

OFFICE, REVISED

Creating the perfect 2022 home office requires flexibility and a touch of creativity.

BY KIM PEMBERTON

While more people are working from home now, not everyone has the luxury of a dedicated home office space. As a result, thoughtful design is more important than ever to integrate a functional but eye-catching space.

“You want your home to be a sanctuary and give you a sense of peace,” says designer Iván Meade of the Victoria-based Meade Design Group. “Ideally, you need to be able to just close the door and not be confronted with your work.”

HONEY, I'M HOME

Since Meade believes in separating work and living spaces as much as possible, he doesn't recommend carving out a home office in a principal bedroom or living area. Instead, he says, if the home has a guest bedroom, one easy solution is to transform it into a primary working space or an office/guest bedroom combination. When an entire separate room isn't an option, Meade suggests choosing a space that can still be closed off at the end of a work day, such as reconfiguring a closet or entryway.

Luckily, less space is required for today's home office, thanks to smaller devices and workstations to accommodate them. Gone are the days of large, boxy computers, oversized printers and fax machines.

“We're printing less these days, and those who need to can do so with a small printer or look to another location if it's a monstrosity of a machine,” says Meade.

He suggests storing printers and files that aren't frequently used in a secondary location, such as a kitchen pantry or dedicated storage space.

When it comes to desk furniture, Meade recommends getting a desk approximately five feet wide, with storage space on each side to keep clutter contained.

“A lot of small desks fit like a glove into a closet,” he adds.

Left: Creating an office space that fits your personality is crucial to building an environment you enjoy. Custom wallpaper, luscious plants and bright colours will invite you into the space, making it an effective enhancement for work.

Right: Under-utilized space (like this under-the-stair nook) can double as an effective office corner, especially when tucked out of the way of a main room. Custom or purpose-built desks can be tailored to fit a tight space. Lighting these areas becomes an especially important task.

