

## Mirage Interiors

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The average price of our Orange County Homes now tips the scale at over \$600,000. Amazing, but true. And more homeowners are opting to “invest” in their own homes by redecorating rather than moving. And still more lovely new homes continue to be gobbled up with happy anticipation of beautiful and life enhancing décor.

One of the most valuable investments we O. C. residents make is in our homes. We hire qualified professionals wisely to protect and maximize that nest-egg. One of the most important of those experts is your interior designer or decorator. The home furnishings you accumulate over the years can often approach the cost of your home in replacement value! Enlisting a designer who can assist you in maximizing the effectiveness of your acquisitions is prudent. A designer can guide you through the maize of choices, formulating a plan that incorporates your preferences in style, mood, function, budget and timing. To see the “forest for the trees” takes special skill, training and experience. Translating your very special needs into an esthetically correct, practical and fashionable tangible reality is what a skilled design specialist can do for you. He can introduce you to new technology and products and guide you to capable artisans to fabricate or facilitate your project. Selecting and coordinating furniture; wall, floor and window coverings; accessories; building materials; lighting; fabrics and accessories can be transformed from a daunting experience to a fulfilling accomplishment.

How can you find a capable designer? Personal referral is always the best. But if you haven't seen a project you love, start with a designer with “initials.” Membership in qualifying professional organizations like the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) or the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) will give you the reassurance that your designer meets rigorous standards of knowledge, experience and business standards. CID (California certification) is another standard of credibility. Once found, interview your prospect to be sure you are comfortable. Ask for references and view pictures of jobs completed.

Just as any professional you hire, your designer must be your advocate; her job is to always keep your best interests in mind. Remember, you are hiring expertise, so stay open to innovative routes to your prescribed destinations. But

also hold to your personal style; you are, after all, the Boss! Let your designer know your aesthetic goals by showing magazine photos and explaining your preferences in style, color and function. She'll ask you questions to get to know you. Be as well prepared as possible to inform her and give her direction. Be succinct in outlining your budget as well as other practical aspects of your project. A short general letter of agreement is

often drawn up by the design firm, outlining the scope of work and the method of compensation upon which you agree. This avoids misunderstandings, coupled with individually signed work orders and proposals for goods to be acquired. Thorough paperwork will make the entire process organized—with no surprises! —Except perhaps a wonderful surprise at how much more easily and beautifully your project is brought to completion.

This Designer has had over 30 years of fulfilling experience assisting clients to achieve their goals—improving the quality of their lives. Her studio venue and full staff of designers make your dreams come true with a minimum of effort on your part. Her company, started in 1988 in Anaheim Hills, now boasts having done as many as five homes for one client, and homes for others in Kauai, Canada, Colorado, and South Dakota. Membership in ASID, IIDA and CID are among the appellations included in her repertoire. The studio is open for your inquiries Mon-Fri. from 10AM to 5PM.



*As seen in the 2005 Philharmonic House of Design — photography by Martin King*