

individuals together. One DFAIT interviewee suggested that designers put together a questionnaire and circulate it to experienced personnel for their suggestions and comments. Another interviewee suggested that a committee of designers and past Mission personnel be set up at headquarters to discuss design development. The interior designers could put forth images and experienced post personnel could point out any dysfunction and offer suggestions.

**SUGGESTION:**

*The development of an interior design scheme should ultimately rest in the hands of those who were hired by DFAIT for their expertise in this area - the interior designers (SRMD). However, the concern over the designers unwillingness or inability to take the functionality into account must be taken into consideration. For this reason we feel that SRM should direct its designers to consult with a committee of foreign service officers who have worked in Chanceries and lived in Official Residences when they develop designs.*

[b] Second, SRM must determine **who is responsible for approving modifications to the interior design** of the Chanceries and Official Residences:

(i) Interior Designers:

Interior designers are often the ones who develop the initial design. They know the intent and the original specifications for the design; hence, they could best determine the impact of a suggested modification. Unfortunately they are not at the Mission and might not understand the rationale behind a change request. For instance, they may not see the amount of cleaning required to the white wall-to-wall carpeting in the Official Residence requesting hardwood floors. They may only see a need to defend their original design. In their defence, it is headquarters (and ultimately the designers) who would be held accountable to the Treasury Board and Parliament should this modification be allowed; hence, they should have a say in the decision. The problem arises however, as to how much say interior designers can realistically have. If they are required to approve every modification to the original design specifications (ie. moving furniture and paintings), their time as professional designers would be wasted micro-managing change requests.