

---

## WHAT ABOUT THAT INTERIOR SPACE; WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Notice the question isn't about a space that "doesn't have enough square feet of room," nor for a space that "needs an inexpensive fix-up." **Space and budget are not major issues to good design.** The question refers to *how* the space is to be handled. Unless you're an expert, you may wish to hire one, as interior design involves far more than simple calculations of how many yardages of fabric or flooring, or pieces of furniture will be needed.

### *What actually does interior design mean?*

Webster defines design as having a goal or purpose; to form a plan for something. Licensed designer, Sharon Breay of **Breay Design Associates** states "Design is much more than buying pretty 'things.' Design is the "how-to" of placing various things together in a harmonious, effective, and aesthetic manner that gives *solutions* to the user's *needs and desires*, whether those needs be an efficient and functional space, ease of maintenance, year long beauty, design for the physically or ergonomically challenged, or a combination of these and other criteria.

### *Can I just use retail supply agents or copy an illustration?*

Realize your needs are unique to your style of living and working, the type of environment you wish to create, the actual space at hand, the shape of this space, the variables you are willing and/or able to work with, the psychological impact you wish to make, and the amount you wish to spend. Good design involves various principles helping to solve your challenge. (Usually, these principles are gained with a bachelor's degree & later licensing.) Will the salesperson whose expertise is knowledge of the product and sales, cover these principles? Furthermore, will an illustration be "your" best solution; will it take into consideration your needs mentioned above? Designers have education and experience in analyzing client preferences, and they address your criteria with a professional's perspective to bring about good solutions. ....Take the necessary steps to insure you have success.

### *What are the steps taken to insure a good interior design?*

- 1) Addressing the project early; before actually beginning any work on it.
- 2) Gathering all data pertinent to the project.
- 3) Forming schematic, beginning, solutions to discuss and evaluate.
- 4) Developing the chosen solution details now; it will save you time and money.
- 5) Addressing the cost of your chosen solution.
- 6) Having the finalized solution implemented.
- 7) Either you and/or your design professional keeping in close contact with the project as it is implemented, to insure it is following the design intent.
- 8) SMILING!!! The end results prove it's all been worth the time and effort!



Sharon Breay, of **Breay Design Associates** has been providing design solutions for clients for over twenty years. Her research and design work have been included in various magazines, television shows, and newspapers. Sharon, whose degrees in design are from University of Michigan, has provided space solutions for medical offices, corporations, numerous residences, government agencies, and retail stores. Sharon made a personal goal to learn lighting design, the most important aspect of the built environment, and the least considered, to create the psychology of a space. She is a frequently requested speaker, mentor, and instructor. She is also a museum awarded painter and an awarded garden designer. Truly, Sharon is a renaissance designer. If you have a question or would like a no charge/no strings attached introductory meeting, call Sharon at 303-697-6548.

---