



Interior designers not only have the experience and know-how to create a beautiful space in your home, they can also help save you money in the long run.

*Courtesy photo*

by Heidi Sherratt Bogart

# An integrated interior

## Hiring an interior designer can actually save you money

Many people assume that hiring an interior designer is only for the wealthy and that it will burst the budget — but this is not true. If you are embarking on building or remodeling a home, the help of an interior designer will not only save you money, but will also save you hours of frustration and stress.

Ideally, a designer should be involved as early as possible in the building process. A designer will help you with a budget including advising you on how to spend your money more efficiently. Making educated choices, choosing quality products and doing things in the right order are keys to a successful outcome. A designer also helps to connect you and your architect, contractor, plumber and electrician from the conception of your project, helping to avoid design mistakes in the overall plan.

You may already have a specific vision for your home, but an interior designer can bring it to life. Experienced designers have designed more homes than you are likely to live in during your lifetime, and this experience

ensures that expensive mistakes are not made during the project. They will challenge and inspire you to think differently about space, texture and color, and will work with you to maximize your home's potential. Designers come up with solutions you may never have imagined and create beautiful, life-enhancing spaces.

Most people underestimate how much time is actually involved when creating a design vision. Taking precise measurements, selecting and shopping for materials, coordinating with vendors and contractors, arranging shipping logistics and finally putting it all together can be an overwhelming process.

**Here are five ways a designer will save you money:**

**1. Discounts:** Everyone loves a discount! Furniture stores and catalogs offer discounts to designers that range from 10 percent to 50 percent off. Also, many sub-contractors — such as tile installers, painters, carpenters and flooring specialists — who have a relationship with a designer will give them their best price.

**2. Repurpose:** When designers are challenged with a tight budget they can re-use some of your old furniture and leftover building supplies and make them work in your space. A fresh coat of paint, new hardware and re-upholstering can make a piece of furniture feel brand new.

**3. Time is money:** Designers create a plan including a budget, a timeline and a list of priorities. It is their job to know where to find everything you need for your project and coordinate with the stores, contractors and artisans to complete your project on time and within budget. Hundreds of questions on details such as finishes, sizes and layout come up during a project and you won't have to spend time figuring it out and fixing it if you get it wrong.

**4. Choose quality:** A designer knows where it is important to spend money on better quality items and will insure you make the most sensible decisions based on your budget and priorities. They can help you rethink decisions so you don't waste money on junk that could cost you more down the road while also finding ways to give you an expensive look without the expense. Having vast resources is critical to carrying out a design plan and creating individuality.

**5. Increase Value:** The value of your home will increase when you have a finished product that people love. By thinking about every tiny detail and making it all work together, your

home will be more valuable and easier to sell.

Okay now that you are convinced — how much does an interior designer cost?

Initial consultations are usually no charge and after they are hired, designers have a variety of fee structures. Depending on the project, they may charge an hourly rate (anywhere from \$50 to \$500) or a flat fee based on the overall project costs.

Some designers use a cost-plus approach where they purchase materials and furnishings at a discount, then charge you the retail price, keeping the difference as their fee. Other designers will pass along their discounts to you and then charge a flat commission percentage rate on purchases.

No matter which type of fee structure a



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designer uses, it is important that they are transparent and that you have access to all the receipts.

If you're on a tight budget, don't assume that hiring a designer is beyond reach. Designers do not have to work on your entire project; you can choose to hire a designer to help you with just the critical elements for your particular space.

Remember a good designer does not push their own style on you — they listen to your vision and make it all work together tastefully.

*(Heidi Sherratt Bogart is the owner of Interior Visions at 313 Elk Ave. in Crested Butte and has been doing interior design work and cabinetry sales for 10 years in the Gunnison valley.)*



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An interior designer can help you turn a boring space into something unique with an individual flair while working with all the subcontractors that are involved in your building or remodeling project.

*Courtesy photos*

