

MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

need to stretch to become our office, school, gym, theater and 24-hour restaurant.

3. *Working from home will become the norm.* Now that companies have discovered their employees really can work from home without playing solitaire all day on their computers, many are re-evaluating their need for commercial office space.

Meanwhile, those working at home (happily ditching their neckties, suits, high heels, dry-cleaning bills and time-sucking commutes) are carving out clever ways to make their home office be more than a temporary shelf in the closet. They are designing attractive, productive, Zoom-worthy workspaces that are

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not just for now, but for years to come.

4. *We'll reclaim the outdoors.* Because the best cure for cabin fever and the safest place to socially distance with friends is the great outdoors, our yards will become the new frontier for home improvement. Whether a back yard, front porch, balcony or rooftop, outdoor spaces will transform into extra furnished rooms, featuring fire pits, kitchens, and living areas.

5. *We'll find prettier storage solutions.* One challenge of working or attending school from home

is trying to make it look like you don't. When your home also becomes an office or classroom, more stuff comes in the door, overwhelming whatever storage you once had. The importance of attractive storage will swell, as people seek to cleverly conceal more stuff.

6. *We'll close the door on open floor plans.* A popular trend in residential design for years, open floor plans often backfire, especially during a pandemic when what those living together crave most is a wall and door.

Going forward, we'll see more defined spaces that are versatile and offer functional privacy.

7. *We'll move from green to clean.* While the last 10 years have been about living green, the next 10 will be about living clean.

Now that we have all become germ0 and washing our hands like Lady Macbeth, get ready to see more touchless light switches, sinks, and toilets in homes, as well as keyless entries, voice-activated appliances, such as televisions and coffee makers; motion-controlled doors; and built-in HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters.

We will also seek out finishes based on their cleanability (ruling out porous surfaces) and a new generation of antimicrobial cleaning products proven to kill as well as repel harmful bacteria and viruses.

8. *We'll ramp up our home im-*

provements. Now that we know when the world closes in, home becomes our everything, we will invest even more in making home better. Because we're home, we will actually get to all the improvements we've put off. We'll paint that room and update that bath. And we'll improve with an eye toward making homes serve more people and more purposes for now and for always.

If you've modified your home as a result of the pandemic, I'd like to hear from you. Please send me an email about what you did and why.

Marni Jameson is the author of five home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home - What to Save, What to Let Go" and "Downsizing the Blended Home - When Two Households Become One." Reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

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