

Interior Designer interview checklist

Interior design firms usually review your portfolio first, then hold a design discussion with a senior designer or principal, often a short design or AutoCAD test, and a final HR chat.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. How do you run the first meeting with a new residential client?

What it checks: Whether you gather a complete brief on needs, lifestyle, budget and timeline, and set expectations early, which prevents most later disputes.

2. Tell me about a client who was unhappy after the work was done.

What it checks: Whether you handle dissatisfaction calmly, separate genuine defects from preference changes, and protect the relationship.

3. Why do you want to work with our interior design studio?

What it checks: Whether you know the studio's style and project types and can show how your portfolio fits them.

4. How do you plan a modular kitchen layout?

What it checks: Whether you apply ergonomic principles like the work triangle and standard heights to design kitchens that actually work.

5. Describe a time a client cut the budget midway through the project.

What it checks: Whether you can adapt a design to new constraints while keeping the parts that matter most to the client.

6. What salary do you expect as an interior designer?

What it checks: Whether your expectation is realistic for your experience and whether you understand incentives or site allowances that may apply.

7. How do you design the lighting for a living room?

What it checks: Whether you design lighting in layers and understand colour temperature and control, not just ceiling fixture positions.

8. Tell me about a time a vendor delay threatened your handover date.

What it checks: Whether you manage suppliers proactively and find workable alternatives rather than passing the problem to the client.

9. Are you comfortable with frequent site visits and weekend client meetings?

What it checks: Whether you understand the real working pattern of interior projects, where clients and sites need attention outside office hours.

10. What materials would you choose for kitchen cabinets and why?

What it checks: Whether you understand material performance in moisture and heat, and can match finishes to budget and use.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Build a portfolio that shows process, not just renders: include a brief, a furniture layout, an electrical or ceiling plan, a carpentry detail and site photos.

- Revise standard sizes and ergonomics for kitchens, wardrobes, beds, dining and study tables, because interviewers often ask for exact dimensions.
- Know your materials: plywood grades, laminate versus acrylic versus PU finishes, tile types and false ceiling systems, with their costs and limitations.
- Practise a quick AutoCAD test, such as drawing a dimensioned 2BHK furniture layout or a wardrobe elevation in under an hour.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave