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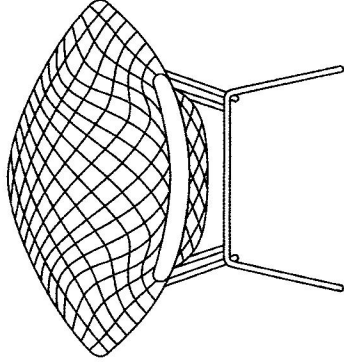
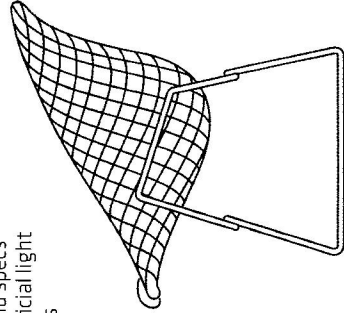
# Interior Design

Updated +  
Revised

Reference +  
Specification  
Book

Everything Interior Designers Need to Know Every Day

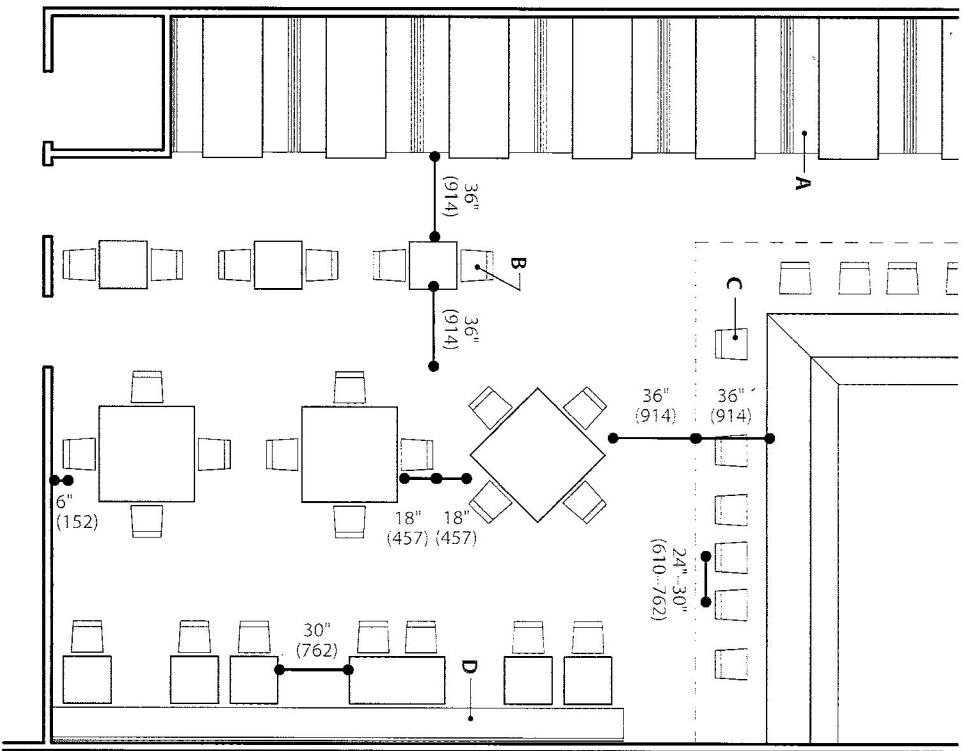
Project management tools  
Sequencing spaces  
Design software  
Digital presentations  
Sustainability guidelines  
Standard dimensions tables  
Codes and accessibility  
Contrast and color rules  
Paint types  
Wall coverings  
Flooring types and specs  
Natural and artificial light  
Invisible systems  
Drawing basics



Chris Grimley +  
Mimi Love

## Typical Restaurant Layout

- A Banquette
- B Table Setting
- C Bar Seating
- D Wall Seating



The plan notes minimal dimensions for access aisles, limited-passage, and no-passage aisles. Wheelchair-accessible aisles are required from the restaurant's entry to the accessible seating and restrooms.

110 THE INTERIOR DESIGN REFERENCE + SPECIFICATION BOOK

## Design Considerations

### Spacing between Tables

As long as the spacing between tables meets the minimum dimensions required for an access aisle, the spacing is subjective and driven mostly by the restaurant concept. Full-service restaurants provide more space between tables for a comfortable dining experience, while fast-food restaurants maximize the number of seats. The access aisle dimension is determined by the local building code and by the ADA, which specifies a minimum width of 36 inches (914 mm) in the access aisles and also requires that all accessible tables be located adjacent to an access aisle.

### Interior Finishes

Interior finishes are the most tangible elements that a designer can use to describe the type and quality of the restaurant. Certainly, materials appropriate for the public areas will differ from those appropriate for the kitchen; but in both areas, fire-retardant materials must be utilized. In addition to the quality of the materials specified, it is important to consider their maintenance standards to ensure their suitability for the type of restaurant.

### Lighting

The ambiance of a restaurant will be informed by the lighting design. Low-level mood lighting is typical of fine dining, while bright lighting offers a more casual dining experience. Over the course of a day, restaurants can change the lighting to suggest different moods. Most restaurant lighting is incandescent because of the warm tones that the lamps provide; however, fluorescent lighting is more energy efficient and may be more appropriate in the kitchen areas.

### Acoustics

The acoustics in a restaurant go hand-in-hand with the concept. In some restaurants, for example, the reverberation of hard surfaces adds to the desired effect of the dining experience. There are a number of ways to control the acoustics in an environment, as long as the desired effect is understood. The simplest way to control acoustics is through sound-absorptive materials. These can range from carpet on the floor to fabric paneling on the walls to sound-absorptive tiles in the ceiling. Another strategy worth considering is to compartmentalize the restaurant into different types of rooms with different noise levels to suit the various patrons.

## RESTAURANT ENVIRONMENTS

Restaurant types range from utilitarian fast-food purveyors to full-service restaurants with elaborate themes. Restaurant design encompasses a great number of issues regarding functionalities, kitchen layouts, lighting, acoustics, and so forth. The interior designer must be familiar with each, especially with the dimensional criteria for seating layouts.

Before planning the seating layout, the designer must understand the restaurant concept. The concept should define the type of dining experience offered, the intended clientele, the hours of operation, and the menu. If the restaurateur's idea is to put the workings of the chef on display, for example, then the seating should be arranged so that the kitchen is visible from every table. Equally, the spacing between tables can have a substantial impact on the character of a restaurant. Tables closely packed will result in a loud and lively space, since patrons need to compete with their neighbors to be heard. Conversely, tables spaced far apart tend to separate diners into quieter pockets of conversation.

### Types of Seating

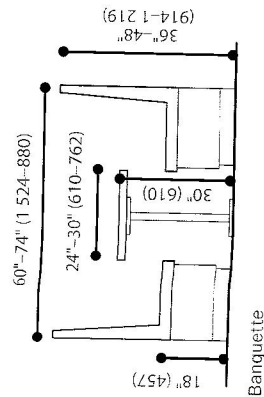
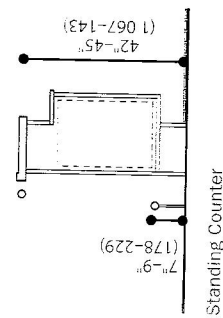
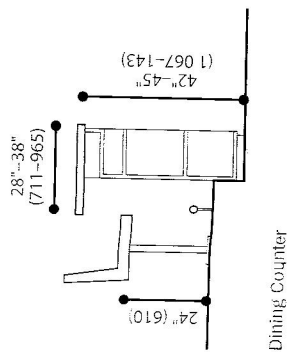
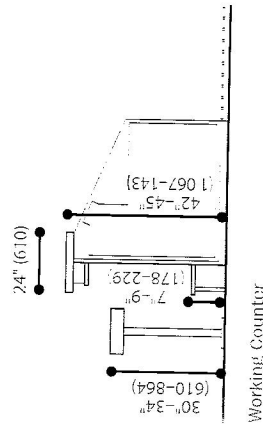
Restaurant seating falls into three general categories: loose chairs, built-in seating (for example, banquettes), and bar seating. Seat height is typically 17 to 18 inches (432 to 57 mm) for a table or low counter. Bar seating typically ranges from 30 to 34 inches (762 to 864 mm) in height. All seats should be a minimum of 16 square inches (406 mm<sup>2</sup>). For the full-service dining experience, consider the use of padded seats and armchairs for ease of getting in and out of the seat.

### Tables and Counters

In the restaurant trade, tables are known as tops. The most common sizes are two tops (seating two people) and four tops (seating four people). Beyond these sizes, tables are typically combined or expanded. Some tables have flip-up corners, which convert a square table seating four to a round table seating six people. Table height is typically 30 inches (762 mm). A square table with a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm) across can accommodate four people. A square table with a minimum dimension of 24 inches (610 mm) across is acceptable for two; however, 30 inches (762 mm) is preferable. Smaller tables are acceptable when only drink service is provided. Counters range in height from 28 to 36 inches (711 to 914 mm); however, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that 60 linear inches (1 524 mm) of a counter be more than 34 inches (864 mm) high to accommodate patrons in wheelchairs.

### MINIMUM TABLE DIMENSIONS

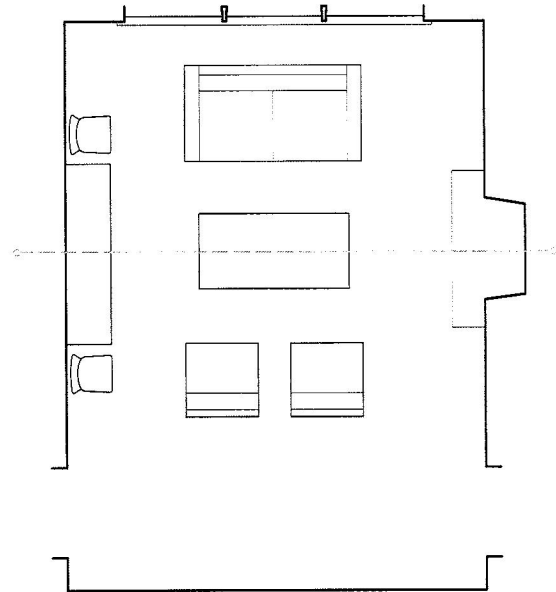
| Shape       | Seats          | W                        | L                     |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Square      | 2              | 24", 30" (610, 762)      | 24", 30" (610, 762)   |
| Square      | 4              | 36" (914)                | 36 (914)              |
| Round       | 4              | 36"-42" (914-1 067) dia. |                       |
| Round       | 6              | 42"-48" (1 067-219) dia. |                       |
| Round       | 8-10           | 66" (1 676) dia.         |                       |
| Rectangular | 4 (2 per side) | 30" (762)                | 42"-48" (1 067-219)   |
| Rectangular | 6 (3 per side) | 30"-36" (762-914)        | 72"-84" (1 829-2 134) |
| Rectangular | 8 (2 per side) | 36" (914)                | 90"-106" (2 286-692)  |



These sections describe ideal vertical dimensions. Please note that all vertical dimensions are subject to local building code and accessibility regulations.

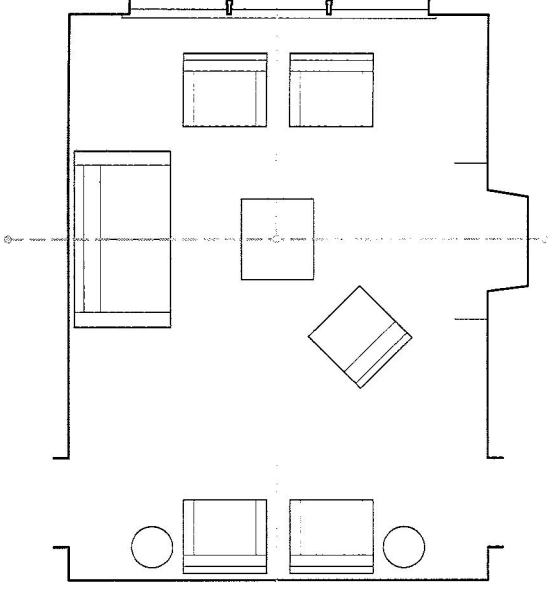
## Living Room Layouts

A typical living room can function well when arranged according to several alternative principals.



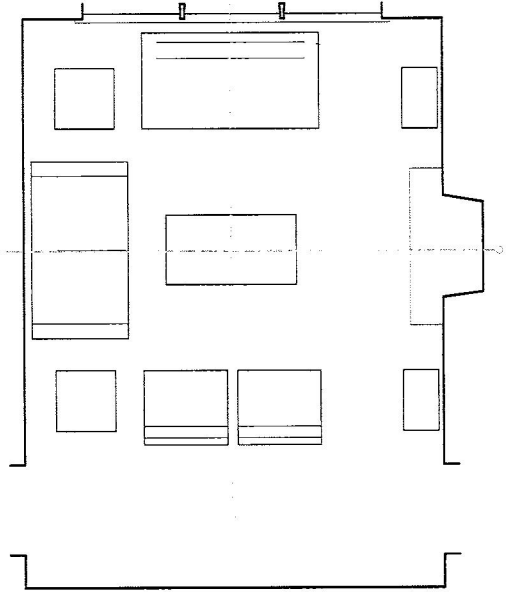
### Symmetrical

Using the natural center of a room, furniture is placed around a common axis.



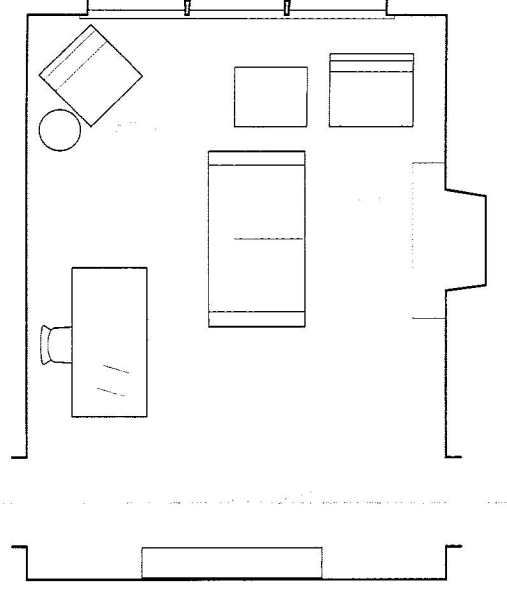
### Local Symmetry

Separate seating areas can make a room feel larger. Using local symmetry can maintain harmony and balance within the room.



### Focal Axis

A cross axis will focus attention toward the center of a room, while other features become a backdrop.

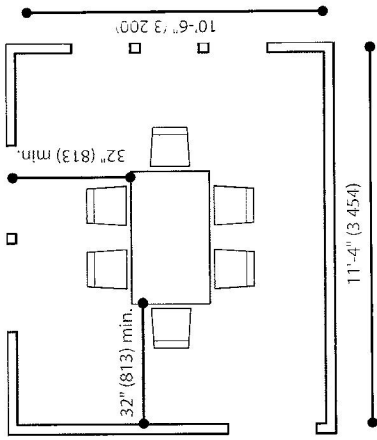


### Asymmetrical

Unrelated groupings of furniture can result in a casual atmosphere within a room.

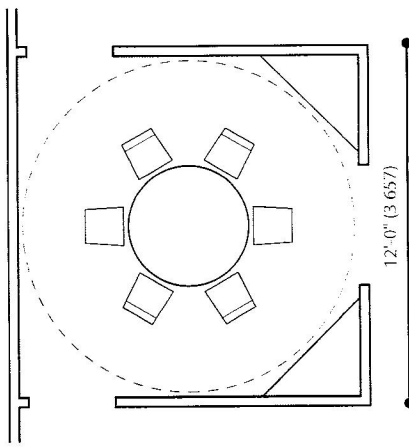
### Minimal Dining Room: Rectangular Table

The minimum size of a dining room is based on the size of a rectangular table with 36 inches (914 mm) of clearance on all four sides.



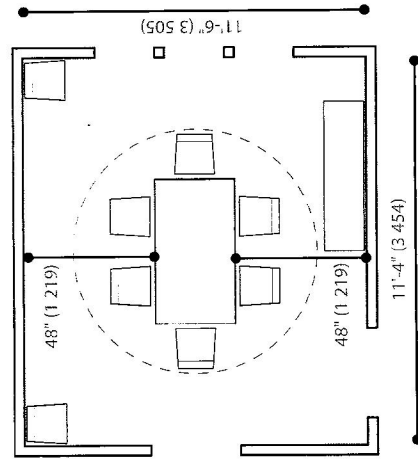
### Minimal Dining Room: Round Table

A round table in a square room allows space for cupboards or built-in cabinets in the corners.



### Dining Room with Additional Furniture

An ideal dining room allows space for two additional chairs and a buffet table in the room.

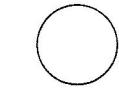


## LIVING ROOMS

Of all the rooms in a house, the living room has the fewest constraints since it requires neither appliances, nor plumbing fixtures, nor storage. As a result, interior designers have a great deal of freedom in terms of the character and configuration of the space. The living room should be designed to reflect the particular lifestyle of a family.

### Typical Furniture Dimensions

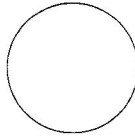
Specific functional requirements and the size and shape of the room will help set the agenda for selecting and arranging the most appropriate furniture. Below are the dimensions of typical living room furniture. Be mindful that the dimensions of specific pieces may vary from the typical sizes. Furniture that diverges widely in dimension from these examples may be uncomfortable and impractical, however.



Round Table  
18-24" (457-610)  
dia.



Square Table  
24-30" (610-762)



Coffee Table  
48" (1 219) dia.



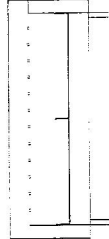
Rectangular Coffee Table  
24" (610)  
54" (1 372)



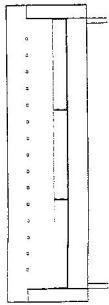
3' (914)  
Club Chair



5' (1 524)  
Love Seat

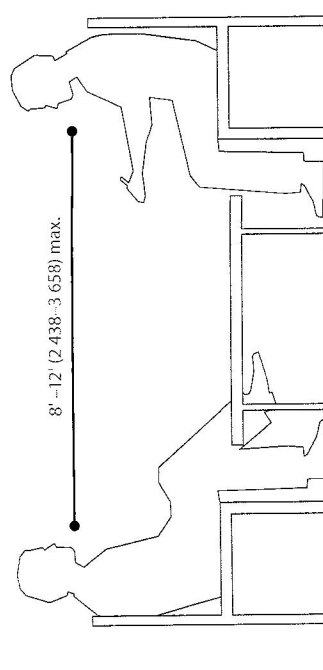


6' (1 829)  
Sofa



7'-6" (2 286)  
Sofa

The distance between chairs and sofas can influence the behavior of the occupants of a space. Two people sitting across from each other must be within a specific dimensional range for conversation to be comfortable. The behavior of larger groups of people around and across a coffee table is also affected by the relative intimacy of the furniture arrangement.



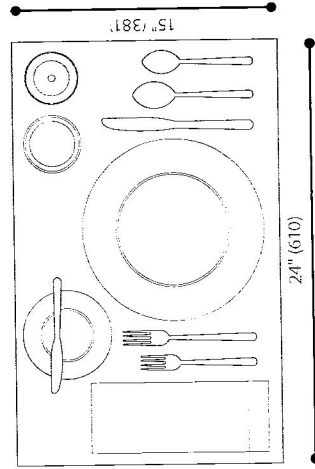
## DINING ROOMS

The configuration of the dining room is predicated on the size and shape of the dining table. Otherwise, the dining room allows for a great deal of design flexibility. Once a formal room occupied primarily on special occasions, the dining room today lends itself to a wide range of interpretations and can accommodate a variety of lifestyles. The dining room can be an extension of the kitchen, a zone within a large living room, or a separate room organized around the specific rituals of enjoying a meal. Regardless of the configuration, the dining room should be immediately adjacent to the kitchen work areas for easy delivery and cleanup of meals.

### Dimensional Criteria

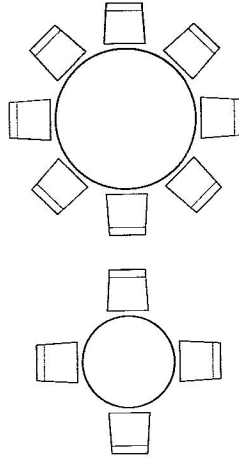
#### Place Settings

The dimensions of a dining table relate directly to the area required for a place setting. The approximate area of a place setting is 24 inches (610 mm) wide by 15 inches (381 mm) deep. Although the standard dimension for a placemat is 18 inches (457 mm) across, additional area is allocated for serving dishes, wine bottles, and elbow room.

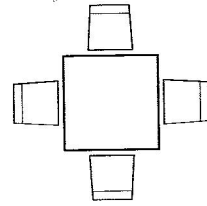


#### Dining Tables

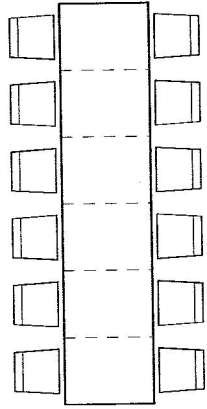
The average table manufacture allows 24 inches (610 mm) per person; however, other elements must be considered when selecting the right table for a specific number of guests. For instance, a dining chair with arms increases the amount of space required for an individual by 4 inches (102 mm) on average. The location of table legs may also determine the number of people that can sit comfortably at a table. A variety of table configurations are shown here.



To determine the size of a round table, multiply number of seats by width of place setting (26" [660] +/-) and divide by 3.14.

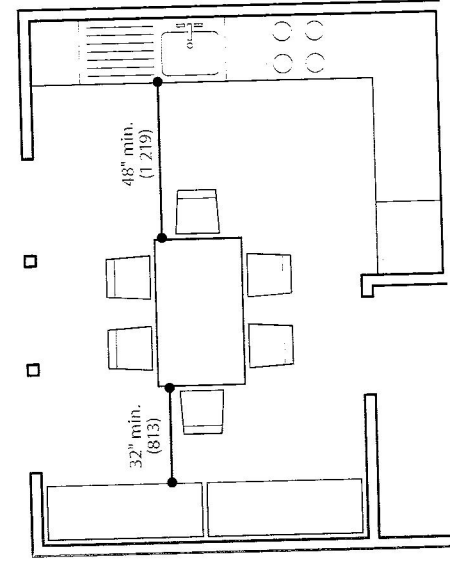


A square table for four can be expanded lengthwise in 24-inch (610 mm) increments for additional seating.



### Dining Room Layouts

The size and shape of a room can help to determine the best table configuration for a specific situation. The diagrams that follow look at dining rooms combined with a living room or kitchen as well as dining rooms of minimal dimensions. In addition to tables and loose furniture, interior designers must consider the ambience of a room by including adjustable lighting above the table and near the serving area.

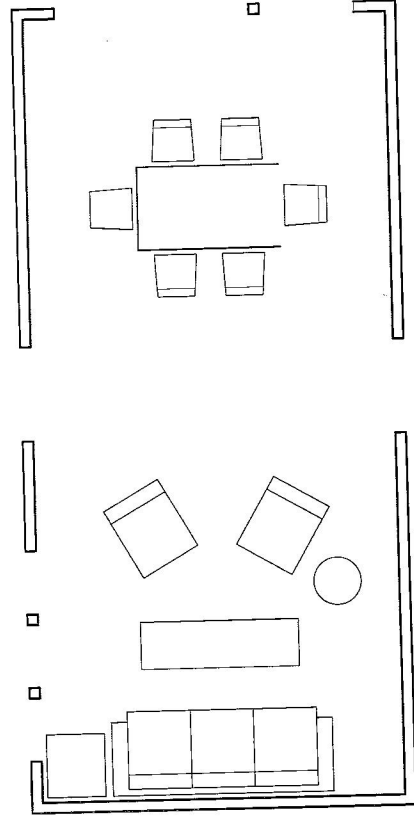


#### Combined Dining and Kitchen

Kitchens with an eat-in dining table require additional space adjacent to the work zones.

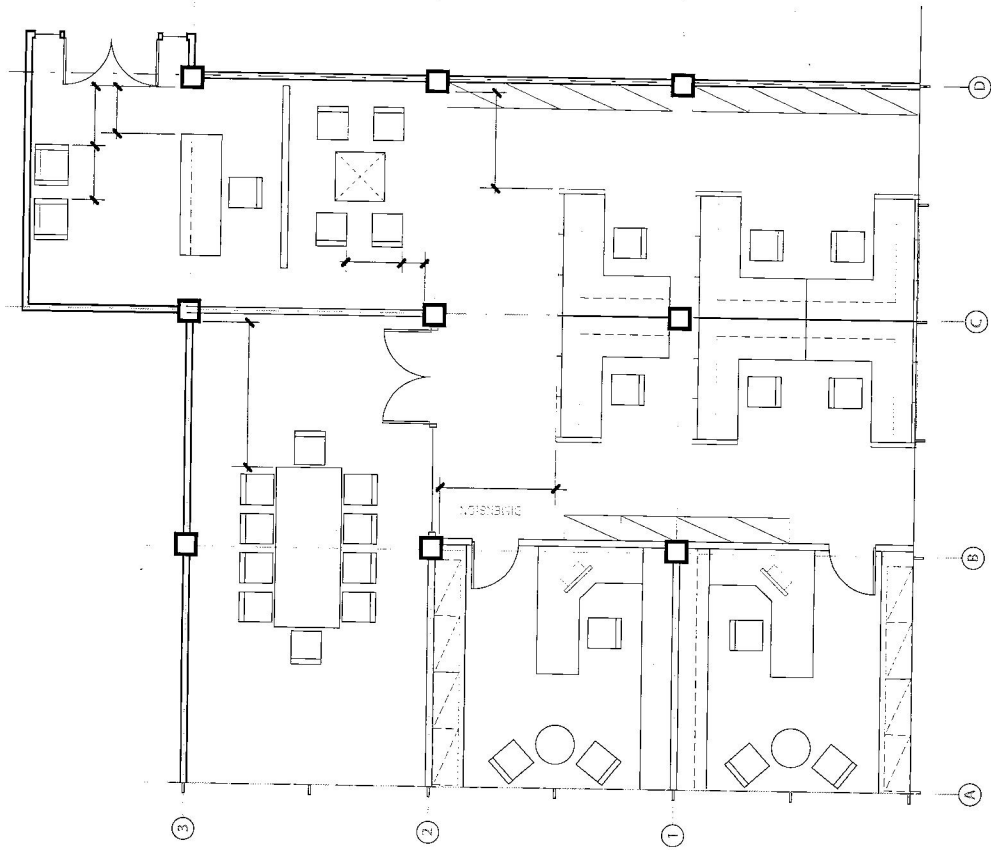
#### Combined Dining and Living Room

When space is at a premium, combining the dining and living rooms may be better than isolating them into separate smaller rooms.



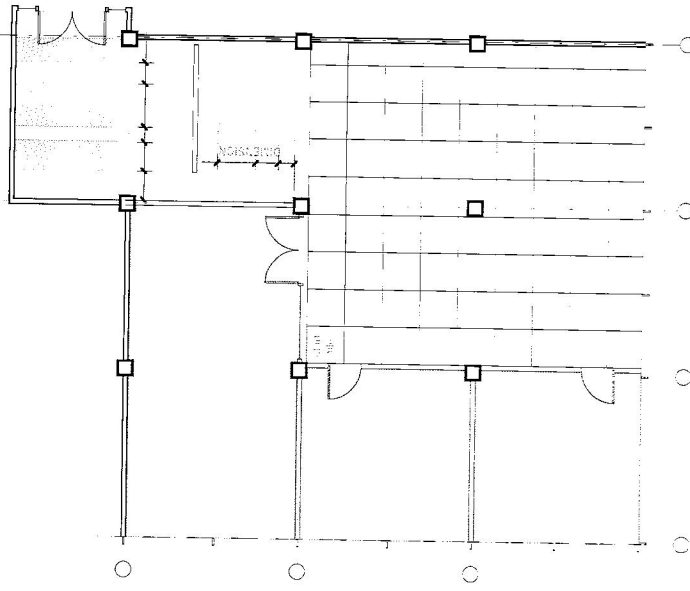
### Furniture Location Plans

Interior designers often specify furniture—both custom and purchased—for their projects. These items are indicated on many other plans, but *furniture location plans* specifically dimension their placement within the project.



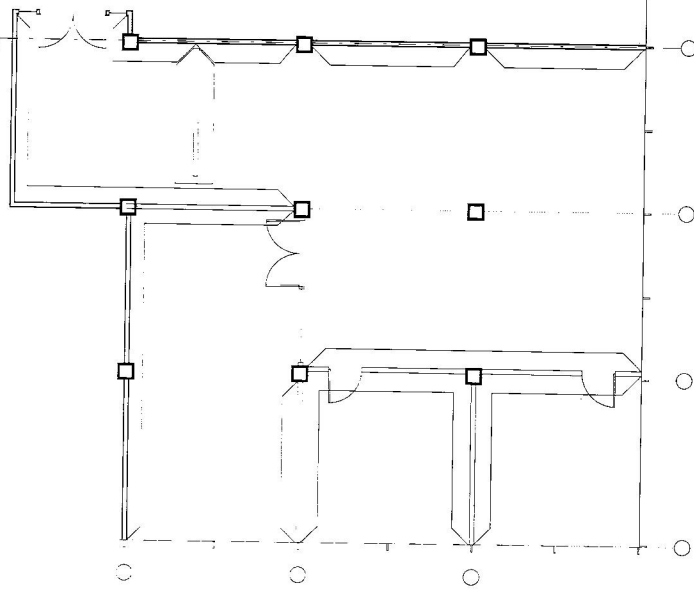
### Floor Finish Plans

Floor finish plans set the type, location, and dimensions of any pattern that is within the scope of the design, including, if necessary, a start tile.



### Wall Finish Plan

Wall finish plans, with a simple tagging system, provide the data for start and stop points of color, for materials such as wallpapers and other wall coverings like wood paneling, and for acoustic treatments.



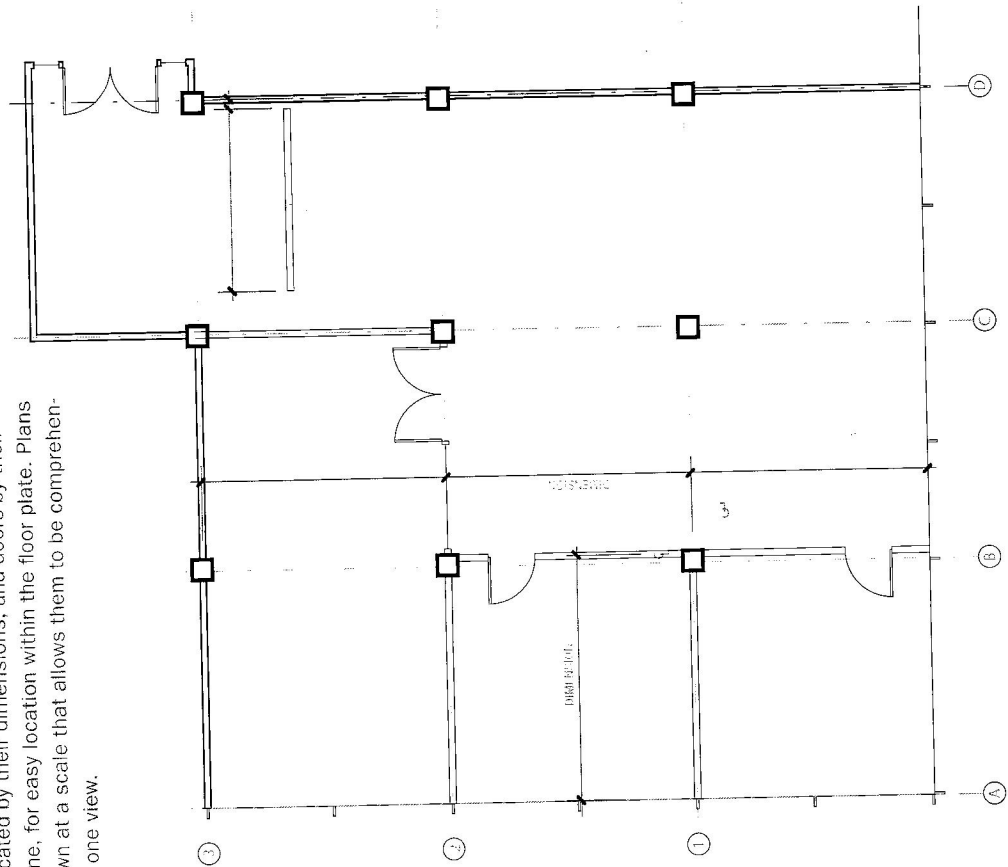
Interior finish and wall finish plans describe the various finishes used in a project. The finishes are dimensioned as necessary. Standard symbols that identify finish types are tied to a legend that accompanies each plan.

## PLANS OF DRAWINGS IN INTERIOR DESIGN

Plans are the main communicative tool in an interior designer's arsenal. Some drawing will overlap with those of other disciplines, such as architecture or electrical engineering, while others are unique to interior design. The following pages demonstrate the typical ways with which an interior designer should be familiar.

### Plans

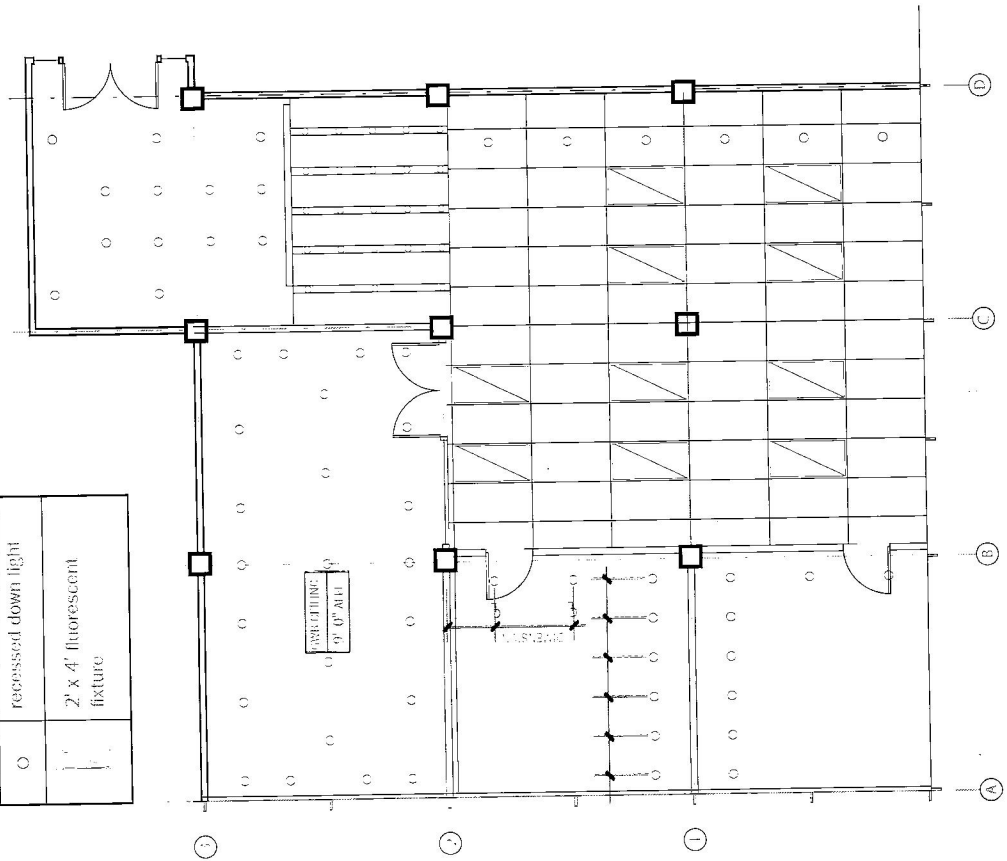
Plans establish the limits—from demising partitions to exterior walls—that will frame the project. Walls are indicated by their dimensions, and doors by their swing, for easy location within the floor plate. Plans are drawn at a scale that allows them to be comprehended in one view.



### Reflected Ceiling Plans

Reflected ceiling plans (RCPs) depict the upper surface of a room as viewed through a mirror. All light fixtures, soffits, transoms, and other ceiling data such as heights and materials are noted on RCPs. Standard symbols are used to describe fixture types and location and are keyed to a legend on the drawing sheet.

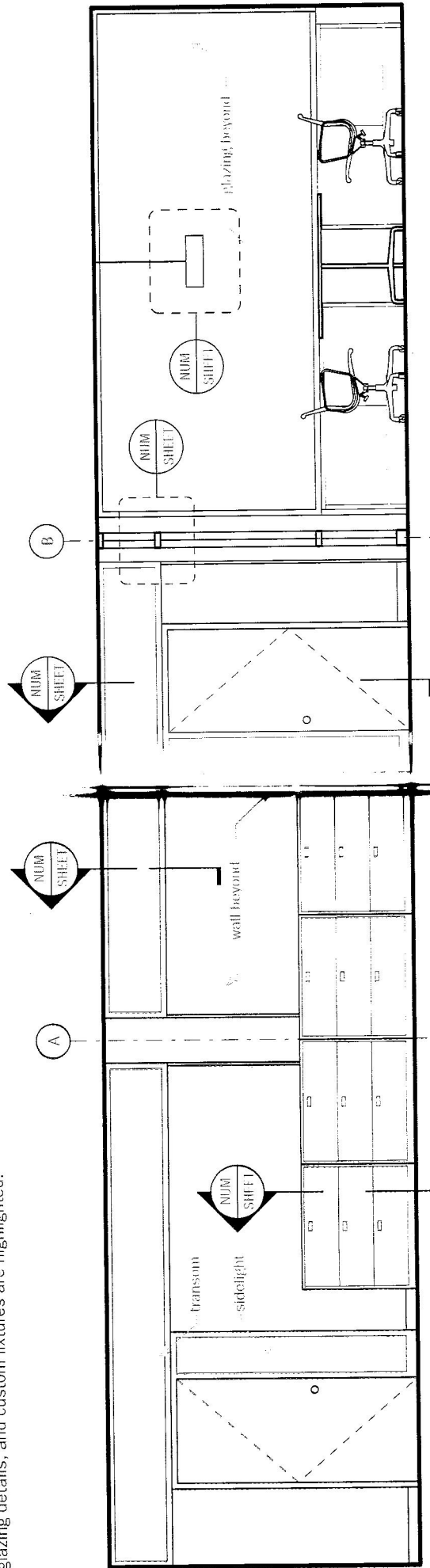
| LEGEND |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
|        | recessed track lighting     |
|        | recessed down light         |
|        | 2' x 4' fluorescent fixture |





## Interior Elevations

Elevations are typically drawn at a larger scale than the plans of a project. This allows for the inclusion of more detail, such as specific information about the dimensional and material qualities of objects in the interior. Elements on elevational drawings are cross-referenced to section and plan details that further develop the design. Here, cabinets, transoms, door and glazing details, and custom fixtures are highlighted.



## Details

Details indicate how the design is to be fabricated and range from wall sections to mechanical coordination details to millwork construction. They are produced at a larger scale than all other drawings in the set. Scales for details can be as small as  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1''$  (1:2) through to full scale. Occasionally, details are drawn at larger than full scale to transmit clearly the intent of the designer to the fabricator or contractor. In detail drawings, materials are rendered symbolically, and annotations specify the material and fabrication methods to be used.

