



Set to Work

Stacy Begg's advice for creating a chic and cheery home office.



Q

With my husband and I home full time due to COVID-19, we've found it a challenge to work in the same room. I'd like to move my office to the back room and make it a place I look forward to spending time in. How should I set it up?

— LORRAINE, *Kincardine, Ont.*

A

This room has great space and, thanks to two windows, lots of natural light. I would start by painting the walls white to take advantage of the light. I recommend Benjamin Moore's Cloud White or Chantilly Lace in a matte finish.

To add visual interest and a pop of colour, wallpaper the wall you see upon entering the room in a bright and cheerful wallpaper like Farrow & Ball's Wisteria.

Next, head to your local big-box store for in-stock base cabinets and storage for files. Run them down the long wall and, if you're ready to splurge, top the cabinets with a luxe, solid-surface material. Or, for a more budget-friendly option, try laminate.

Place a large table in the centre of the room; run it lengthwise in the same direction as the cabinet wall. This will

give you lots of room for your laptops and monitor. Add a rug underneath to warm up the space and provide some texture. How about a fun plaid? Don't be afraid to mix your patterns! Consider carpet tiles: they're a clever way to build a custom-size rug.

I love the classic '60s Eames office chair in leather and, today, you can find great reproductions. For more seating and a touch of contrast, add a couple of clean-lined guest chairs in black.

A simple white barn-style fixture will illuminate your desk, as well as the eye-catching wallpaper. Then, to finish the look, hang graphic black-framed art and pin boards above the run of cabinets.

You're going to love your beautifully decorated home office — and, look out, your husband may want to join you there, too!

1. *Wisteria BP 2212 wallpaper*, \$295/roll. Through Farrow & Ball.

2. *Helena pendant in White with Silver* by Kuzco Lighting, \$242. At Robinson.

3. *Toni Low-back office chair in Grey* by Plata Import, \$390. At Hudson's Bay.

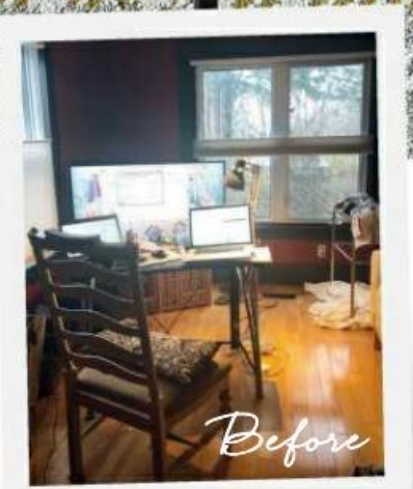
4. *Hamburg Solid Acacia Wood dining table*, \$449. At Structube.

5. *Galant storage combination with filing in White*, \$598. At Ikea.

6. *Crystal art Framed in Black Frame*, \$70.

7. *5151 Empira White surface*, \$80/sq.ft. Through Caesarstone.

8. *Scottish Sett carpet floor tile in Linen*, approx. \$27/tile. Through Flor.



Before