



What to expect when working with Destination Design

Generally, there are 5 phases to an interior design project: Consultation, Proposal and Approval, Design Concepts, Material and Item Selection, Implementation.

Phase I: Consultation

Goal: This is a time for us to get to know each other, and to see if we want to work together. Usually this phase is complimentary.

Timing: 1 - 1 1/2 hours

Description: This first part of the process is designed to gather information about the project to help the client and Destination Design create an accurate picture of the client's needs. From this information, Destination Design will write a proposal. The discussion usually includes:

The scope of the project - Which rooms, remodel or redecorate, color palettes, floors, lighting, furniture, etc.

The mood or ambience the client wishes to achieve.

Technical basics - What can be changed, what should not.

Functional basics - What are the varieties of activities that happen in the space. Which family members use the space. Are there existing routines and requirements needed. What is the flow of activity throughout the space.

Project budget - although this may be hard to pinpoint, a general idea can be very helpful.

Phase 2: Proposal and Approval:

Goal: Writing and presenting the proposal to align on scope and fee. Usually this phase is complimentary.

Timing: 2 -3 hours

Description: A good proposal is an alignment of the clients needs and the design process. Although Destination Design writes the proposal, it is the discussion between the client and the Designer after the initial proposal is drafted that ensures alignment with the client. A good designer is always willing to listen to your thoughts and concerns. Proposals can be modified to fit budgets or to expand the scope of the project.

The proposal is used as the guide to the design activities. It includes the appropriate phases of the project, the design fee, and timing. It can be executed all at once, or in sections, whichever is more comfortable for the client.

Design fees for the project are determined based on the scope and duration of the project. Generally speaking, for larger projects a fee based structure is appropriate and is based on the estimated hours it usually takes to complete. The fee doesn't change unless the scope of the project gets larger or smaller.

For smaller projects, an hourly fee may be desirable. The scope of the project can be scaled and timed to suit the needs of the client. Updates to the proposal are presented to the client when project scope changes.

Phase 3: Design Concepts

Goal: Presentation of concepts that help the client visualize the design ideas and the end result.

Timing: 5 - 15 hours or more

Description: Development of concepts to share with the client. Depending on the project, the concepts may be in the form of sketches, plan views, 3D renderings, item (furniture, lighting, etc.) sheets, material and color boards, or a combination. There can be one or several iterations of the ideas, depending on the client's goals. Most project proposals include 1 - 3 concepts, and 1- 2 revisions. Also included are the appropriate number of client meetings.

Some clients like to offer ideas and suggestions. This is highly encouraged! Often this is in the form of on-line photos, magazine photos, or physical objects. At Destination Design we can set up an idea book for you on Houzz.com and share ideas through this design platform. This is a great way for us to understand your vision. We present design concepts at a client meeting. After discussion, we generate a final concept.

Phase 4: Material Selection

Goal: Material and item recommendation, selection, and specifications.

Timing: 5 - 12 hours or more

Description: Often the most important and detailed portion of the project, Destination Design can have as large or as small of a role in material selection and purchase as the client needs. We want your project to be successful in the final implementation, so we offer to shop for you, purchase items for you, or verify your purchases.

Most of our clients are busy. So we bring the samples that fit your needs to you. Often, we are entitled to trade discounts that can save our clients money.

All selections are documented for your records in our exclusive Design Activities and Master Items List. We make sure colors, materials, and textures coordinate well together, and bring value to the project. We can select lighting, furniture, colors, floor and window coverings, appliances, wood finishes, cabinets and counter tops.

Phase 5: Ordering, Implementation and Satisfaction

Goal: Implementation of the selected concept. This phase includes ordering items and contracted services needed for the project.

Timing: 1 week to 6 months

Description: Some clients prefer their own contractors and labor. Destination Design is skilled at working either with the clients's preferred contractors or recommending and managing our partner tradespeople for you. Our tradespeople are vetted and insured.

We document all necessary material specs, provide specs and drawings to architects and contractors, and manage timelines as needed. We are at the job site to supervise implementation, and answer questions.

We always make sure that items and services ordered have full approval from the client.

We like to see the finished product executed as well as possible and to make sure you are satisfied with the result! We always have a follow-up visit to make sure the job is finished to your satisfaction.