

DESIGNING A HOME OFFICE CAN BE A TRICKY FEAT, BUT WITH A FEW HELPFUL TIPS, YOU CAN CREATE A FUNCTIONAL, ATTRACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKSPACE YOU'LL BE PROUD TO SHOW OFF.



NICOLE ARNOLD

DESIGNING YOUR home office

Many people relegate the bedroom farthest from the door as their office, mainly because they cram as much as possible in it and expect it to remain messy most of the time; they don't want the disorder to be visible. Others have a study located in an obvious location (perhaps off the foyer) and set up their workspace without thinking about the first impression that's

cast to visitors entering their home. A select few get it right. Here's my advice on creating a workspace at home, tailored to suit your needs:

IS IT FUNCTIONAL?

Make sure there's plenty of room for you to spread out papers, house necessary equipment and access tools like staplers, paper clips, etc.

Ensure you have the desktop and storage space you really need.

Planning the right number of drawers and shelving will set you up to succeed in having items arranged neatly when being stored and enable you to put your hands on needed items quickly.

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IS IT ATTRACTIVE?

Keep your space looking its very best for unexpected visitors or appointments with colleagues or clients. You may be messy by nature, but the environment you work within speaks volumes above what you may say to your guest. Design your office once you have a clear image of how you want to be seen by your clients.

What does your company represent? If it's a financial planning business, conservative or a minimalist style décor may be preferred. If you're a coach, you may want to adorn the room with motivational items.

Writers may want lots of accessories to play with that inspire them to be creative. There are lots of ways to decorate an office – select the one that best represents how you want to be known!

IS IT PRODUCTIVE?

Elements in an office that are easily overlooked or skimmed on often include lighting, color and ergonomics.

In order to produce results, you need to be

comfortable and inspired. Consider the following very important questions:

Is the lighting in your office sufficient to do the specific tasks you do? Does the coloration of the room (walls, accessories, furniture) provoke calming, energizing or creative juices in you? Does your chair, desk height or computer height foster good health so you walk away from your office feeling well and in good posture?

Designing and decorating a home office can be either a lot of fun or a chore, depending on your perspective. But regardless of your viewpoint, it proves to be something that definitely impacts your performance and the impressions you have on clients and colleagues.

ABOUT NICOLE

Nicole Arnold is passionate about creating home designs that reflect her clients' personalities and lifestyles. She designs office environments that emanate the professional image her clientele seeks. Nicole excels in uncovering each client's desired outcome, balancing aesthetics and functionality, to create his or her perfect space.

She's developed a best of best list of contractors and vendors to insure she delivers the results her clients expect. Many of Nicole's clients view her as a friend, not just their designer, due to her warm personality and professionalism.

Nicole's design style is best defined as transitional. However, her talents enable her to blend combinations of contemporary and traditional elements to produce an eclectic look, uniquely tailored to each client's taste. Her clients appreciate the range of design services she offers which include originating a custom residential or commercial office look from scratch, modernizing and enhancing existing furnishings, or simply rearranging them for a fresh look and feel.

Nicole has a BA in Marketing and Professional Sales from Kennesaw State University. Prior to opening her Interior Design firm, she enjoyed a 16-year sales career with Levi Strauss & Co., where she developed brand awareness initiatives, increased revenues and led those on her team to reach higher potential through personal mentoring and empowerment.

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