
Frequently asked questions and myths about hiring an Interior Designer

- **Isn't hiring an interior designer really expensive?**

Absolutely not. In fact a designer can save you money by preventing expensive mistakes and by sourcing items that are excellent value for money. They often carry furniture and fabrics that are only available through interior designers and cost less than you would expect.

- **What do interior designers do exactly?**

Designers do just about anything to do with design and decoration in your home. This could mean giving a tired room or whole house a new lease on life with a completely new look including lighting wallpaper, fabrics, flooring and furniture. Or just supplying some fabric for a new pair of curtains, reupholstering an old chair or finding a special item like a bathroom wall light or Scandinavian hall bench.

Sometimes people use designers to help manage large restoration projects. Designers don't just devise themes and choose colours and fabrics, they can also organise and manage the decorating, curtain making, furniture, lighting and flooring installation and ensure that the job is done to time and budget.

- **How do interior designers charge for their services?**

This varies. However at Cannon West Interior Design we don't charge anything for home visits. We will come and meet you and talk about the job free of charge. If we are redesigning a room or house we charge a small design fee and commission to cover time spent creating the scheme and the sample and illustration boards and scale plans and elevations. We also work on commission only when doing smaller jobs like a pair of curtains. We come and measure up, make recommendations about the colours and fabrics, bring sample books to look at in situ and charge nothing. You pay the retail price.

- **I have strong ideas about how I want things to look. Will the designer try to make me change my mind?**

We may suggest other alternatives and explain why they could work too but ultimately the decision is yours. We respect our clients likes and dislikes and try to find things to fit in with them, not change them.

We hope this has answered some of your questions about the business of interior design and what we do. Please do telephone or visit the showroom for an informal chat about your home.

Hannah West and Julia Cannon.

From an article which appeared in the Plaxtol Herald