

MARNI

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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 your 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 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 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 nook you don't use. Finished attics 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 knew?

People think they need more desk space than they do. I have 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.

What advice do you have for couples who both work from home?

Physical separation appears to be key, and it's even better if they choose opposite sides of the house. Some play music or listen to television while they work, which annoys 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 June "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want." Reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

HD-449582

Open HOUSES

Open Houses Sunday, March 28, 2021



1800 Roundhill Rd, Unit 206, Charleston
\$144,999
 2:00-4:00 PM

Own a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo in Imperial Tower. This condo has 2 units combined and is priced to sell. Outdoor Pool, secure lobby, low maintenance living, and minutes from downtown. This unit is loaded with the potential for someone to come in and make it their own! DIRECTIONS: I-64 to the Oakwood Exit 58B, left off ramp onto US-199, turn right onto MacCorkle Avenue, turn left onto South Rufner and 1st right onto Roundhill Road.

William Spencer
 304-400-3338

R. Joseph Miller, Broker
 oldcolony.com





301 Woodbridge Drive, Charleston
\$315,000
 2:00-4:00 PM

Beautiful all brick 3-story home located on a lovely landscaped corner lot. This home has 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, elegant hardwood floors, a living room gas fireplace, a rear deck for entertaining as well as a private deck off the master suite, a two-car garage, and is only minutes to downtown Charleston.

DIRECTIONS: From 64 take airport exit & turn onto Greenbrier St toward the airport. In 1 mile turn R onto Oakridge Dr. In 1.2 miles turn L onto Woodbridge Dr. Home on R.

Lee Lewis
 304-549-7160

R. Joseph Miller, Broker
 oldcolony.com


1313 Lee Street, Unit 106, Charleston
\$284,900
 2:00-4:00 PM

Beautifully renovated townhouse steps away from the Clay Center, the Capitol and Downtown. Two car garage. 5 newly renovated bathrooms, with the best master around. Updated windows, refinished hardwoods, great front porch and so much more!

DIRECTIONS: Kanawha Boulevard to Morris Street, Right on Lee, right into Maple Terrace.

David Bailey
 304-415-4999

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