**Interior Design**

Part artists, part technicians, interior designers conceive, rethink, bring to life, lay out, and create interior spaces while taking functional, budgetary, and technical constraints into account. They play a leading role, intervening at all stages of a project: from original sketches (design and visual representation of a space, technical definition) to layout (functionality, volume, materials, lighting, sound devices, etc.) and final delivery of the works in compliance with the social and cultural environment.

Covering design, set design, and decoration, interior design draws from the fine, decorative, and graphic arts equally. Interior designers conceive and lay out both private spaces (individual homes, businesses, etc.) and public spaces (museums, shops, hotels, theatrical productions, movie scenes and TV series, etc.) and final delivery of the works in compliance with the social and cultural environment.

Part artists, part technicians, interior designers conceive, rethink, bring to life, lay out, and create interior spaces while taking functional, budgetary, and technical constraints into account. They play a leading role, intervening at all stages of a project: from original sketches (design and visual representation of a space, technical definition) to layout (functionality, volume, materials, lighting, sound devices, etc.) and final delivery of the works in compliance with the social and cultural environment.

Several important international networks for interior design education, student mobility, and future are necessary to develop, in addition to creativity, architectural expertise and mastery of regulations specific to the construction industry (partitions, bearing walls, electricity, ventilation, heating, etc.).

However, interior design should not be confused with architecture. The length of study, the scope of action of construction focused on exterior spaces, and the responsibilities of these two professions are not the same.

Interior design programs are offered by both public and private institutions.

**International**

Of all countries, France has the strongest tradition in the decorative arts, yet it dares to mix styles and break with tradition. French interior designers are sought after throughout the world and export their talents: Andrée Putman, Pierre-Yves Rochon, Jean-Michel Wilmotte, Philippe Starck, Pierre Yovanovitch, Patrick Gilles, Dorothee Boissier, and Joseph Dirand, to name a few. A number of foreign interior designers have also come to work and opened studios in France, including India Mahdavi (Iran), Luis Laplace (Argentina), Patricia Urquiola (Spain), Joseph Karam (Lebanon), Paola Navone (Italy), and many others.

Several important international networks for interior design education, student mobility, and future exist. These include (among others) the Fédération Européenne des Décorateurs & Architectes d’Intérieur (FEDAII), the European Council of Interior Architects (ECIA), comprising 14 organizations in EU member countries and the European Free Trade Association; and the International Federation of Interior Architects/ Designers (IFIA), founded in 1963, which currently brings together 23 countries and approximately 32,000 members. The major interior design schools are part of the Cumulus international network and offer regular exchange possibilities with their foreign counterparts.

**Useful links**

- APCI – Agency for the Promotion of Industrial Creation: [www.apci-design.fr](http://www.apci-design.fr)
- CampusArt, online application system for art, design, music, architecture, etc.: [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- CFAl, French Council of Interior Designers: [www.cfait.fr](http://www.cfait.fr)
- Cumulus, International association of universities and colleges of art, design, and media: [www.cumulusassociation.org](http://www.cumulusassociation.org)
- FDE, France design education: [www.fde.design](http://www.fde.design)
- FFB, French Building Federation: [www.ffbatiment.fr](http://www.ffbatiment.fr)
- IFDI, French Design Institute: [www.institutfrancaisduedesign.fr](http://www.institutfrancaisduedesign.fr)
- INMA, French National Institute of Arts Professionals: [www.institut-metiersdart.org](http://www.institut-metiersdart.org)
- Ministry of Culture: [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr)
- Professional certifications: [https://certificationprofessionnelle.fr](https://certificationprofessionnelle.fr)
- UNAID, National Union of Interior Architects and Designers: [www.unaid.fr](http://www.unaid.fr)

**Related fields**

- Arts • Culture • Design • Education • Engineering • Environment • Information Technologies • Layout • Management

**SUBFIELDS**

- 3D Design • Applied Arts • Architecture Decorative • Architectural Environment • Architecture • Arts Professions • Construction and Habitat • Decoration • Drawing • Engineering • Furnishing • Graphic Arts • Heritage • Industrial Design • Industry and Industrialization • Materials • Measurement • Model Construction • Modeling • Plastic Arts • Product Design • Real Estate • Renovation • Spatial Design • Stage Design • Standards

**€46.1 billion:** Direct economic impact of the cultural sector (2020)

**€7 billion:** Average total revenue of the design sector (2021)

**Nearly 40,000** professionals work in the design sector in France (2021)

The decoration sector generates between **€16** and **€25 billion** in annual revenue (2020)

**More than 1,500** designers earn a masters degree every year

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI
**ARTS - APPLIED ARTS**

**Licence**

**BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR (BTS)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits

- BTS, after 2 years of study programs offered by public and private high schools and colleges train interior designers and set designers. Available majors include: Furnishing and Finishing (15) and Studies and Layout (21).

**DIPLÔME DES MÉTIERS D’ARTS (DMA)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 2 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L2
120 ECTS credits

- DMA degree in two years in: Home Arts or Architectural Decoration, with specialization in subjects such as décor and furniture, metal, or materials, is offered by ESAA and high schools. These programs specialize in specific artisanal crafts and pass on traditional expertise.

**DIPLÔME NATIONAL DES MÉTIERS D’ART ET DU DESIGN (DNMADE)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

- DNMADE, delivered after 3 years of study in an ESAA. Students can choose among numerous majors, including: Space (27 different majors), Events (11), and Social Innovation (3).
- DNMADE at the École de Design Nantes Atlantique
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/970

**DIPLÔME NATIONAL D’ART (DNA)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

- DNA, delivered after 3 years of study in an ESA (School of Fine Arts). A dozen or so ESA offer a Design major with a specialization in Space.
- To apply through CampusArt:
  ESAD Orléans: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/310
  ESAD Reims: Design Degree
  HEAR: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/300
  Pavillon Bosio: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/61

**PROFESSIONAL LICENCE**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

- Two universities offer this degree in their Science, Technology, and Health departments. The degree allows students to refine their technical knowledge in a specific field, including wood and furnishing; creation and lifestyle design.

**PROFESSIONAL TITLE**
RNCP – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Interior Designer, ITECOM
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1092
- Designer and Interior Designer, ESAD – École de Design Nantes Atlantique
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/949

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**Master**

**DIPLÔME SUPÉRIEUR DES ARTS APPLIQUÉS (DSAA)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

- This two-year, 120-credit (ECTS) masters-level degree in Design with a specialization in Space is offered by 10 institutions and allows students to enhance their artistic mastery in the field of design.

**DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D’EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP)**
NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2

- This two-year, 120-credit (ECTS) program leads to a masters-level degree and aims at structuring and conducting individual research. Some 15 ESAs offer a Design option with a Space specialization.
- To apply through CampusArt:
  Pavillon Bosio: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/60
  ESAD Reims: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/176
  ESAD Orléans: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/310
  ESAD Le Mans: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/142

**DIPLÔME DESIGNER-CREATOR IN THE DECORATIVE ARTS**
MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

- Program offered by the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) in Paris. This is a five-year degree with a major in interior design or set design. Admission is by competitive entrance examination.
  www.ensad.fr

**PROFESSIONAL TITLE**
RNCP – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Interior Designer:
  Académie Charpentier: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/387
  Autograf: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/454
  Camondo: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/614
  Écoles de Condé: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/379
  EFET Studio Crèa: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1121
  ESAM: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/58
  ESADC - École Supérieure de Design, d’ Arts Appliqués et de Communication: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1158
  LISAA: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/784
  Penninghen: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/120

- Spatial Design, Strate School of Design
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/590

- Design Degree, École de Design Nantes Atlantique
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/969

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**Beyond the Master level**

**MASTÈRE SPÉCIALISÉ® (MS)**
INSTITUTION DIPLOMA – 1 YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A post-masters program accredited and labeled by CGE (Conférence des Grandes Écoles), this specialized masters enables holders to develop a second competence in a variety of majors and earn an institution-specific diploma.

- **> Mastère Spécialisé création, design & technologie contemporaine** degree offered by the École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI) – Les Ateliers.
  www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/858

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**To apply online:**
www.campusart.org > Find your program