

THE HOME OFFICE IS HERE TO STAY!

JEANNE COLLINS

Photography by Jane Belles



“**T**he home office is here to stay!” says Jeanne Collins of JerMar Designs, and its importance will continue into 2022. The pandemic has changed all aspects of our lives, including our professional workspace. And, while some people are returning to the office, many are not working there full-time. The remote work schedule is now routine, and so the home office remains essential. JerMar Designs takes a custom, boutique approach to all its projects, and that is especially true for an office, where there are many individualized needs to consider.

The desk is the focal point of a home office, and its form and function have the power to increase the user’s productivity and success. This past year Jeanne started creating custom desk designs for her clients, and the demand for her services is growing. Every detail of a desk—including size, shape, finish, wood grain, drawers and add-on cabinets—can be customized to a homeowner’s needs.

Fabrics, wallcovering and shelving are also key elements in creating a calming, serene space that not only encourages better work performance, but also helps the homeowner look polished and professional on Zoom calls. Indeed, videoconference meetings have brought about the need for a tidy desk and an interesting

background. Jeanne likes to use sculptural light fixtures to inject a creative edge into a space, while a chic desk lamp is both a decor accent and functional element. Great lighting is the number one factor needed to establish the ideal Zoom background and an environment for working many hours at a computer. Layers of cozy, inviting textures on the floor, window treatments and walls make for an inviting space that also contributes to a more flattering appearance for remote meetings.

A good home office is not complete without plants. As we spend more time inside our homes, we have a greater need to be around nature. “The organic shapes of plants add a depth and softness to a room design,” explains Jeanne, “and have the added benefit of purifying the air—proving once again that both form and function are the keys to success in the home office.”

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