

How to choose the right contractor:

Selecting the right contractor is crucial for project success, whether it's a home renovation, kitchen, bathroom, or basement remodel. Here are condensed tips:

Referrals: Seek recommendations from trusted trades or personal contacts for insights.

Credentials: Verify licensing, bonding, and insurance; check online reviews.

Experience: Look for contractors experienced in similar projects; request references.

Check References: Contact provided references to validate the contractor's track record.

Quotes: Obtain and compare quotes; be cautious of significantly low offers.

Site Visits: Visit completed or ongoing projects to assess work quality.

Communication: Prioritize contractors with effective communication skills.

Contract and Payments: Secure a detailed contract with timelines and payment terms.

Subcontractors: Verify licenses and insurance for subcontractors, if used.

Timeline: Define project timelines and deadlines clearly. **Warranty:** Inquire about warranties on materials and workmanship.

In conclusion, a meticulous selection process based on these criteria, including checking references, is crucial for project success. Good luck!



ABOUT STUART WINDSOR

Stuart Windsor has more than 15 years of experience as a certified journeyman carpenter dedicated to excellence in his field. Through playing and coaching hockey for many years, Stuart developed a passion for leadership. He learned the value of both celebrating achievements and the personal growth that comes from being fully committed to accountability in all aspects of his life.

Stuart's vision is to change the culture of the construction industry to be a more inclusive and positive working environment in general. This will enable a more friendly and collaborative experience for designers and clients, and for construction personnel to be more accountable, reliable, and professional.

How to choose an interior designer:

Before you start looking for a designer, create a list of must-haves and nice-to-haves for your project. Have a clear idea of the functionality you need in your space and start thinking about your style preferences. Create a Pinterest board to start saving design images that inspire you.

Determine your budget for the entire project, including a contingency fund. Make sure you know your maximum number. Look at a potential designer's online portfolio and social media posts. This will give you an idea of their design aesthetic, their values and their personality.

Most interior designers offer a 15–30 minute complementary call. Ensure that you feel comfortable with the designer and that your personalities align. Discuss the designer's role, your involvement in decision–making, and how the project timeline will be managed. Ask for references.

Review the contract and scope of work thoroughly. It should outline the responsibilities of each party and payment terms. Be clear about fees and any additional costs that may arise. Ask questions if you're unsure.

Ultimately, go with your gut! If you feel a strong connection with a particular designer and believe they understand your vision, trust in their expertise.



ABOUT SHONA FRASER

Shona is known for being bright: from her make up to her hair, her fingernails to her (many) tattoos. Shona still wants to colour with every crayon in the box.

After graduating from BCIT's interior design program in 2007, she launched Heartspace Interiors in 2017. Working as a freelance interior designer allows her to offer a broad range of services, from one-time consultations for paint colours, materials advice and furniture planning, through to full renovation packages including complete design drawings, specifications and project oversight.

As with everything Shona does in life, she approaches interior design with a collaborative and inclusive style, and infuses as much of her process with a spiritual bent as humanly possible!

