

Pioneers and Innovations in Interior Design

Interior Design History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Who is widely credited as the first professional interior decorator in the United States, publishing 'The Decoration of Houses' in 1897?

- A) Elsie de Wolfe
- B) Edith Wharton**
- C) Dorothy Draper
- D) Sister Parish

2. Which invention patented in 1860 by Frederick Walton revolutionized interior surfacing by using oxidized linseed oil and wood flour?

- A) Wallpaper
- B) Linoleum**
- C) Formica
- D) Drywall

3. In 1904, what material was invented by the Formica Insulation Company as a substitute for the mineral mica in electrical components before becoming a furniture surfacing staple?

- A) High-pressure laminate**
- B) Polyurethane foam
- C) Polyester resin
- D) Acrylic plastic

4. Which 1920s designer is recognized for pioneering the 'modern' interior design profession by using trellised wallpapers and animal print upholstery in her work?

- A) Billy Baldwin
- B) Albert Hadley
- C) Elsie de Wolfe**
- D) Kelly Wearstler

5. What type of lightweight, prefabricated wall panel made of gypsum plaster was first introduced in 1916 as an alternative to traditional plaster walls?

- A) Masonite
- B) Sheetrock**
- C) Plywood
- D) Hardboard

6. Which company introduced the first mass-produced modular office furniture system, known as 'Action Office,' in 1964?

A) Steelcase

B) Herman Miller

C) Knoll

D) Haworth

7. The Eames Lounge Chair, released in 1956, was the first chair designed by Charles and Ray Eames specifically for which target market?

A) Commercial airports

B) High-end residential

C) Public libraries

D) Luxury hotels

8. Which chemical material, developed in the late 1930s, allowed for the invention of the first flexible, mass-produced plastic furniture, such as the Panton Chair?

A) Polypropylene

B) Polyethylene

C) Polystyrene

D) Polyvinyl Chloride

9. The Bauhaus school, which profoundly influenced modern interior design, was founded in 1919 in which German city?

A) Berlin

B) Munich

C) Weimar

D) Frankfurt

10. In 1931, what new interior lighting technology was unveiled in Paris, significantly changing how designers illuminated spaces?

A) Neon tubes

B) Incandescent bulb

C) Fluorescent lamp

D) Halogen lamp