuss, record and analyse the client's requirements for an interior space.	K11 K14 K24 S1 S12 S15 S26 B3 B5 B6
Duty 2 Review any site and project information supplied by the client and add to relevant project folder.	K11 K22 S1 S23 S24 S26 B5 B6
Duty 3 Finalise the project brief and use it to identify the 'deliverables' and resources required for each stage of the project.	K1 K9 K10 K11 K15 K16 S2 S4 S5 S6 S17 S18 S20 S23 B5 B6
Duty 4 Attend site visits and site surveys to determine the opportunities and constraints.	K3 K5 K11 K22 S1 S2 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S14 S24 B1 B3 B5 B6
Duty 5 Produce and revise feasibility studies as part of the briefing process.	K3 K4 K5 K8 K15 K20 K22 S6 S7 S8 S21 S23 B1 B2 B6
Duty 6 Ascertain sustainability goals of the project.	K3 K4 K7 K8 K11 K19 K20 K22 S2 S3 S4 S6 S7 S8 S14 S15 S16 S17 S25 B1 B2 B5 B6
Duty 7 Prepare interior design concepts which includes setting the visual framework, mood, palette of materials and design detailing for the project.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K15 S2 S5 S6 S7 S8 S17 S21 S24 B5 B6
Duty 8 Prepare space plan using appropriate software (General arrangement drawings).	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K9 S3 S4 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S14 S15 S19 B1 B5 B6

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 9 Produce specifications and schedules.	K3 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K11 K13 S4 S8 S9 S14 S15 S17 S19 S20 S22 S24 S25 B1 B5
Duty 10 Revise and review project specifications on an ongoing basis.	K5 K7 K10 K13 K18 S4 S8 S9 S13 S15 S22 B5 B6
Duty 11 Continuous professional development (CPD).	K4 K7 K8 K12 K15 K18 K19 K20 K23 S6 S7 S15 S18 B1 B3 B4 B5 B6
Duty 12 Coordinate information with the rest of the consultant design team.	S1 S2 S4 S10 S12 S13 S14 S15 S18 S20 S21 S22 S24 B5 B6 B7
Duty 13 Develop design solutions and review coordinated information with project team and sign off with client.	K1 K2 K8 K18 S4 S6 S9 S10 S13 S15 S19 S21 S22 S24 B1 B2 B5 B6
Duty 14 Research and source appropriate materials, fixtures, fittings and equipment.	K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K10 K16 K17 K19 S2 S4 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S14 S15 S16 S21 S23 B1 B2 B5 B6
Duty 15 Prepare and update interior design project programme.	K13 S4 S9 S15 S16 S20 S21 S22 B5 B6
Duty 16 Prepare detailed technical design drawings for the project.	K2 K3 K5 K8 K18 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9 S10 S13 B1 B5 B6
Duty 17 Attend meetings and acknowledge best form of contract and appropriate contractors. Issue the tender pack and the construction programme.	K5 K9 K10 K13 K14 K16 K17 K18 K21 K22 S4 S9 S20 S21 S24 B5 B6

DUTY	KSBS
Duty 18 Participate in workshops to review the design proposals with the contractor.	K5 K8 K9 K10 K13 K14 K16 K17 K18 K20 K21 K22 S5 S8 S9 S10 S12 S15 S20 S21 S22 S24 B1 B2 B5 B6 B7
Duty 19 Undertake quality assurance to meet specification and customer requirements. Facilitate customer inspection and final sign off of finished product.	K5 K13 K14 K17 S5 S8 S10 S12 S13 S22 B5 B6
Duty 20 Oversee delivery and installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment and prepare sample pack for client.	K5 K13 K17 K18 S5 S9 S11 S15 S22 B2 B5 B6 B7
Duty 21 Post project completion (PPC) inspect works & prepare a schedule of defects if required. Manage post-installation client relationship.	K5 K8 K9 K13 K16 K17 S5 S11 S13 S15 S22 B2 B5 B6 B7

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: Design processes and techniques including hand-sketched drawings and diagrams; to explore and develop design ideas and for use in client presentations.
K2: Information technology: 2D and 3D computer-aided design (CAD) using software packages, building information modelling (BIM), virtual and augmented reality software.
K3: Design principles including balance, unity, rhythm, emphasis, contrast, scale and proportion, and details.
K4: Evolving design trends: products, technology, sustainability, health and well-being.
K5: Construction and manufacturing techniques including modern methods of construction, constraints and maintenance requirements.
K6: Principles of ergonomics and anthropometrics.
K7: Data analysis and research techniques including qualitative and quantitative research for the sourcing of market insights, demographics, fixtures fittings & equipment (FFE), materials and finishes, building technology throughout the interior design process.
K8: Materials including their origins, costs, characteristics, sustainability, performance, and application.

K9: Building regulations, construction (design and management) regulations and fire safety.
K10: Financial and economic strategies: knowledge of interior design project fee structures, project budgets, furniture fixtures & equipment (FF&E) quotes and other quotations and estimates from contractors and sub-contractors and financial record keeping.
K11: Awareness of tailoring design principles to practice and client brand.
K12: Different business models for design studios. Business to consumer, business to business.
K13: Project management techniques including, planning and organising project schedules, managing orders and overseeing delivery and installation.
K14: Approaches and styles to influence and educate clients and stakeholders.
K15: Commercial awareness: day to day running and change management of the business, target markets, demographics and psychographics.
K16: Health and safety and risk assessment: health, safety and environmental standards and legislation. Risk assessment and safe systems for design.
K17: Project management and quality assurance principles and techniques.
K18: The range of organisations, personnel, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into completed interior spaces.
K19: Importance of interior design on the environment, wider community and social issues and how to source and design for sustainability and social equity.
K20: Environmental issues and sustainability: How to incorporate principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability and provide input to assess the environmental impact of projects and build resilience. How to adapt and mitigate the consequences of climate change.
K21: Types of contractors, building contracts available and procurement routes.
K22: Procurement route, tender process and the stages necessary to complete as part of a comprehensive interior design tender proposal.
K23: How to source continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities to establish measurable and achievable CPD goals that align with personal career aspirations.
K24: Communication techniques for interacting with stakeholders including appropriate presentation techniques.

Skills

S1: Develop and assess new design projects, client requirement and written briefs.
S2: Generate interior design proposals of diverse scales and type, including conducting feasibility studies.
S3: Draft and edit sketch and computer aided drawings and 3D models (plans, sections, elevations, and details) using relevant software, including computer aided design software, to enable co-ordination with other professional's input.
S4: Produce and coordinate design information with the consultant project team.
S5: Conduct site visits for the development of the design.

S6: Undertake the design process incorporating inclusivity and diversity, environmental and sustainability considerations into an interior design proposal or scheme.
S7: Develop the design of projects of varying scales in line with buildability and modern methods of construction.
S8: Evaluate materials, products, processes and techniques and their application within interior and spatial design, and where appropriate integrate alternative materials, processes and techniques.
S9: Adapt to changing needs of the project.
S10: Participate in technical design team meetings and accurately document key outputs, including design specifications, decision rationales, and action items.
S11: Inspect and report defects to appropriate contractor and assist the project manager in preparing and issuing the practical completion certificate.
S12: Influence change and promote best practice.
S13: Apply problem solving tools and techniques to address design challenges such as space planning, 3D visualisation and rendering, mood and concept boards and building information modelling (BIM).
S14: Interpret and accurately understand third party drawn and scheduled information.
S15: Apply relevant questioning techniques to ascertain desired information.
S16: Analyse and assess project information accurately.
S17: Proposal writing and design.
S18: Develop and maintain own professional competence, with the willingness to learn new processes and technical skills and manage own continuous professional development (CPD).
S19: Analyse and apply ergonomic, anthropometric and psychological data.
S20: Produce, discuss and refine schedules and quotations.
S21: Present and discuss proposals and their rationale and draw conclusions with project team and client.
S22: Use project management techniques and tools to manage projects.
S23: Identify, research and analyse size of target market, demographic and psychographic profiles.
S24: Use of research, analysis and presentation techniques to evaluate, plan, communicate and deliver findings.
S25: Assess and apply principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability to projects.
S26: Manage relationships with clients, design team professionals, project stakeholders and suppliers. Including negotiation, advising and influencing.

Behaviours

B1: Keep up to date with relevant interior design trends, developments in interior design techniques and technology and contribute to wider debates within the organisation and profession.

B2: Take personal responsibility for and promote sustainable working practices.
B3: Promotes accessibility, diversity and inclusion.
B4: Commitment to maintaining and enhancing competence of self through continuous professional development (CPD).
B5: Collaborate with others for example, within teams, across disciplines, and external stakeholders.
B6: Always maintain a high level of professional conduct including a high degree of integrity, responsibility, discretion and confidentiality.
B7: Organised and able to ensure project deadlines are met.

Qualifications

English and maths

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?

No

Consultation

Who We Consulted:

We have engaged with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the development of the Interior Designer Apprenticeship. This includes universities, industry practitioners, professional bodies and independent course providers to ensure a well-rounded and robust consultation process.

Universities and Academic Institutions

• Teesside University
o Rachel Dodd FHEA, MFA – Principal Lecturer, (Programmes) School of Arts & Creative Industries

o Nicola Keleghar – Principal Lecturer
Provided feedback on the standard and have followed the progress of the course development.

• London South Bank University
o Igea Troiani – Professor of Architecture and Head of Division for Architecture, School of the Built Environment and Architecture
o Kwame Ofori – Apprenticeship Relationship Manager, Apprenticeship Team
o Sammy Shummo – Group Director of Apprenticeships
o Lucia Otoyo – Associate Dean for Academic and Quality Assurance in the College of Technology and Environment
Provided feedback on the standard and have also provided an EPA quote.

• University of Portsmouth
o Claire Middleton – Degree Apprenticeship Manager
o Dr. Lynne Mesher – Head of School of Architecture, Art and Design
o Katie Wilmot – Senior Lecturer in Architecture
Professional Bodies

• British Institute of Interior Design (BIID) https://biid.org.uk/
The BIID has actively supported the apprenticeship development and has written two articles on its progress:

o New Interior Design Apprenticeship (https://biid.org.uk/news/new-interior-design-apprenticeship)
o Interior Design Apprenticeship Update (https://biid.org.uk/news/interior-design-apprenticeship-update)
The BIID also facilitated a roundtable discussion with its members to gather feedback on the apprenticeship (the discussion was held on 20th May 2024). The BIID has 2,921 members (https://ecia.net/profiles/biid).

Industry Practitioners

As part of the roundtable hosted by BIID, the following practitioners contributed their insights:

• Cat Hoad, Absolute Project Management
• Abigail Reay, Abigail Reay Design
• Naomi Astley Clarke, Naomi Astley Clarke
• Renata Drummond, Renata Drummond Interiors Ltd
• Wren Loucks, Be-kin
• Mathew Freeman, Studio Freeman

• Augustine Atobatele, Studio Augustine
Independent Course Providers

• The Interior Design School
o Iris Dunbar – Founder of The Interior Design School (Website, LinkedIn) Iris Dunbar is a practitioner, educator, and President of the International Federation of Interior Designers and Architects (IFI). She is also a former President of the BIID and has been a key advocate for establishing interior design as a critical discipline in the built environment industry. The Interior Design School has run multiple interior design courses over the past two decades and has provided input into the apprenticeship standard.
How We Consulted

Consultation took place via:

• Direct discussions and feedback sessions with university representatives and industry professionals
• Formal written responses to the proposed standard
• Roundtable discussions hosted by the BIID and trailblazer chair
• Engagement with independent course providers
• Public awareness efforts, including articles and podcasts
Other articles have also been written to raise awareness and gather feedback, such as:

• Material Source: Next Generation Conversations
• Chapman Taylor: Interior Design Apprenticeship Development
• Podcast discussion on Interior Design Degrees and Apprenticeships hosted by BIID member Susie Rumbold
Results and Amendments

• The consultation process confirmed the need for an alternative, degree-equivalent pathway into interior design.
• Industry feedback supported our decision to not make a degree qualification mandatory, allowing universities the discretion to award one if they choose.
• Feedback from providers ensured the EPA structure was viable and in line with other apprenticeship standards.
• The cohort size of 15 was determined based on discussions with training providers running similar Level 6 apprenticeships, including architecture apprenticeships.
This consultation process has ensured that the apprenticeship standard is fit for purpose and aligned with the needs of both industry and education providers.

Progression routes

Theatre set design, Visual merchandising, Exhibition design, Lighting design, Furniture design, Ergonomics.

Supporting uploads

Mandatory qualification uploads
N/A

Mandated degree evidence uploads
N/A

Professional body confirmation uploads
N/A

Involved employers

Jacobs, SCENE, Homebase, Scott Brownrigg, BoConcept, Chapman Taylor, Scott Brownrigg, TP Bennett, Lester Bennett Design Consultancy, Homebase, Tessuto

Subject sector area

9.2 Crafts, creative arts and design