

Ask the DESIGNER

Interior stylist Emilie Jacobs
on creating an inspiring home office

Consider how much time you'll be spending in your home office and how hard you need the space to work. This room was previously my daughter's bedroom, but when my baby boy was born, I swapped the rooms around for two reasons: firstly, my business had grown so I'm now spending a lot more time in my home work space; and secondly, the natural light is better here. Meanwhile, a darker room helps the kids get to sleep.

My home office also doubles up as a guest bedroom. I've had the sofa bed from IKEA reupholstered in monochrome geometric fabric, with yellow piping to complement the black and white striped wallpaper (from the limited-edition Omedelbar IKEA collection in collaboration with costume designer Bea Akerlund) and the yellow-edged glass shelving on the other side of the room. The embroidered, velvet cushions on the sofa and IDdesign chair are by Dubai-based brand Wear The House (@wear_the_house).

It can be really difficult to work in a room by yourself, so a bland room definitely isn't going to create a stimulating environment. I worked with affordable online art store Drawdeck to create this gallery wall and

I've decorated this space like I would any other room in the house, taking into consideration practicalities but creating a space that reflects my personality, including adding mementoes, trinkets and framed photos to shelves.

In any room, I always ensure two or three points of eye-level lighting. Two Seletti lamps – a monkey and a mouse – provide these in my home office, while a string of bulbs hanging from the corner of the window creates ambiance. For the overhead lightbulb, it took several trials before I found the right intensity.

I didn't have much budget to work with, so I did two IKEA hacks – I wrapped the plain white table in marble print paper and I used the same paper for the bottom shelf on the shelving unit, plus I spray-painted the metal edges in bright yellow.

Use the space before attaching storage units to walls. At the beginning, I had a basic set-up and the more I used it, the more I realised what was needed and what needed moving around. I knew I needed a big desk to work on, but otherwise I've had fun with the space so I'm happy to come to work.

@stellaandthestars

TIP

Rather than considering cabinets and drawers for filing away things that you can't access easily, think about using organising systems, such as labelling. Check out the blog on The Home Edit (thehomeedit.com) for ideas.