

Career: Interior Design

Interior Design has become an increasingly complex profession concentrating on the design of interior spaces of all sorts—from offices to hotels, restaurants to residences, hospitals to store interiors. The tasks of the interior designer may include design and planning of space, selection of colors, fabrics and finishes, specification of furniture and preparation of contract documents that describe to contractors and cabinetmakers exactly how the project is to be completed. The Interior Design curriculum at Pratt is not exclusively concerned with surface embellishment, but is very spatially oriented. Students are given a wide variety of design projects including commercial, institutional, contract hospitality, health care and residential work. These are intended to develop an understanding of how all aspects of space, scale, proportion, configuration, light sources, as well as textures, colors and materials affect the human spirit. With this understanding, students develop a design approach that they can apply to any design challenge that they will be presented with as professionals.

Some Employers of Pratt Alumni

Knoll	Bloomingdales	Chase Manhattan Bank
The Switzer Group	Herman Miller	*Gensler
ISD	Kevin Walz	Doral Hotels
Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer	Gretchen Bellinger	Helmuth, Obata &
Bologna Powell	Skidmore Owings & Merrill	Kassabaum
Vignelli Associates	Lee Stout Design	TPG
Juan Molyneux	Swanke Hayden Connell	*Perkins and Will
Cite Design	DDAI	HOK
Kohn Pederson Fox	Mancini-Duffy	* Owen and Mandolfo

Profile of Successful Graduates

Upon graduation, Ken immediately opened his own firm—a very unusual beginning. After juggling the difficult jobs of running an office, supervising staff, designing and most importantly, getting and meeting clients for several years, he joined forces with another Pratt alumnus in the field of industrial design.

Together they now run a very successful consulting office specializing in office interiors.

While in school, Florence worked in the Pratt Admissions office and was active in extra curricular activities. This honed her management skills. In her junior year, she sought and got part-time employment in her field and upon graduation accepted the highest paying position that year, beginning a career in residential design. Recently, along with her employer, she designed a room for the prestigious Kips Bay charity event.

Bottom Line

Entry Level Average Starting Salary:
\$40,000-\$45,00

Special Characteristics:
This field is fairly “corporate” in character, with lots of client contact. Those who put the client first in the creative problem-solving process prevail.

The Career Services office lists over 4000 jobs annually. We offer career counseling and job referrals for those entering their professional field as well as general art-related jobs for those still developing portfolios.

In addition, a number of companies come each year to interview students for internships and permanent positions.

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