

# Interior Design Services For Your Home...*Luxury or Necessity?*



**BY YAMINI HINGORANI**  
Yamini Designs, LLC

Whether you are in the process of building a new home, renovating your existing residence, or preparing to sell, the services of an interior design professional can be invaluable. The right interior designer can help with the daunting tasks of making design selections while helping you avoid costly mistakes. What was once considered a luxury service reserved for the well-to-do with high-end homes may now be considered a necessity, even to the everyday homeowner.

If you are building a new home, a design professional can be useful in guiding you through the endless decisions of space planning and finish selections. In the process of building a house, a designer assists with difficult decisions such as lighting plans, kitchen layout, and paint choices. An experienced designer can be especially useful in transforming a generic floor plan into one that fits you and your family's needs and lifestyle. For example, when it comes to kitchens and baths, a designer, working closely with you and your builder, can reconfigure areas to provide more counter space, storage, and better traffic flow. With today's tight construction bud-



After. Courtesy photos



Before.

gets and schedules, an experienced designer can also expedite the selection process in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Making smart design choices is just as useful in renovating an older home as it is in building a new one. Bringing an older home up to date requires integrating new design ideas and products into the home's existing structure. This can vary from completely renovating a home's interior to making subtle yet effec-

tive decorating changes. In a larger renovation, rooms can be expanded or reconfigured to meet changing needs and lifestyles. Cabinet styles, mill work, and trim might need replacing to match the existing architecture. Alternatively, a decision as simple as choosing the right paint colors can dramatically change a home's appearance. A dated oak staircase, for instance, can be repainted – rather than replaced – to work with a home's new

design. Whether your renovation is large or small having an experienced guide to help figure out a timeline of proper steps can alleviate frustration along the way.

A design professional, furthermore, can be extremely useful when preparing a home for resale. Since these projects usually have smaller budgets, a simple facelift can inject new life into a home. Changing flooring, updating countertops, replacing outdated light

fixtures, and selecting the right paints are all relatively straightforward design decisions that can substantially increase the value of a home. A design professional with current knowledge about available and cost-effective products and services can assist with each of these tasks in a timely way.

Ultimately, there is no need to sacrifice good design, no matter what type or size of project you undertake. From the initial design of a home under construction, to updating your current living space, to preparing a house for sale, consulting with a knowledgeable and experienced design expert can enhance your home while saving precious time and money.

The key for any kind of design project is to put your money into areas that will provide the most impact, aesthetically and functionally. And the right professional interior designer can help make that happen.

*Yamini Hingorani, ASID is a licensed interior designer in the state of Indiana and a professional member of The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). Yamini Designs, LLC is a full service interior design firm specializing in residential, small scale commercial, and hospitality projects. Visit [yaminidesigns.com](http://yaminidesigns.com) or call Yamini at 812.335.1915 to learn more. And visit Yamini Designs at Home Show 2012, booth 272.*



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*yaminidesigns, llc*

812-335-1915

[www.yaminidesigns.com](http://www.yaminidesigns.com)