

Tips on Hiring an Interior Redesigner or Home Stager

By Erica Starich

Are you bored with your décor and would like an interior designer to come in and update your space? Are you beginning the process of selling your house and looking for a stager? Where exactly do you find a designer or stager and how do you know what to look for?

When selecting a designer/stager, the best scenario is to receive a referral by someone you know that has had a positive experience. When that is not possible a bit of research is necessary. Since most designers / staggers are small business owners, you probably won't see listings in phone books, ads in magazines or newspapers, or commercials on TV. Most do have a website so an internet search is a good start to finding one in your area. Just like selecting any service provider, it is always best to select a few to begin the interview process.

Here are some Key Questions to ask a designer / stager:

- Are you professionally trained and certified?
- Do you have a website?
- Do you have a portfolio with examples of your work?
- May I see testimonials from your clients?
- Do you carry liability insurance?
- Do you have your own inventory?
- How much redesign/staging experience do you have?
- What services do you offer?
- What affiliations do you have?
- How do you charge?

The answers provided to these questions should help you determine their level of professionalism. You may want to go a step further and set up a time to meet them personally before hiring. The key is doing your homework upfront in order to be confident with your selection.