

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

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LIGHT TOUCH

BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS
IN LONDON, OSLO,
COPENHAGEN & SYDNEY

COME INTO MY OFFICE

Here's how to work
from home in style

THE GOOD LIFE

Recipes for a glorious
alfresco feast

WHITE

OUR SIGNATURE ALL-NEUTRAL ISSUE

MIX AND MATCH

Focus the mind with a less-is-more approach to your home office. Think neutral colours, honest materials and a clutter-free floor. Finally – to stop the space feeling cold and impersonal – add a dash of personality. 'Perhaps there's room for a lovely reading chair (whether a battered leather antique or fabric-covered occasional design), a flower-filled vase, a rug, interesting objects and artwork,' suggests Clare Gaskin of Clare Gaskin Interiors. 'Don't only use office-related items; think outside the box.'



Project details Custom-grooved MDF painted in Farrow & Ball's Setting Plaster blends seamlessly with the raw plaster on the walls of this home office by Imperfect Interiors to make it feel bigger. Polished concrete has been chosen for the floor, while a vintage canvas and leather Ikea lounge chair encourages impromptu breaks. 'Propping rather than hanging mood boards and art allows you to rearrange them according to what you're working on without damaging walls,' says Beth Dadswell of Imperfect Interiors. Expect to spend from £2,000 for something similar.



SLIDE ON IN

Master the art of discretion with a sleek sliding door that hides your home office when the working day is done. What's more, the door won't swing out into the room when open, which scores well in the space-saving stakes.



Project details Take inspiration from these homeowners and choose a desk that incorporates storage alongside smart boxes to stash stuff you don't want on show. If you can't find one to fit your space, consider going bespoke. Given the amount of time you'll spend sitting in your office chair, find one that delivers on comfort as well as good looks. 'I prefer a chair upholstered in a tactile fabric as opposed to leather,' says interior designer Natalia Miyar. This one is covered in Perluna 759/13, £119m at Fifi de Lyon. The desk and sliding door were designed by Roselind Wilson.



UP ON THE WALL

Wallpaper can make a wonderful backdrop for a working space. First, decide what sort of mood you want to create, then stick large samples of your favourite options to the wall to see how they look at different times of the day – morning, noon and night – when light levels will differ.



Project details A masterclass in bold colour, Hermès Afternoon wallpaper, £870 a panel, was chosen to do the talking in this striking home office. White woodwork would have muted the impact of the wallpaper, but here the owner decided to dial up the drama with a thick band of Cobalt 50 perfect water-based eggshell, £59 for 2.5L, Designers Guild. In another interesting twist on a straight-forward paint job, the door has been painted a lighter shade of blue that takes its cue from a colour in the wallpaper (Delft Tile 53 perfect water-based eggshell, £59 for 2.5L, Designers Guild). BoConcept's Cupertino desk, £1,499, could easily be overlooked in favour of the riot of colour, but Blu Dot's Real Good chair in Black helps to give it presence, £179, Heal's.



[DESIGN TIPS]

Clutter is the nemesis of any home office – we explain how to keep things efficient but not stark

*** Even with personalised storage,** you'll need to keep clutter under control. 'In a space this small, work towards a paperless office,' suggests Lisa Mettis of Born + Bred Studio. 'Make end-of-week clear-outs a ritual – it's surprising what can accumulate in a week. I also love inexpensive craft boxes clearly labelled to house anything from office supplies to brochures.'

*** You need a clutter-free workspace** to be able to tackle your to-do list without distractions. Consider fitting a combination of cabinets and shelves. 'This allows you to display your books, artwork and collectibles, as well as to store items that are functional but don't need to be on show, such as files and folders for paperwork,' says Roselind Wilson of Roselind Wilson Design.

*** 'Trestle-style tables are ideal** as they come in a wide variety of combinations and prices. Choose a glass top if space is limited, as it'll help make the room feel balanced and less cluttered. Trestles also have the added benefit of being easy to dismantle, so if your office doubles as a guest room, the workspace can disappear for a few days.' Lisa Mettis, Born + Bred Studio