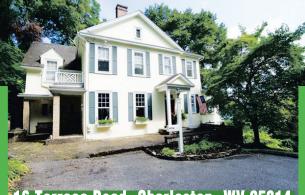


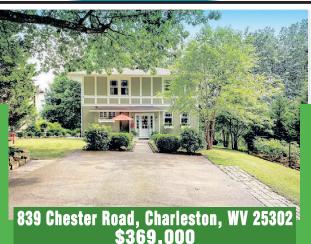


Ever wanted to find yourself tucked away in the historic district of the East End? This beautiful 4 story Brownstone offers you just that and more. You're just blocks away from Downtown Charleston and steps away from the Clay Center. End unit, two car garage, unfinished basement for plentiful storage, laundry second floor, a spacious third floor that can be used as a bedroom or entertainment space.



16 Terrace Road, Charleston, WV 25314 \$429,000

Stunning view of the city. Gorgeous, front of the hill location with views of the city and river! Located in award-winning school district and convenient to downtown and area hospitals! This lovely home was built in 1876 and is full of historic charm. Features include open concept kitchen and living area, as well as a private backyard that gives the feeling of being in the country. This home is a must see! Dual HVAC-1 unit less than a year old.



Located in the historic district of Edgewood, nestled off cobblestone road with a beautiful view of Charleston. This home offers an abundance of unique details throughout. Meticulously up-kept, cared for and updated, some features w/new windows, new powder room on the first floor, refinished hardwood floors, quartz countertops and pine tongue and groove ceiling in kitchen, gas stove in living room-remote controlled, security cameras w/ system, new bathroom off master. Truly a stunning find.



1025 Forest Road, Charleston, WV 25314 \$649,900

Nestled in South Hills close to shops & downtown Charleston, the 1896 Whitney Farm House & Carriage House, w/ an additional 780 sq ft, enjoys convenience while secluded in a private, natural setting. This classic gem offers heart-pine floors, glass cabinetry from original windows, gorgeous stonework, gardens, expansive yard, & wrap-around porches. The interior offers recently renovated kitchen, bath, & laundry rooms feat Winchester English & French Tile, high-end appliances, & marble countertop.



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Home office: How to make working from home work

S IT ME, or, as the pandemic slowly whimpers away, are you, too, hearing those who have been cooped up working from home chanting: There's no place like the office, there's no place like the office?

Although the perks of working from home are real zero commute, less money spent on gas, less time figuring out what to wear, easy refrigerator access so is the struggle. The dogs time their bark fests for when you're on a Zoom call. Your bored neighbor lies in home office is subpar. wait for the moment you go out for Your partner eats the leftovers for on. And, face it, the gossip in the



Marni Jameson

Over the years, I've had it both the mail to ensnare you into a ways. When I had to go to an office, conversation about her crabgrass. I wished I could work from home. When I had to work from home, I lunch that you had your heart set longed for a real workplace. Part of the appeal of a business office is

that it is designed for one purpose: to help you do your job. It's not more remote workers contemplate designed to help you relax, cook, entertain, sleep, bathe or raise children. Professional offices typically have proper lighting, ergonomically designed desks and chairs, reliable Wi-Fi, ample storage, and the right vibe.

delivered all that?

"Great home offices don't happen by accident," says Chris Peterson, author of "Home Office Solutions: How to Set Up an Efficient Workspace Anywhere in Your House," out late last year from Fox Chapel Publishing. "They require an incredibly thoughtful process that goes well beyond deciding where the desk will go."

As the world creaks open, and their workplace options, those who would like to keep working from home, at least some of the time, would do well to take a leaf, or maybe a few chapters from Peterson's book.

I recently chatted with Peterson, But what if your home office who was working out of his 900-square-foot townhome in Ashland, Oregon, about how we can make working from home work better:

Marni Jameson: How did you be*come a home office expert?*

Chris Peterson: I've worked in publishing for 35 years, mostly writing about home improvement. I worked on Homeowner Magazine and have written DIY books for Black & Decker, including a series on how to build a home addition.

For the last 15 years, I've worked full time from home. In that time, I

SEE MARNI, 3H

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Real Estate



Making Home Work Converting a closet into a home office is one of many creative home office solutions author Chris Peterson covers in his newest book. Photo courtesy of Fox Chapel Publishing.

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MARNI FROM PAGE 2H

have lived in five places ranging from a tiny basement apartment to a large house. I created a home office in each one and learned a lot about what works and doesn't.

What does every home office need?

I look at offices as needing three legs of a stool: They need to be super efficient, to be super comfortable, and to look good. They have to fit the design of your home and not stick out like a sore thumb.

Tell me what doesn't work. What backfires?

I had a huge backfire. I am a Mid-Century Modern guy, so I decided to find a modern chair. I found one that looked really cool,

but it was literally a pain in the rear.

I learned that your chair is the most important part of your work environment. When buying one, you must sit in it first, because the right chair is so particular to vour anatomy. Don't make this purchase online. And don't scrimp. This is not the place to save money.

Some houses have an obvious place for an office, but for those who have to find a space, what should they look for?

I cannot stress enough the importance of natural light. Of course, you have to be able to control it with adjustable window nook you don't use. Finished attics treatments, and you'll need to position your desk and computer screen to avoid glare.

Unless you can work in the middle of a busy household, don't put your office in the hub of the home.

Also consider your work. If you have clients in, you won't want an *knew*? office in your bedroom.

Your book illustrates many creative ways to turn the most unlikely crannies of a home into an office. like the space under the stairs, and a garden shed. What are other overlooked places?

Many people love the idea of putting their office in a closet, like the office featured on the book's cover. It's handy, and you can close the doors at the end of the day. One drawback is few closets have power outlets.

Another option is a breakfast also make surprisingly good office spaces if they have a window or skylight and cooling and heating. You won't be bothered by noise, and you can leave work behind at the end of the day.

What do you wish more people What advice do you have for cou-

People think they need more desk space than they do. I have be key, and it's even better if they seen folks with desks so big they need their own zip code. In my first home office, I used a hollow-core door on two painted sawhorses as a desk. It was ridiculous. I didn't use half that desk.

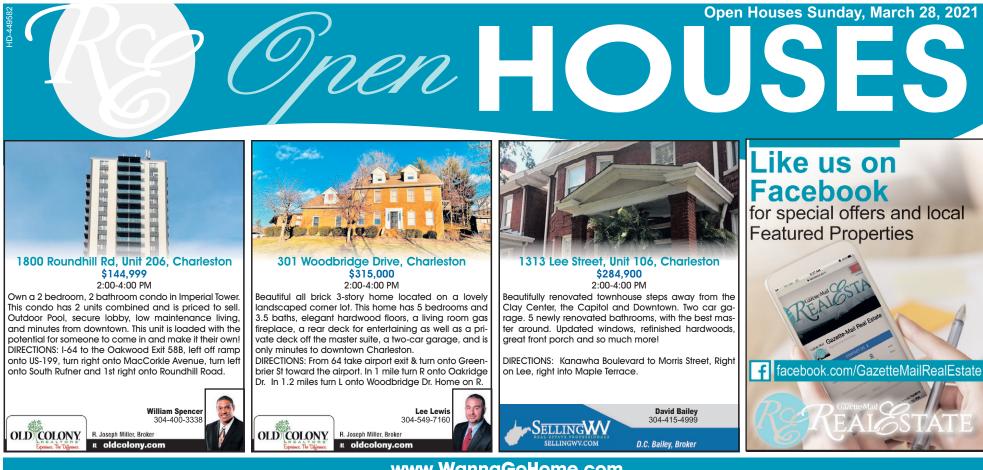
How can we incorporate our workspaces into our homes, so they look *like they belong?*

Choose a desk not just for its size, but also to match your decor. Do you want glass, hardwood, melamine, painted? Then accessorize using colors that tie to your home. Bring in artwork, reference books, handsome storage containers or shelving, and a stylish desk lamp. Make it a place you want to be.

ples who both work from home?

Physical separation appears to choose opposite sides of the house. Some play music or listen to television while they work, which annovs quiet workers. Some bring clients in or have lots of phone meetings. The idea of a partner's desk boggles my mind.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go," "Downsizing the Blended Home - When Two Households Become One." and. coming in Iune "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want." Reach her at www.marnijameson. com.



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Safety first with DIY electrical work

can help homeowners transform their homes. Such projects are costly, but many homeowners save money by doing some, if not all, of the work themselves.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety, recommends that homeowners leave electrical work to the professionals. Licensed electricians are well-trained, whereas homeowners may not be skilled enough to avoid accidents or injuries, which can prove fatal when working with electricity.

Homeowners who take the doit-yourself route with electrical tips, courtesy of the ESFI, before beginning a home electrical project.

· Learn your home electrical system. Home electrical systems may include power lines, electric meters, service panels, subpanels, wiring, and more. These systems are complex, and homeowners who intend to do some DIY electrical work should familiarize themselves with their home electrical systems prior to beginning any work. The ESFI notes that knowledge of their home electrical systems can help homeowners more safely navigate them and make maintenance easier.

Home improvement projects work should consider these safety • Honestly assess your skills. An no experience working with elechonest assessment of skills is absolutely necessary prior to working on an electrical system. According to the National Safety Council, injuries relating to electrical incidents typically fall into one of four categories: electrical shock, electrocution, falls, and burns. Each of these injuries is significant. For example, electric shock, which occurs when electrical current passes over or through a person's body, involves burns, abnormal heart rhythm and unconsciousness. Given the potential for serious injury, the ESFI urges homeowners to make an honest assessment of their skills before they begin working on their

trical systems should be considered a significant hurdle to any DIY project.

• Turn the power off. It's essential that the power to the circuit that will be worked on be turned off prior to starting any work. This can be accomplished by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel. Similarly, when working on appliances or lamps, make sure the products are unplugged prior to working on them.

• Do not touch plumbing or gas pipes when doing electrical work. The experts at the Indiana Electric Cooperative note that the risk for home's electrical systems. Little or electrocution is significant when

water comes in contact with electricity. It's imperative that homeowners do not touch plumbing and gas pipes when performing a DIY electrical project. Professionals know how to work around such pipes while minimizing their risk for electric shock or worse, and homeowners must familiarize themselves with the techniques professionals rely on to stay safe if they intend to begin DIY electrical projects.

Homeowners are best served by leaving electrical work to the professionals. However, those who insist on doing such work themselves should do their homework and get to know their systems and safety protocols.



How families can comfortably share close quarters

As the COVID-19 pandemic feet, but when everyone is clamorstretched on, families had to adapt ing for a spot to spend most of their to changing situations. Quarantine proved challenging even for the most resilient people, and families sharing close quarters had to find ways to stay calm and comfortable under one roof

have spent more time together thanks to school closures, remote working and social distancing restrictions that limited contact between people who live in different households. The home improvement resource BobVila.com savs that the average home in the United States is around 1,760 square sons.

days, even the most expansive home can begin to feel a bit too confined. The following are some ways families can live comfortably when sharing close quarters for extended periods of time.

During the pandemic, families • Designate personal spaces. Bedrooms can be private respites. but they're not necessarily the best places for people to spend the majority of their time. Try to create nooks that family members can call their own, like a man cave in the garage or a desk in a spare room for school les-

 Designate times for common areas. Make a schedule that designates spaces for specific times, particularly for those who may need uninterrupted study or work periods.

 Establish defined routines. Stick to a routine so that everyone at home knows what to expect and when. Parents can work around children's school schedules when they know how school days are arranged. Children can avoid interrupting meetings if they realize that meetings occur at the same time each day. Set break times for meals so everyone can take a break and spend time together each day.

 Voice concerns and keep communication open. Family members should be able to freely express frustrations, anger or even fear of situations without being judged, according to the wellness resource Step to Health. Make sure everyone in the home recognizes others' feelings are valid.

• Get out when you can. Family members can opt for safe interactions with friends or peers when needed. Engaging in conversation or getting a perspective from someone outside of the home can be beneficial. Even a short stroll alone outdoors can help to reduce stress. Parents of young children

may want to establish a "guaranteam" with other caregivers so they can get a respite outside the home and leave the kids with trusted help.

• Use this as an opportunity to grow. Spending more time together can be beneficial. Use the time together to make meals as a family, talk more, engage in family game nights, and build stronger relationships.

Some patience and cooperation can help families make the most of spending so much time together at home.





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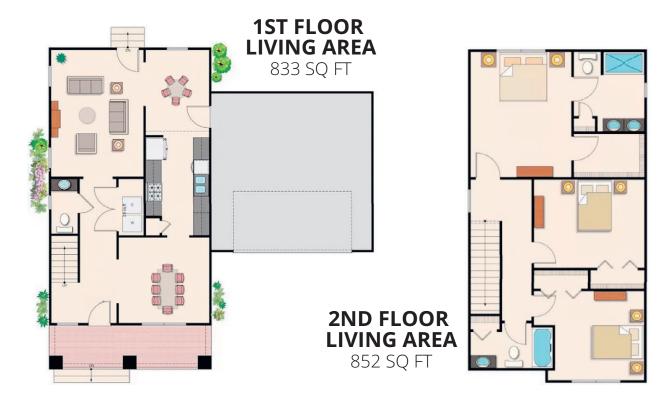
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