

OFFICE space

As working from home steadily becomes the norm, creating your ideal home office is vital, writes **Guinevere Davies**



There are a few elements every great working environment should have. These include, but aren't limited to, bright light, fresh air and comfort. But if that workspace also happens to reflect your personal taste and style, you're setting yourself up for success.

SETTING THE SCENE

When it comes to finding the perfect location to work from home, a quiet space with loads of natural light is usually best. As Daniela da Rocha of Da Rocha Interiors explains, "A work-from-home space should feel inspiring, fresh, and have as much natural light as possible." >





Audi Snýman Interior Design



Mobelli Furniture + Living

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Audi Snýman of Audi Snýman Interior Design adds, “In addition to good light and furniture that supports your work process, I like to brighten up home offices with energising artworks. A recent example of customised pieces includes us framing and hanging the hand-painted pictures of a client’s children on her home office wall. However, the art on the wall doesn’t have to tell a personal story – it can just be something that moves you and inspires your productivity.”

Mobelli Furniture + Living’s Alon Sachs agrees. “Firstly, think about the space itself; a space where you can minimise distractions is essential. If you don’t have a dedicated room in your home, choose a space in a quiet area of the house and avoid high-traffic areas like the kitchen table. Try to ensure you have some natural light. Also, consider hanging artwork on your wall. Art has been proven to increase productivity and creative thinking as well as aiding an overall sense of well-being.”

Says Lisa Bergoff Grey of Innerspace Interior Design, “Every work-from-home environment should be a space you can retreat to and focus on tasks at hand, like emails, phone calls and online meetings. Realistically though, you will typically need to deal with many home distractions, noises, deliveries, pets, children’s activities and home >





Cane Time



Cane Time



Créma



TimHarris Design

schooling. Having a door to open and close as needed is ideal, but not always possible.”

THE ESSENTIALS

No matter the size of your home office or its location, there are a few key pieces of furniture worth investing in. The first and probably most important consideration is your choice of desk and chair.

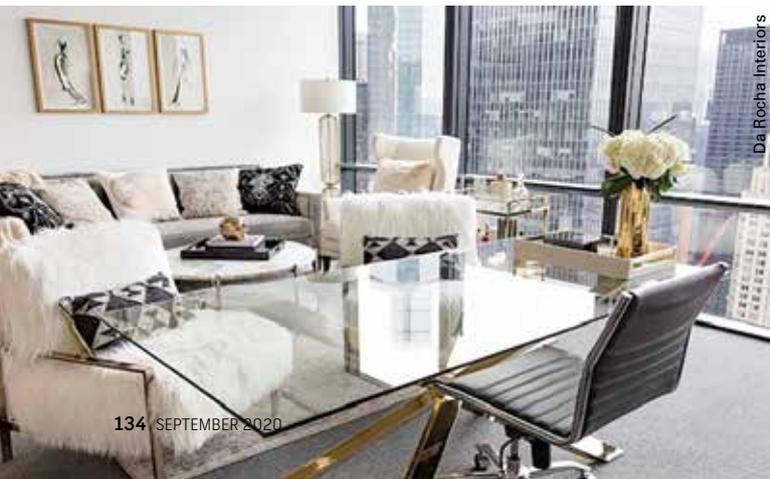
According to Cane Time’s Vanessa Arelisky, “Every home office should have a good, comfortable chair and a desk – which can be a full desk or a sitting/standing work station. It must have ample space in which to house your laptop and devices and any paperwork you need, with storage space preferably underneath and laptop stand.”

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Créma’s Craig Raeside agrees. “Our essentials for a work-from-home environment would be a desk, an office chair, good lighting, a computer stand or an arm to raise the computer screen. We are pro ergonomics, so we prefer sitting with a desk and a chair set-up. Make sure that the chair is adjustable and on wheels.”

The team at SHF advise, “It’s important to get the right look. Furniture that suits your style is a must. A beautiful workspace will make you want to work in it, so invest in a single statement piece in your home office and curate the rest of the pieces to complement it.”

When it comes to creating the perfect home office, Tim Harris of TimHarris Design suggests including pieces that are customisable to suit your needs. “The advantage of working from home is that you can define your space exactly the way you want it, which is different to when you work in a corporate office where the space is provided for you. As you learn more about working from home, and as your



Da Rocha Interiors



Créma



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job description may change, it is important to be adaptable. Make sure your space can change and be flexible to suit your needs.”

Harris adds, “A modular shelving system allows you to personalise the shelving layout to your taste and enables you to display items that you want to surround yourself with to create a positive feel. Storage should not mean that you keep decades of old stuff and papers that are not needed anymore – your storage solution should only allow you to keep things of value and importance. Our shelving is designed to showcase stuff instead of concealing it.”

Proper home office storage is a must for Audi Snjman Interior Design’s Snjman. “Adequate storage is really important, particularly to prevent a situation where you find yourself in a cluttered office. It’s also nice to have spaces that are allocated to specific items so that they are easy to find, and easy to file. There is a broad array of innovative or even invisible storage space solutions, with options to custom- >



Innerspace Interior Design

design storage to seamlessly integrate into your interior design.”

And don't forget to add light, says the team at SHF. “Natural light is known to lift your mood, reduce stress and boost concentration levels for longer periods. While we're talking light, make a point of getting effective lighting in your office. Increased eye strain causes fatigue and drowsiness, so it's best to reduce the effects of eye strain with a desk lamp that will provide you with plenty of light.”



SHF

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OFFICE ALTERNATIVES

As practical as a dedicated home office space may be, the best work-from-home solution will always be the one that inspires and motivates you to work productively.

Working from home means there is always room to think (and work) outside the box, as Da Rocha Interiors' Da Rocha says: “Not all home offices need the traditional desk and office chair. It all depends on the job description – maybe an architect or designer needs a bigger surface area, such as a centre table with good lighting. Perhaps more people use the same space and a functional seating area is recommended. A daybed is a great piece of furniture to include in a home office space as it will allow you to relax, brainstorm or even to make a few phone calls.”

Mobelli Furniture + Living's Sachs adds, “Our home has become many things to us recently. It's a place where we work, relax, home school and everything in between. Your workspace can be anywhere you feel comfortable and productive, like the couch or dining room. An outdoor dining table or outdoor daybed can even be a great place to set up. Working in fresh air has benefits for your health.”

Innerspace Interior Design's Bergoff Grey says, “A dining table serves well as a workspace, doubling up as a desk and meeting area, with stimulating caffeine close by! The winter sun on a daybed or the summer shade at a patio table is the perfect breakaway in the day, while still being able to be in touch with the business world at your fingertips.” 🏡

With thanks to Audi Snýman Interior Design, Cane Time, Créma, Da Rocha Interiors, Innerspace Interior Design, Mobelli Furniture + Living, SHF and TimHarris Design

