

Analyzing the Environment

One important type of inventory survey used by designers is called an *environment inventory*. This inventory enables the designer to determine important environmental factors about the number and placement of rooms being designed, activity zones, storage areas needed, furniture and accessories, condition of the current backgrounds, energy considerations, lighting, safety requirements, and traffic flow.

For many projects, the designer has to consider what the person(s) using the space(s) wants and needs as well as what the client requests. The answers given to the environment inventory questions help the designer create a design plan that is comfortable and functional as well as visually appealing.

Part I

Directions: Read the following interview notes and then complete the environment inventory that follows.

Fourteen-year-old Will Zurich plays soccer and golf. On weekends, he plays tennis with his father. Will also plays the trumpet in the high school marching band. He often listens to jazz while he studies in his 9 ft. x 11 ft. bedroom on the second floor. Will's parents have a master suite at the end of the hall, past the main bathroom and den. Will often leaves his curtains open at night so he can see the stars. Herbie, Will's sheepdog, sleeps at the foot of the bed.

Environment Inventory

1. Who will be using this room? _____
2. Where is this room located within the home? _____

3. What activities will take place in this room? _____

4. What items will likely be stored in this room? _____

5. What special considerations (if any) must be made when designing this room? _____

Part II

Directions: In the space below, describe how you would design Will's bedroom. Then use a separate sheet of paper to sketch your design of Will's bedroom.
