

MANSION GLOBAL



9 Ideas for Home Office Design

Upgrading your personal work space is more important than ever—here's how to make yours both ultra-functional and trendy

by Lambeth Hochwald

With many of us working from home, the look and feel of your home office is likely getting lots of attention.

Décor trends may come and go, but your goal right now should be to create a space that's not only functional but fits your design aesthetic, too. Home experts across the country sketch out the latest ideas in home office design.



Photography by Joe St.Pierre

Ditch the Banker's Desk—And All Those Drawers

The days of bringing heavy brown furniture into your home should be a thing that's relegated to the past, said Liz Caan, an interior designer in Boston. "Yes, there are beautiful desks out there that are collector's pieces and they're an investment," she said. "But you need to really think if you need such an oversized desk with multiple drawers and whether it's too office-y for your space."

In fact, designers are seeing that storage can just as easily be relegated to a closet located right near your desk. "Since you scan to the cloud, think about how few paper files you really use on a day-to-day basis," Ms. Caan said. "I'd rather a homeowner tuck away the wireless router, the shredder and paper for the printer."



Michael J Lee Photography

Bookshelves Add Drama to a Room—When Styled Well

Floor-to-ceiling bookcases are dramatic in a home office and can also be incredibly efficient storage spaces. But like most aspects of your home office, you want to keep clutter under control.

“Bookshelves can look nice if they’re organized by color but you shouldn’t make that look feel forced,” Ms. Caan said. “Bookshelves look best when they’re full (meaning there are no empty shelves) and when they have a mix of things that represent the homeowners, like books, art, objects and pictures.”

And always keep your bookshelves in balance without worrying about everything looking overly symmetrical. This means that some books can be stacked, some leaning and some between bookends, Ms. Caan added.

Play Around With Woods

Rooms that blend different wood tones are trending and can ultimately be the most interesting from a décor perspective, Ms. Caan said.

“After all, if everything in a room is the same tone, you wouldn’t really see anything,” she said. “It’s nice to mix raw blonde woods with black stained woods and even medium tones like walnuts. I love mixing in an old piece or a reclaimed piece of wood furniture in a home office. It often becomes the ‘character’ the space needs.”

Express Your Décor Flair Via Paint and Wallpaper

Homeowners are eager to experiment with paint and on-trend wallpaper, Ms. Caan said. However, there are a few caveats: “Use paint and wallpaper the same way you would in any other room in your home,” she said. “These wall colors or wallpaper should fit the story of the rest of the house and should be something that you feel good looking at all day.”