

Dave Bolick – sample humorous job descriptions

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(boilerplate lead-in) IMG is New York’s premier residential staging company. Our clients pay us top dollar because we deliver outstanding results on every job (stronger offers, less time on the market). We’re looking for new talent, so if you’re the type who thrives under pressure and delivers seriously great work, we want to hear from you. We’re the best in town, so if your confidence in your abilities doesn’t border on arrogance, we probably can’t use you. Please do apply, though; we’ll be nice.

Project Manager/Stager: Do you love walking into an empty living space and letting your imagination run wild? Enjoy bossing around sweaty guys with big biceps? Can’t stand it when even one little detail of a living space isn’t working? If all of the above apply to you and you have interior design training, or perhaps event planning or set design project management experience, we’ll pay you to be as obsessive and neurotic as you can get away with and stay within budget. You’ll get great projects from day one, staging townhouses and condos for sellers and realtors, and model units for rental buildings.

Bookkeeper/Office Manager: You’re probably thinking, oh, cool, I’d like to work in a place like that. Be forewarned—books, balance sheets, ledgers—we don’t even know what these words mean, let alone how they work, so you will be on your own. We wouldn’t even hire someone like you if it weren’t for our lawyer threatening to quit. OK, it’s not that bad (yes, it is); all you have to do is hound the staff to hang onto a few receipts and write down a few numbers, and then use these things to keep our books perfect. Seriously, we’re not that bad, and if you and your friends are into interior design, you’ll have lots to brag about ... when you’re not working all night (just kidding).

Marketing Assistant: This is your dream job. Watch your friends turn green as you describe your work day: hanging out on Facebook all day, punctuating the bliss with occasional tweeting and Googling. That’s right, we actually want to pay you for doing stuff that your loser friends would get fired for. We need a strong online and social media presence for our work, which shouldn’t be all that hard because we work with high-end New York real estate that cool, rich people are always buying. Just be a social media rock star who’s great at marketing presentations—including the dreaded Powerpoint—and Photoshop/Illustrator, and you’ll do just fine.

Outside Sales Associate: Sounds boring, right? Don’t worry, all you have to do is kick butt every single week and you can keep coming to work. Outgoing and fearless? Into interior design? Experienced in [real estate, design, gallery work]? This could be your best job ever. All you have to do is demonstrate to prospects how effective our work is at *selling properties fast*. If you can do that, the rest is easy. In fact, our premium staging services practically sell themselves. Why? Because we’re the best. The catch? We cost more. Practice the following phrases—“return on investment” and “cut the time your property spends on the market in half”—and you’re good to go.

Interns: I know what you're thinking: non-stop grunt work, long hours, and no appreciation. Not to worry, this is only partially accurate. We might ask you to fetch coffee now and then, but otherwise you'll be right there in the thick of it, working on real jobs with some of the hottest interior designers in town. So if you're a young designer or even still in school, you can do actual work here. You think a slightly darker window treatment would work better, or that the sofa would work better on the other side of the room, just say so. Worst case, somebody says, "thanks, now go get me a coffee."

Assistant Designers: By "assistant," we mean you do all the work and the "lead designer" gets all the credit. It cuts both ways, though; if the job goes south, they get all the blame! Hey, whoever told you that life in the big city would be easy was lying (you knew about Santa Claus, right?), but if this is the work you want to do, this job is seriously great experience. You even get to boss around the interns and order them to go get your coffee. Got a great portfolio? We want to see it. Now.

Inventory Control Manager: Now this sounds truly boring, and if it weren't for all the ultra-cool stuff you get to keep track of, we'd be embarrassed to even ask anyone to do it. We've got New York's premier collection of high-end home staging furnishings and art. Talk about a dream job—you'll probably have dreams every night that you own all this great stuff, and then you get to wake up and take care of it all! Here's what you need: being in great shape, very well organized, and able to keep track of things that are spread out all over town. Like maybe you used to be a taxi dispatcher or something.

Merchandising / Buyer: We have the most amazing collection of stuff you've ever seen. How did we get it? Someone like you went out and bought it. Unfortunately, you don't get to blow our money indiscriminately; we do need great quality, and your job will be to get it at the best cost. Plus, you have to work with our project managers, who tend to behave as though everyone else cares deeply about their problems. Memorize the following phrase—"I'm on it"—and you're golden. Also, when stuff arrives damaged, you have to figure out who damaged it and why and get the whole mess straightened out. We don't care if you yell and scream; long's you get what we need, everybody's happy.

Driver / Personal Assistant: If you enjoy sitting in a car waiting around for anywhere from minutes to hours, punctuated by frenzied driving around Manhattan and surrounding areas, and you can do this without killing anyone or wrecking my car, don't even read the rest of this, call immediately. Still reading? OK, whatever. Good at multi-tasking? OCD-level organized? Seriously, call now. You'll need a clean license and a calm demeanor and not be too chatty. Like to read books or play video games? Forget it; when you're not playing chicken with cabbies, you'll be busy managing my calendar, making appointments, taking calls and messages, booking travel, yadda yadda blah blah. Oh, and you have to smell good. You got all that, you're hired.