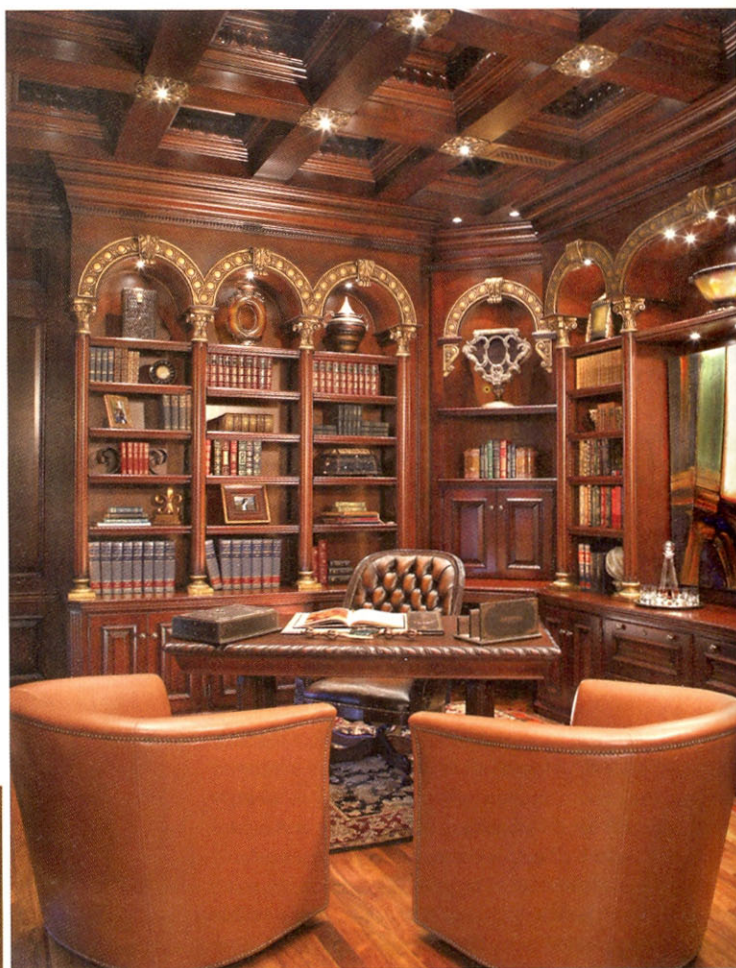


Office Space

AS GAS PRICES RISE AND COMPANIES GROW, MORE AND MORE EMPLOYEES ARE BEGINNING TO WORK FROM HOME. FOLLOW THESE DESIGN TIPS, AND YOUR HOME OFFICE WILL RIVAL EVEN THE SWANKIEST CORPORATE SUITE.



TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE CONCEPT OF telecommuting would seem as foreign as the concept of hybrid cars and energy-efficient light bulbs. But as the planet has warmed and freeways have grown more congested, some companies are allowing their employees to work from home – at least a few days a week. So, what does that mean for the home office? It's simple – bigger rooms, plusher furniture, creative aesthetics and better gadgets.

For Fountain Hills-based designer Cheryl Sandella of Sandella Custom Builders and Interiors, the keys to current design are contemporary or Asian themes.

“Feng Shui and Zen ideas are also very popular,” she says.

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Resources

- **Copenhagen Imports**, 1701 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, 602-266-8060 or copenhagen-imports.com. Other locations: Scottsdale and Tempe.
- **Robb & Stucky**, 15440 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, 480-922-0011 or robbstucky.com.
- **Sandella Custom Builders and Interiors**, Fountain Hills, 480-816-4233 or sandella.net.
- **Valerie Marcus**, VM Concept, 8350 E. Evans Road, Ste. B, Scottsdale, 480-368-2707 or vmconcept.com.



At Home Home Offices



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When it comes to color palettes, Sandella recommends tones that inspire productivity and a sense of calm, like red, bronze, green and taupe.

Valerie Marcus of VM Concept agrees.

"Color is a very personal thing," she says. "For example, some people find blue too cold and impersonal, while others find it uplifting and refreshing. In my work, the colors of the home office are an extension of the colorization of the rest of the home. Everything is not always the same color, but a family of colors that work well together – and always with a splash of the unexpected color somewhere for visual interest and excitement."

Although it's difficult to isolate a particular trend in home office design, Marcus adds that homeowners should emphasize finding a style that's both comfortable and practical.

"The word 'trend' takes on new meaning today," Marcus says. "Instead of following general tendencies, the trend is to go with a style you love. For some of my clients that translates into sleek and contemporary; for

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others, it is warm woods, rugs and fabrics; and for many, it is an eclectic mix. Comfort, function and versatility must be intrinsic to all styles."

AND PERHAPS FUNCTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT aspect of home office design, given our tendency to spend hours on end on the phone, in front of the computer, shredding, faxing, bill paying and planning. What's more, the ability to receive clients and visitors is of increasing importance, especially as more and more businesses are transitioning to home offices.

"The primary challenge for anyone's home office is to be clever about creating proper spaces for machines (desktop computers, fax machines, phones, iPods, copiers, scanners, etc.) so they are immediately accessible, but not unsightly," Marcus says. "Designing cabinetry to house the equipment allows you to close it up behind cabinet doors when not in use. The most helpful thing a client can do to prepare for a meeting with a designer is to have a list of all the technology/machines they require, with dimensions

and information about how they use the equipment, so intelligent placement is built into the design. Good lighting and a comfortable, ergonomic desk chair are also important."

Whether you prefer the sleek, contemporary lines of Copenhagen Imports' furniture, or the solid American craftsmanship of Robb & Stucky's designs, finding a good piece of office furniture is similar in many ways to finding the perfect automobile - it takes a few test drives.

At Copenhagen Imports, Dutch contemporary is the name of the game, and although the company's home office furniture lacks the visual "what is that?" of an MC Escher print, the quality of each desk, chair and shelf is, in itself, surreal.

Most commonly constructed from cherry, maple or wenge, an

exotic wood harvested from Zaire and other small countries of West Africa, Copenhagen's home office furniture is easy on the eyes and the pocketbook.

Take, for example, the Mobelfabrik desk. Complete with a filing system and



A maple and "Makore" desk from Copenhagen Imports.



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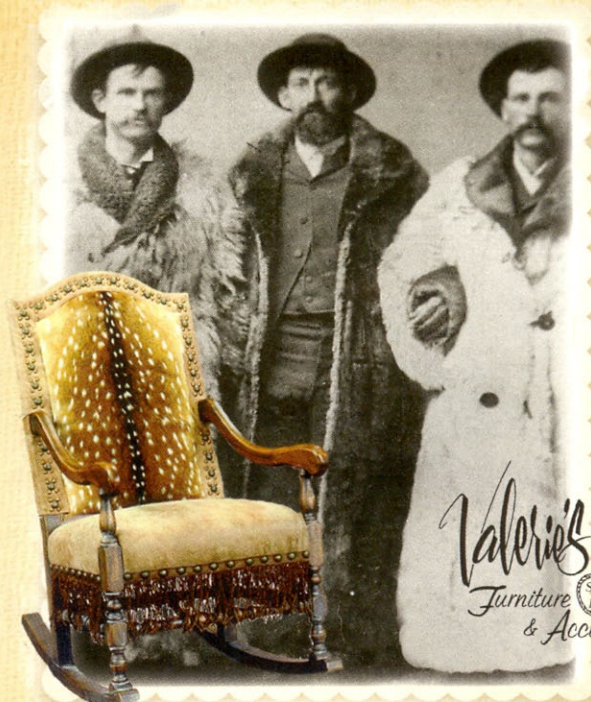


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CPU storage component, the desk is compact enough to fit even the smallest home office, but large and sturdy enough to contain the detritus of a particularly stressful workday.

For a higher-end home office, visit Robb & Stucky, where the office items are as strikingly gorgeous as the upholstered furniture. Pay particular attention to the office concepts designed by design director Michael Scott. Comfortable and fashionable, they adhere to the standards established by both Marcus and Sandella.

Just as much as functional furniture is imperative, so too are electronics.

“Because a considerable amount of time is spent in home offices, some clients request amenities such as great sound systems, refrigerators and flat-screen televisions,” Marcus says.

And why wouldn't they? If you're at home and you have to work, you might as well make it as pleasant an experience as possible – even if that flat-screen is only to catch *The Young & The Restless* on your lunch break.

PM

— Kelly Kramer can be reached at phxmag@citieswestpub.com.

Working Green

BY GREG PETERSON

WORKING FROM HOME is a bonus for both our pocketbooks and the environment. By not driving our cars, we reduce the amount of pollutants that come out of our tailpipes, not to mention the amount of gas we buy – a real bonus in these times of high gas prices. But what else can you do to run a sustainably minded office?

Once upon a time, it seemed like advances in computer technology would lead to the paperless office. Well, in my case, going paperless has just not happened, but there are ways to rethink your paper and toner usage that do make a difference. Turn hard copies, such as your company newsletter, into an e-mail to save on printing and mailing costs. You can also discontinue using the fax machine by sending e-mails with pdfs attached instead.

You can also use paper more efficiently. One of my favorite ways with my new printer, which prints on both sides of the page. That in itself cut my paper usage in

half. If you don't have a two-sided printer, load used paper into the second printer tray and print on the other side.

Also, reduce the number of pages you print by decreasing the margins or reducing your word count. Then I use the “print preview” function on my computer to view the number of pages and decide how many copies I really need, all before I click the print button.

When using paper, buy it with recycled content, which reduces the need to harvest trees. But paper is just part of the story; also try setting your print function to the “save toner” mode. Doing so puts less toner on the page and extends the time between those costly cartridge purchases.

When it comes to office furnishings, used furniture stores are great. Recently I needed file cabinets and the prospect of spending hundreds of dollars per cabinet was daunting. I stumbled into the used furniture store and found four file cabinets

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