



# The Professional Interior Design Course

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COURSE GUIDE

Indulge your  
passion or start  
a new career  
in a dynamic  
and challenging  
industry.

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# Discover interior design

The Professional Interior Design Course has been designed to provide you with the professional skills required to succeed as an interior designer. The course offers you a unique opportunity to develop a full or part time career as a professional interior designer or to use your skills as a profitable sideline.

At the outset, it is important to understand that this course is not simply about the theory of interior design. It's also about practical work in interior design, meeting client's needs, marketing your services and being paid for your design skills.

In essence, this course is about interior design for profit. Each week, thousands of potential clients whether for home or business, require the skills offered by the interior designer. These are for new homes, offices and commercial interiors - for renovations, makeovers and pre-sale inspections. These needs are fulfilled by the professional interior designer.

What makes a successful interior designer? Stated simply, they know how to go about it.

In constructing this course, the British College of Interior Design has created one of the few opportunities for those not currently involved in the industry to become paid professionals, with a range of interior design work opportunities at their fingertips.

When you complete this course you will have the knowledge and skills to start your own interior design consultancy, to work as a freelance interior designer, or to seek work in the many businesses and industries associated with interior design.

You'll find the interior designer at work in thousands of homes and businesses. They are choosing functional lighting, furniture, fabrics and window treatments. They are adding wall and floor coverings and choosing colour and decorative options. They are meeting with clients, contractors and suppliers.

Private clients, businesses, builders, architects and real estate agents have an ongoing need for design skills. There are literally dozens of income-producing opportunities for the knowledgeable interior designer.

In short, The Professional Interior Design Course takes you through every aspect of the profession - from developing design concepts and turning them into reality, through to the business of selling your design skills and services. You provide the interest in interior design and the willingness to learn, while the British College of Interior Design provides you with the practical knowledge and skills. You will soon be ready to take your first steps into the exciting and challenging world of interior design.

Enjoy the journey!

“At the end of your course, you will have acquired a level of skill where you can take on any assignment you choose.”





“During your course you will be instructed in all aspects of interior design by a team of Britain’s, and the world’s leading interior designers, design writers and manufacturers of design materials.”

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## About the course

The Professional Interior Design Course is provided by distance learning. The course comprises 12 in-depth tutorials delivered to you online, over 12 or 24 weeks. However, your course is self-paced and you may take as long as one year to complete your assignments and graduate from the course. Having said this, remember deadlines are always important to the professional interior designer.

During your course you will be instructed in all aspects of interior design by a team of Britain’s, and the world’s leading interior designers, design writers and manufacturers of design materials.

As you progress through the course you will be learning about the actual marketplace for your design skills, how to go about creating functional and appealing design concepts, selling your services and tricks of the trade to ensure your success.

From your first assignment, you are working with your tutor towards commencing your own freelance design consultancy and being paid for your efforts.

This course has been specifically designed with our student’s work and family commitments in mind. Our assignments have no due dates, so you can simply hand in your work when you are ready. If you find yourself stuck on an assignment, we have a large collection of assignment examples and resources to use as a guide for your own work.

If you are having difficulty in a certain area, or if other commitments are intruding upon your time, the facility also exists to hold further tutorials until you are ready to continue. Simply email the College and request a new delivery schedule.

One of the most important aspects of the course is its British focus. Although the principles of interior design are similar the world over, this course concerns itself specifically with the British aspects of design. It’s this direction and emphasis that will greatly help to ensure your success.

# What you can achieve

A full or part-time career in interior design offers one of the few remaining opportunities for individual freedom, self-expression and financial gain. It's also a lot of fun and can lead to varying degrees of fame and fortune.

This course gives you the opportunity of being your own boss and working from home. With a home office and low overheads you can start as a self-employed interior designer and build your business and reputation project by project. You may choose to find work in a larger design company, where you can develop your professional contacts, gain a greater sense of self-confidence and build a following of satisfied clients.

Work opportunities for trained interior designers are everywhere. You can operate your own business, work freelance or seek assignments in design or architectural consultancies, in department and furniture stores, hotel and restaurant chains, antique dealers, furniture and textile manufacturers, as well as in display and merchandising. If you prefer a sales career, selling or working with furniture, carpets, wallpapers or any related field, your training will prove of great benefit.

Using the knowledge and skills you'll acquire through this course, you may also choose to turn your own home into a showcase of your talent, with your surrounds being a live portfolio of your design ability. It would also assist anyone looking to do their own home renovation. With experience, your commissions can eventually vary from designing residential interiors, to interiors of large public buildings like galleries, exhibitions and trade shows, or commercial interiors like offices, retail spaces and holiday rental apartments, or hospitality interiors for cafes, restaurants and bars. Remember, the interior designer is even needed to design film and television sets. Perhaps this might be you.

Interior design is one of the few professions that does not discriminate in any way. You can be any age, sex, race or religion and become a successful interior designer. You can work from home or office. To a large degree you can choose your own hours and the nature of the work you accept. This craft does not demand a university degree or other academic qualifications. Once you know what the industry requires, you have a highly marketable skill.

This course will show you how to navigate the interior design industry. At the end of this course, you will have the necessary training and skills to successfully handle virtually any assignment. You will have an insider's knowledge of what the market requires and how to go about providing it.

By definition you become a professional interior designer with your first paid assignment. You'll find that interior design is an adventure, limited only by your own imagination and flair - qualities which will be further developed throughout this course.

Be prepared for one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life!





# Content from the pulse of the industry

The British College of Interior Design has recruited many respected interior designers and design writers to assist you throughout your course. Their skills and experience, covering all industry areas, will provide you with an intimate knowledge of how to take on any brief.

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## **SIMON SAVAGE: SENIOR TUTOR**

Simon is an interior and building Designer, who holds a master's degree in interior design. Trained in Amsterdam, his designs and projects regularly feature in interior design magazines. Simon is also Senior Tutor for this course.

## **BRETT TUDOR: CONTRIBUTOR**

Brett is currently working as a freelance journalist specialising in home interiors and garden design. A self-confessed interior design addict fascinated by the nuances of fashion in the home, he has a keen interest in being hands-on and taking charge of the process of decorating from start to finish.

## **MARK POLLACK: CONTRIBUTOR**

Mark Pollack of Pollack Associates in the US is one of the world's leading and most innovative textile designers. Here he explains the thinking behind his designs and makes some pertinent points on the state of design in general.

## **CLARE HOPPING: CONTRIBUTOR**

Clare is a freelance writer for a range of magazines including *The Native Lifestyle Magazine*, *Host City Architecture* magazine and *Health and Safety at Work Magazine*. She is also a regular contributor for a number of other interior design industry magazines.

## **SHARON DAVIS: CONTRIBUTOR**

Sharon is an experience design writer and regular contributor to many high profile interior design and property magazines and websites. Publications Sharon writes for include *Period Ideas*; *25 Beautiful Homes Magazine*; *Kitchens, Bedrooms & Bathrooms Magazine*; *Real Homes*; *A Place in the Sun Magazine*; *Portugal Magazine*; and *Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine*.

## **EMILY BROOKS: CONTRIBUTOR**

Emily is an experienced design writer and regular contributor to *BBC Homes & Antiques*; *Elle Decoration*; *Build It* and *World Health Design*. Emily is also the author of *Spectacular Homes of London*, an interior design book published by Panache Publishing.

## **BRIGETTA BUNDY: CONTRIBUTOR**

Brigitta Bundy studied interior design in Vienna, Austria, then worked as a model for some years before having a family and specialising in kitchen design.

## **JO WALSH: CONTRIBUTOR**

Jo juggles freelance work with the demands of a young family. Having worked extensively for both lifestyle and business publications, she knows how to create the perfect balance between the artistic and the practical.



Your tutor is a highly qualified professional currently working and familiar with current trends.

## Hand in hand with your tutor

When you first enrol in The Professional Interior Design Course, you are asked to complete our Tutor Information questions. These provide the College and your tutor with valuable information about what you wish to accomplish and the areas of interior design that most interest you.

With this information you are assigned a personal tutor. Your personal tutor is chosen to best assist you, based on what you hope to achieve from the course and the areas of interior design in which you wish to operate. Your tutor is a highly qualified industry professional currently working and familiar with current trends.

Please regard your relationship with your tutor as a partnership. It's your tutor's role to ensure your progression throughout, and to work with you until you complete the course. Your tutor will work with you as closely as possible to help you accomplish these goals by providing in-depth feedback to your assignment submissions.

This partnership with an industry professional who has been specially chosen to help your career objectives is one of the great benefits of this course.



## What you will learn

The course will teach you all the most important aspects of interior design.

This course presents fundamental design concepts and explores all aspects of the interior - human factors, building structure and technology, environmental and other building systems, contextual issues, design theories and methods, and communication.

You'll also discover the many aspects of human occupation of interior space and how lifestyles and social preferences affect interior design. You'll learn about design theory and history, design communications, design research and the science of interior space. You'll also learn how to analyse clients' needs, develop appropriate design concepts and manage the finishing of interior spaces.

## What you will receive

You will receive:

- 12 tutorials dealing with professional interior design.
- Details of the eight college assignments, to be completed before graduating from the course.
- Contributions from leading interior designers, design writers and design product manufacturers.
- Individual correction and advice in respect to your ideas and assignments.
- In-depth feedback from your tutor for each course assignment.
- Information on industry trade exhibitions, how to keep up with interior design trends, and sustainable design.

And:

- Suggested standard contracts and fee structures.
- Working papers and templates.

Plus:

- General information on computer-assisted design and how it can aid your business.
- Analysing and evaluating space and preparing floor plans.
- How to go about setting up your professional practice.

“Every interior designer was once a complete beginner.”

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## Do you have what it takes?

So what's required of you to become a professional interior designer capable of handling any and all assignments? The requirements are simple and straightforward:

1. An interest in interior design
2. A little flair
3. The willingness to learn

If you have these qualities, the British College of Interior Design will provide you with the knowledge and skills to ensure your success.

There are no rules to being a successful interior designer. You need no specialised qualification other than the desire to succeed.

A successful interior design consultant does not have to be gifted. Every interior designer was once a complete beginner. Success is very much a matter of knowing how to go about it.

More and more private individuals, business houses, builders, architects and real estate agents are relying on freelance interior designers. And, with thousands of homes, home units, offices and retail premises to be designed or renovated, why not?

However, as you'll discover, the need for your design skills doesn't end here. There is a range of other lucrative freelance and full time work to be obtained including project management, styling properties for pre-sale inspection, colour consultancy, functional and appealing bathroom and kitchen design, exhibition design, retail showroom work and more.

Remember, even a simple office at home has desking, storage and technology requirements. And, somebody gets paid for designing them.

As you'll also discover, interior design is a business that goes far beyond design concepts. By the time you complete this course, you will have an intimate knowledge of all aspects of interior design - from developing your ideas through to the important business side of marketing your professional skills and being paid for your efforts.

What's more, you'll be learning about the industry from the inside, receiving hundreds of tips and little insights from some of today's most successful designers and decorators.

Like yourself, every one of these professionals was once a complete beginner.



“Success relies on knowing  
how to go about it...  
We’ll show you how.”



# Course outline

## TUTORIAL ONE

This introduction presents you with just some of the many opportunities you have as an interior designer, such as residential and commercial design. The tutorial begins with an exploration of the fundamental elements of interior design, as well as a brief history of interior design. You will become familiar with cycles and trends, how lifestyle influences your design choices, and period furniture. This tutorial will begin to help you develop your designer's 'eye', as well as help you put together an inspiration book. This tutorial ends with assignment one.

## TUTORIAL TWO

Tutorial two focuses on essential materials and elements – lighting and colour. You will learn how to use both natural and artificial lighting effectively to bring a space to life, along with the types of lighting, styles and fixtures you can experiment with. You will learn how light and colour interact, and the psychological impact of colour. This tutorial explores how to use the colour wheel and how colours interact and compliment with each other, as well as how these interactions change the look and feel of a space. You will also look at trends and special features of colour and paint textures. This tutorial ends with assignment two.

## TUTORIAL THREE

Building on tutorial two, tutorial three looks at how to build on your base with textiles. You will explore the world of fabrics; what are the types of fabrics and their construction. You will look at the differences between upholstered and metal furniture, and how to identify quality furnishings. This tutorial also looks at window treatments, such as curtain styles and technologies, blinds, and how to measure a window and estimate materials. Furthermore, you will explore floor coverings, walls and doors, the various types, and how they are all made. These will be all tied together with cushions, slip covers and throws. Finally you will develop your individual style through custom-made soft furnishings.

## TUTORIAL FOUR

Tutorial four examines interior design for a British market. You will learn to consider elements such as climate and available space, and how these influence design decisions. You will also learn about building your own design practice, from developing the traits you need as an interior designer, starting out, and client relations. You will look at styling small spaces, properties for pre-sale inspection, and building terms. This tutorial ends with assignment three.

## TUTORIAL FIVE

Tutorial five looks at planning and presentation for clients. You will learn how to prepare floor plans and scale drawings, as well as how to develop a conceptual and technical understanding of scale and elevation. You will look at examples of floor plans and elevations to set you on your way. This tutorial also looks at the story of British interior design, as well as British architectural periods and interior design styles.

## TUTORIAL SIX

Continuing on from tutorial five, tutorial six looks at how to make your vision for a space come to life. You will look at perspective drawing, gain an understanding of computer assisted design, colour drawing and sample boards. You will learn how to use free-hand drawing as a tool in the creative process rather than a technical end itself. Furthermore, you will be shown how to present colours and finishes to your clients. This tutorial ends with assignment four.



### TUTORIAL SEVEN

Tutorial seven focuses on residential interior design. Starting from basics, you will learn how to plan kitchen and bathroom spaces, appliance placement, choosing finishes, lighting and storage. You will learn what the suitable materials for these spaces are, as well as consider ventilation and heating. You will be presented with examples of floor plans and elevations, as well as the current trends in kitchen and bathroom design. Finally, Brett Tudor offers his thoughts on how to be a successful interior designer in the UK.

### TUTORIAL EIGHT

Following on from tutorial seven, tutorial eight explores planning residential layouts. This involves establishing moods, styles, establishing a focal point and building up a scheme. From a practical end, this tutorial offers you the essential steps to success in the process of residential design, from the design brief, costing the project, to knowing how much to charge. This tutorial will help you understand patio design and outdoor living, as well as interior design law in the UK. Tutorial eight concludes with assignment five.

### TUTORIAL NINE

Tutorial nine focuses on commercial design. You will explore commercial interiors, corporate design and the changes occurring in the modern workplace. You will look at planning space, flexibility, desking systems, ergonomics and government requirements. This tutorial also covers the importance of environmental branding for businesses and effective office design. This tutorial also explores ecologically sustainable design and practice, and provides a guide for responsible interior design. Assignment six ends this tutorial.

### TUTORIAL TEN

Tutorial ten explores the world of hospitality and retail design. You will learn about the range of design options and functionalities within commercial interiors and in the hospitality sector, such as in restaurants, cafes, bars and hotels. This tutorial looks at designing retail spaces, such as creating a friendship between people and products, effective and engaging product display and design for people with a disability. You will learn how to use flowers within your designs, as well as building up your resources with useful colour services and client management skills.

### TUTORIAL ELEVEN

This tutorial looks at designing exhibition spaces, such as galleries, museums and tradeshows, where you will learn to consider thermal comfort, acoustics, and furniture selection as you design these spaces. This tutorial also explores the other various opportunities as an interior designer, such as using your skills as an investment adviser, to gaining accesses to trade shows and exhibitions. You will build up a resource of industry trade shows, both locally and internationally, as well as how to keep up with new product information and trends. This tutorial finishes with assignment seven.

### TUTORIAL TWELVE

For your final tutorial, you will be given all the tools for starting your home-based interior design consultancy. You will learn how to effectively market your skills, boost your business, research and enter new markets and build valuable contacts. This tutorial offers a check list to starting your business, everything from tax planning, to marketing and promotion. Tutorial twelve concludes with your final assignment.

\*Course contents may vary from time to time at the discretion of the British College of Interior Design.



## Upon completion

### YOUR DIPLOMA

The Diploma of Professional Interior Design from the British College of Interior Design is awarded to successful graduates of this course

The practical knowledge and experience you will have acquired throughout this course is also of enormous importance. At the end of your course, you will have acquired a level of skill where you can take on any assignment you choose.

Your diploma will be sent to your postal address within two weeks of your course graduation.

### I.D. PASS

At the successful completion of your course, you can apply to receive the British College of Interior Design's identification pass. This pass clearly states your training as an interior designer and provides a useful and important form of identification.

You'll find your identification pass can assist to open many doors for you by providing proof of your successful completion of the Professional Interior Design Course. It may also assist you when negotiating discounts or entry to professional events.



# 10 reasons why the grass is greener as an interior designer

1. **YOU WILL BE IN DEMAND:** Almost everyone needs or desired the services of an interior designer at one time or another. This means clients are willing to pay for your design talent.
2. **WORK FROM HOME:** As an interior designer you can work from home on a full or part-time basis, or make interior design a profitable sideline.
3. **INDULGE YOUR CREATIVE SIDE:** A vast range of design and design product companies rely on an interior designer to assist in creative projects. The experience of working alongside other creative professionals is both exciting and rewarding.
4. **SHARE YOUR FLAIR:** You'll have the required knowledge and skills to assist family and friends. Watch the interest that is created when you say, 'I'm studying interior design'.
5. **BE REWARDED FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE:** Interior designers also enjoy great professional benefits. For example it's common practice for professional designers to be offered valuable discounts on furnishings, decor, art, accessories and more. With the right knowledge you can also gain entry to 'professional only' showrooms, exclusive trade shows and design expos.
6. **EXPERIENCE WORK FREEDOM:** This is an easy way to become self-employed whatever your current lifestyle. You can basically set your own schedule and work as much or as little as you choose. We'll show you how.
7. **BE PAID FOR YOUR PASSION:** You are getting paid to provide help you'd probably do for pleasure anyway.
8. **DESIGN YOUR LIFE:** Your new design skills will almost certainly benefit your own environment.
9. **MEET NEW PEOPLE.** This is a profession that puts you in touch with interesting people and allows you to do interesting things.
10. **YOU'LL ALSO FIND IT FUN.**

“All you need is the desire to succeed. And, success relies on knowing how to go about it.”

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## Our guarantees

Our first guarantee is simple and straightforward. We do not accept students into this course unless we have a reasonable expectation that they are capable of completing the course. As such, please ensure you provide details in the Tutor Information section of your application.

If at the end of the course the Examining Board feels the Diploma of Professional Interior Design should be withheld, the course will be extended at no cost. If, after a further period of tuition determined by your Tutor you have still not reached a stage where the diploma can be awarded, your course fees will be refunded in full, at the discretion of the College.

It is mutually agreed however, you must complete the course and demonstrate reasonable effort throughout to be eligible for any refunds.

We are also proud to offer you these other guarantees:

1. **7-day refund period.** This allows you to examine the first tutorial for seven days. If you decide for any reason not to proceed, email the College within this period and we will provide you with a full refund of any fees paid.
2. **We guarantee we will continue to work with you after graduation if required.** If you are serious about seeing your work come to life, we're serious about assisting you to achieve success.
3. **We'll also continue working with you until you see your first payment.** We'll also continue to work with you until you receive your first payment, even if it takes a year!

In constructing this course, the British College of Interior Design has created one of the few opportunities for those not currently involved in the industry to become paid professionals with a range of work opportunities at their fingertips.

Remember, you need no specialised qualification to become a successful interior designer. All you need is the desire to succeed. And, success relies on knowing how to go about it. We'll show you how.



# Course fees

The British College of Interior Design is an affordable and accessible way to pursue your interior design career or simply indulge your passion. With flexible payment options and 7 day refund period (see below), this course allows you to study with ease and peace of mind. Because the course is conducted online, you can study from anywhere.

**The total investment of this course is £460.00**  
**We offer an upfront discount if paid in full.**  
**Discover the payment options below.**

For your assurance, we offer a 7-day refund period. This allows you to examine the first tutorial for seven days. If you decide for any reason not to proceed, email the College within this period, and we will provide you with a full refund of any fees paid.

## FULL PAYMENT OPTION

**£445 total** course investment.

**£15 discount** for upfront payment.

## BASIC PAYMENT PLAN - SPLIT OVER 2 PAYMENTS

**£200 deposit** to reserve your position in the course.

**£260 balance** payable seven days after course commencement.

## 3 MONTH PAYMENT PLAN

**£100 deposit** to secure your position in the course.

**£120 monthly** for three months.

## 4 MONTH EASY PAYMENT PLAN

**£100 deposit** to secure your position in the course.

**£90 monthly** for four months.

## 6 MONTH SUPER EASY PAYMENT PLAN

**£100 deposit** to secure your position in the course.

**£60 monthly** for six months.

## 12 MONTH EXTENDED PAYMENT PLAN

**£100 deposit** to secure your position in the course.

**£30 monthly** for twelve months.

*All course fees in Pound Sterling. We accept MasterCard and Visa (both credit and debit cards).*

*If you would like to discuss an alternative payment plan, please email the College at [questions@britishcollegeofinteriordesign.com](mailto:questions@britishcollegeofinteriordesign.com)*



**ENROL NOW**  
click here



## Start your next adventure

Positions on the course are strictly limited and fill quickly. Secure your position today.

Simply click the 'Enrol Now' button below to indulge your creative side. Also ensure you also complete the Tutor Information section. This allows the College to assess your application more quickly and also provides us with valuable background information about yourself and what you want to achieve.

Your course will be emailed to you weekly or fortnightly depending on your choice.

Tutorials are sent in simple PDF format. You can change the delivery pace of the course at any time, and a fully flexible time frame means there are no due dates so you set your own pace. You can take up to one year to complete your course work.

As the course progresses, we will forward your assignments to your personal tutor. Your tutor will endeavour to provide a comprehensive response to your assignment material within three to five working days.

Enrol now to start your next adventure.



**ENROL NOW**  
click here

# About the British College of Interior Design



The British College of Interior Design is a division of International News Syndicate Limited. Our directors and principals have been involved in all aspects of media work, training and distance education for some 30 years.

We are an international training company with students in more than 80 countries and territories. The principles of interior design are similar the world over. However, our course has been individually revised and designed to suit the needs of students living and working in the United Kingdom. Your Diploma of Professional Interior Design and your British College of Interior Design I.D Pass are posted to you when you successfully complete your course. If you are signing up from outside of the UK, please note that due to the pandemic, there may be issue with delivering mail to your country. In that instance, an electronic copy will be provided and a post version still sent when mail is being accepted.

Through online course delivery and email communication, the College is able to assist you every step of the way.

The Professional Interior Design Course is a structured training program.

## International News Syndicate Limited

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## OUR SISTER COLLEGES

