

Co-op Coalition Survey: Interior Design

Thanks to the 12 members who responded (below). You provided helpful guidance and, in some instances, recommendations for updating interior building areas.

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In a message dated Wed, May 22, 2019 1:02 pm

Have you re-done areas in your building including floors? If so, you may be able to help a Coalition member. Their question is below. Please "Reply" with your answer by Friday, May 31. Thanks for helping out one another.

DC Cooperative Housing Coalition
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Have member coops used an interior designer to help guide the overall look of their buildings? We may have to replace our 100+tile floor and would like some guidance at design ideas. We may be interested in painting the main hall area as well to work with the floor. Overall, need guidance on the "look" of the building.

<50 units	Our cooperative is currently working with an interior designer to refresh our common areas, including new paint colors, lighting, carpet and furniture. Very happy with her suggestions and her fee is substantially lower than the other design firm we asked for a proposal. Amelia Perez: ameliaperez477@gmail.com
<50 units	Yes. We used an interior designer when we painted the interior and replaced the carpet at 2854 Connecticut. Ave. Happy to make an introduction.
<50 units	We did a minor renovation where we buffed rather than replaced marble floors, painted, new light fixtures, and new furniture including a refresh of the front facade of the building. We actually lucked out and have board member who's partner happened to be an interior designer so we were able to leverage their talents. I've checked with them and can share their information with anyone interested.
<50 units	We recently repainted and redecorated our lobby due to lots of complaints from real estate agents that it made things "unsellable." We had our usual paint company do the painting, then a committee of owner-residents choose and assembled the new furniture, hung new/existing pictures, chose a new area rug, etc.
<50 units	[Our] Co-op recently completed an interior design project with an affordable design firm-Old House Loves. Our co-op formed an interior design committee and OHL helped us select paint colors, carpet, tiles and lighting that are period appropriate for our building. I would totally recommend contacting Lauri or Jeanne from OHL: https://www.oldhouseloves.com/

<50 units	<p>Our Coop did a major overhaul of our lobby in the 1980s, which included replacing the existing flooring with 1-foot-square marble tiles in a black & white checkerboard pattern. Most of the furniture was also replaced at that time. A decorator was used, but I do not have contact information.</p> <p>Another refresh was needed recently. We retained the floor, which is still in reasonably good shape. After exploring the costs associated with a professional decorator, we decided instead to use the in-house design services of several local retailers. After presentations to the Board and some modifications to the proposals, members were given the opportunity to vote for a favorite. New furnishings (we replaced everything!) were ordered from the winner. We got a hefty discount off the retail price and design services were free.</p>
<50 units	We have not.
<50 units	<p>Yes, we at the [our co-op] replaced all the public hallways with a better grade of tile about six or seven years ago. I was away at the time but believe that one of the residents who's a designer was involved in coming up with what was eventually installed. We have a sample board of what was used, which can be viewed on request.</p>
50 – 99 units	<p>This sounds like a pretty small job, so I'm not sure the designer we used at [our co-op] would be interested, but we worked with Kendall Dorman and he was really great on the design for an entire rehabilitation of all public spaces in our building (except the laundry room/basement). We haven't implemented the plans yet due to competing priorities, so we can't say how the design looks in real life, but he was easy to work with, was conscious of our budget, and made himself available for questions when needed. He can be reached at: Kd <x@wdarchitects.us></p>
50 – 99 units	<p>Several years ago, the Winchester Underwood (81 units) consulted with an interior designer about some accessories for the lobby and hallways. I believe that was the extent of it. We did not consult with anyone when we selected carpeting for the entire building.</p>
100+ units	<p>[Our] Cooperative is struggling with this same issue. It's time to update the look of the hallways. We have met with three designers and a number of contractors. No clear "best" choice has been selected.</p>
100+ units	<p>More than a decade ago, we replaced our hallway carpets and installed crown molding to hide the Comcast cabling that was installed at the same time. We also redid our lobbies and installed mid-century furnishings more in keeping with the age of our building. When we redid our elevators, we replaced the cabs, as well. It was a long and expensive process but companies and people may no longer be around to talk with.</p>