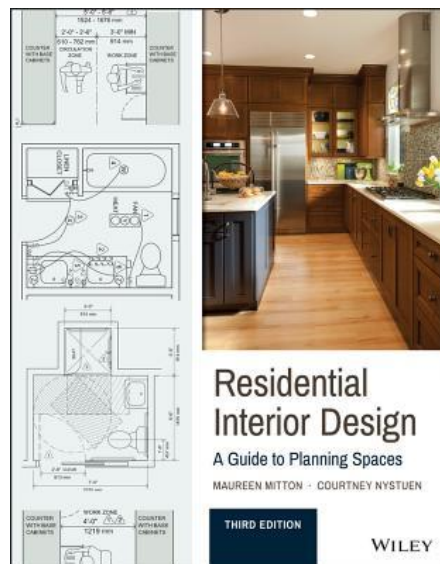




Residential Interior Design: A Guide to Planning Spaces

Maureen Mitton , Courtney Nystuen

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A practical approach to planning residential spaces*Residential Interior Design: A Guide To Planning Spaces* is the industry-standard reference for all aspects of residential space planning, with a practical focus on accessible design, ergonomics, and how building systems affect each space. This new third edition has been updated with the most recent code information, including the 2015 International Residential Code and the International Green Construction Code, and new content on remodeling. Packed with hundreds of drawings and photographs, this book illustrates a step-by-step approach to design that applies to any residential space, and ensures that the most important factors are weighted heavily in the decision making process. Daily use is a major consideration, and the authors explore the minimum amount of space each room requires to function appropriately while examining the host of additional factors that impact bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, and more. Detailed information about accessibility is included in each chapter, making this book a reliable design reference for "aging in place" and universal design. The new companion website features teaching tools and a variety of learning supplements that help reinforce the material covered.

Interior design is a fundamental component of a residential space, and a required skill for architecture and design professionals. This book is a complete reference on all aspects of residential design, and the factors that make a space "work."

Design spaces with primary consideration of daily use
Account for building systems, accessibility, human factors, and more
Get up to date on the latest residential interior building codes
Plan interiors for any home, any style, and any budget
Designing a residential interior is about more than choosing paint colors and furniture--it's about people, and how they interact and use the space. It's about shaping the space to conform to its function in the best possible way. *Residential Interior Design* provides clear, comprehensive guidance on getting it right every time.

Residential Interior Design: A Guide to Planning Spaces Details

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From Reader Review Residential Interior Design: A Guide to Planning Spaces for online ebook

Camy Do says

Informative book from interior design stand point, giving adequate info on related IRC codes and technical requirements with many helpful diagrams and product info.

Ch. says

Comprehensive and easy to follow with a whole lot of illustrations, a great reference book for all interior design students.

Adam Wiggins says

Residential Interior Design is a guide to designing the shape and layout of living spaces. Relatively little time is spent on subjective topics like aesthetics or feng shui. Instead, it focuses on the nuts-and-bolts, like how many inches of clearance are needed around a bed in order to be able to comfortably make the bed, or the ideal position for light switches in a room. Terminology such as how to refer properly to lighting (lightbulb is a "lamp," entire fixture including the lamp is a "luminaire," stairs are composed of "treads," "risers," and are measured in terms of their "run".)

At first I was put off by these seemingly very mechanical and basic concepts, but reading further I realized the usefulness of these foundational pieces. For example, light switches are most convenient when they are placed on the latch side of a door opening (e.g., near the handle), since this is where your hand is already when you enter a room. This seems obvious, yet I never thought about it explicitly. Now that I'm aware of it, I notice glaring violations of this simple principle in rooms at hotels, friends' homes, and my own home all the time.

I greatly enjoyed the coverage of privacy (which the book defines as "the ability to control our interactions with others") and how it relates to living space layout. A home is best arranged with an "intimacy gradient," a sequence of spaces which become progressively more intimate. Lawn and porch are semi-public, entryways are a transition space, kitchen and living room are suitable for friends, bedrooms and bathrooms are the most private and personal. Living spaces which fail to offer such a sequence will feel awkward to visiting guests. Bubble diagrams are a good way to understand the flow of spaces, especially with multiple entries (e.g. front door, garage, back door).

A similar concept is proxemics, or the idea of "personal space." Physical distances in social situations are reflections of intimacy, with most interactions working best at a four foot range. Seating layouts, in a living room or dining room, can use proxemics to create social spaces that produce the correct level of intimacy. For example, a conference room in a workplace or a set of chairs in a hotel lobby will work best at a longer range than a dining room table or sofa/chairs layout in a living room.

The book spends a lot of page space on topics of accessibility (making living spaces suitable for seniors or disabled people) and regulation of living spaces (primarily the International Residential Code). While these

items are not directly applicable to an ambulatory person seeking a little advice on how to lay out his home (such as myself), I found it educational to understand how much both of these topics necessarily affect any home one will ever reside in, not to mention public places like hotels and restaurants. Regardless, all of us will have to deal with living spaces for people of impaired mobility sooner or later -- whether it be caring for an aging parent, or one day when we have to deal with the ravages of old age ourselves.

Lighting a space is best done by understanding the types of lights (ambient, task, and accent) and bringing to bear the proper lighting for the situation. A room lit with task lights (e.g., a desk lamp) will rarely be as welcoming as proper use of ambient lighting, for example. Glare is a significant concern -- task lighting (such as under-cabinet lighting the kitchen) can glare off of shiny countertops. Even use of daylight (placement of windows combined with knowledge of where the sun shines at various times of day) is a type of lighting. Downlights, such as a light placed at the top of a living or dining room, or lights at the top of a mirror in a bathroom, are an easy way to light a space but are best avoided, since they create deep shadows that make people look ugly.

Circulation is the understanding of how people move through a space. This requires knowing what kinds of tasks people want to do when they enter the space. For example, a bedroom is best arranged with the closet(s) relatively close to the door, since often people come into the bedroom just to get something from the closet. Likewise, a bathroom works best with sink and toilet closer to the door, and bathtub or shower furthest from it, since bathing is the least frequent reason one enters that room.

Kitchens are a major area of design. They serve both as a gathering place for friends and family (food preparation and consumption is typically a centerpoint for social activity at home), as well as a major task area. The "work triangle" concept is the major piece of kitchen design, which is the path between the sink, the refrigerator, and the stove. Each leg of the triangle should be between four and nine feet, to provide enough room to work but not require excessive travel between each of these workspaces. All of the common kitchen layouts (the U, the L, the I, the G -- all named for the shape of their counters) can be evaluated by drawing a work triangle on the top-down view.

In the living room, seating should be arranged to provide space for six (which can be four sitting, two standing). Less than this and it will feel too intimate, more than this and groups will break into "conversation clusters" of 4 - 6 people each. Avoid circulation paths which pass through the conversation clusters; the location of doorways is especially important in the living room.