

HOME WORK



TEND TO
BUSINESS
OR HOBBIES
IN A
HOME OFFICE
THAT REFLECTS
YOUR
INTERESTS

BY HARVEY MARKS

Home offices have come of age. More and more Americans are working in what once may have been a spare bedroom or a converted apartment above the garage. And the work they're doing isn't always strictly business. Some home offices are dedicated to managing household finances or storing records, family photos or recipes. Others provide a handy, quiet setting for pursuing serious hobbies or keeping up with correspondence and special interests. A home office can even be incorporated into a teen-ager's room as a place for schoolwork and study projects.



ABOVE: With glass, chrome-plated steel and painted wood, Franco Albini's 1958 floating pedestal desk for Knoll demonstrates a commitment to both modernism and traditional artisanship by utilizing raw materials. The two-drawer pedestal is available in ebonized oak or white lacquer. Sunset Settings carries Knoll furniture in Houston.

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ABOVE: *Thomasville introduces its new Luminé collection, a fresh, contemporary grouping for the entire home — including the home office. The handsome desk, leather desk chair, task lamp, Splendor rug and bunching bookcase in Luminé make your work space as striking and stylish as you are.*

BELOW: *The dark java finish on the Lincoln Park Ashland Bookshelf Desk by Stanley Furniture showcases its cherry grains and lends a sense of history, while the straightforward silhouette adds contemporary flair. Two Water Tower bookcases from the same collection provide even more storage. Stanley Furniture is available through Accents Fine Furniture & Accessories.*



ABOVE: *Combine the Regency Desk and Cane Back Armchair from The Milling Road Collection for Baker Furniture for a classic yet informal office setting.*

BELOW: *Make your home office not only functional but beautiful as well with a gorgeous Hyannis Port Desk by designer Eric Jourdan for Ligne Roset, featuring glass or wooden top, center drawer and polished chrome hardware. The Sala Dining Chair by Pascal Mourgue for Ligne Roset has a comfortable upholstered seat on a graceful polished chrome frame.*



While the reasons for setting up a home office vary, one point is clear. Home offices are no longer afterthoughts crammed into a corner of the kitchen or spread across the dining room table.

Just as important, their furnishings don't have to be a hodgepodge of corporate and home castoffs. A wide variety of manufacturers have adapted their offerings to accommodate the diversity of tastes individuals have for their personal home work environment. As a result, it is now possible to walk through your house, close the door and find yourself in a space that is comfortable, attractive and designed to maximize your productivity.

HOW TO BEGIN

Probably the best place to start is with your desk, the command module from which you'll navigate through most home office functions. Desk styles can be strictly utilitarian with the focus on accommodating computers, keyboards and other peripherals. They can feature handsome, richly appointed expanses of cherry wood or mahogany designed to make your home office resemble an old-fashioned study or library. Or they can be ultra-contemporary desking systems with clean, angular lines and bright, stark surfaces.

Neal Zimmerman, a New York-area architect and workplace planner who, for numerous years, planned dozens of corporate and professional offices in and around Houston, suggests you consider three key attributes possessed by every successful home office. First, it must create a balance between your work and home life by integrating elements of both. It should provide an order and focus to work functions that help you achieve your goals, and it also has to



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ABOVE: *The Tribeca Loft White home office center by Kathy Ireland for Martin Furniture is a lifestyle design consistent with furniture trends, offering a white painted finish and cast-iron hardware. Find Martin Furniture at Office Furniture USA.*

suit your personal spirit by being a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing setting.

“The BOPS system (for Balance-Order-Personal Spirit) provides a handy way to think about the process and what you want to achieve,” Zimmerman says. “The ultimate goal is to develop a working space for who you are, one that will help make you more productive and ultimately more satisfied.”

WHERE TO GO

Numerous manufacturers offer furniture lines specifically designed for home offices. Stanley Furniture features functional and attractive home offices that combine traditional styling with efficient solutions to accommodate and minimize the clutter created by CPUs, printers and other peripherals. Thomasville is another excellent choice with designs that marry classic good taste to modern functionality.

Crate and Barrel’s exclusive home office designs range from classic to very contemporary — all focused on stylishly enhancing your work life. Likewise, Martin Furniture provides numerous styles, whether you’re looking for an office that will make you feel like you’re in the European countryside or on the top floor of a skyscraper.

For an ultra-contemporary look, consider Knoll. The company’s office furniture features high-tech surfaces and angled lines, combining the best of contemporary design with advanced data and electronic capabilities. There also is Ligne Roset, with sleek contemporary European styling that’s as breathtaking as it is functional and a full range of accessories from file cabinets to magazine racks.

Here in Houston, Closet Factory can provide expert help in designing and equipping your home office and creating spaces for the way you really want to work. Office Furniture USA offers a wide range of catalog and other items at affordable prices, many available for viewing at its local Houston showroom.

Floyd Webb Office Furniture is an excellent local resource for used office furniture, combining a wide variety of styles with expert personal attention.

A home office can be a business necessity or a space you create to help organize and focus your personal life. But with the right planning and attention to detail, it can be an attractive and highly functional part of your home.

All it takes is a little homework to decide what’s right for you.

RESOURCES

ACCENTS FINE FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

7075 Southwest Freeway
713.541.3555

BAKER HOUSTON

1111 Uptown Park Blvd.
713.627.3235

CLOSET FACTORY

2530 Old Louetta Loop
Suite 128
281.355.7676
www.closetfactory.com

CRATE & BARREL

Highland Village
4006 Westheimer Road
713.490.6400
www.crateandbarrel.com

EKLEKTIK INTERIORS

16720 Champion Forest Drive
Spring
281.379.2755

LADCO WASHINGTON PARK DESIGN

7900 Washington
713.868.2828

LEATHER FURNITURE SHOPPE

4321 W. Sam Houston Parkway North
Suite 100
713.785.6011
www.leatherfurnitureshoppe.com

LIGNE ROSET

5600 Kirby Drive
Suite N-3
713.629.7722
www.ligne-roset-houston.com

OFFICE FURNITURE USA

25323 Interstate 45 North
Suite 100
The Woodlands
281.681.3454

SUNSET SETTINGS

2610 Sunset Blvd.
713.522.7661
www.sunsetsettings.com

THOMASVILLE OF HOUSTON

3277 Southwest Freeway
713.335.5700
www.thomasville.com

FLOYD WEBB OFFICE FURNITURE

5250 Pinemont Drive
713.681.5051
www.floydwebbinc.com

NEAL ZIMMERMAN

Workplace designer
www.atworkathome.com