

go big or go home

Meet the LOHO — the large home office that makes going to work a joy and puts any lingering vestiges of kitchen-counter workspaces and boring office furniture to bed, says GEMMA ZOE PRICE

As modern places of business become increasingly decentralised and working from home continues to be the norm and not the exception, offices in private residences are evolving beyond a utilitarian desk-and-chair tucked into a small, innocuous nook, into concepts styled in continuity with or integral to other living spaces, richly layered with art, decor and soft furnishings.

"Multipurpose rooms are the trend," says New York-based designer Alex Papachristidis. "Often a client will utilise the same room for different purposes — for example, a home office and library, a dressing room and office, especially in Manhattan, where space is limited."

Bespoke desks enable designers to incorporate hidden storage, cable management and charging outlets, and generally keep any technology discreet — while screens are a necessity in modern business, the prevalence of mobile devices means TVs or monitors often aren't key to the design; if they are present, they're typically hidden by artworks or mirrors.

Eyesore office and computer desk chairs have been replaced with seating that's both functional and beautiful. The uptrend in vibrant colours, exuberant patterns and

details is here to stay, with accessories and cushions chosen to give uplifting pops of jewel tones like pink, purple and red.

"Design aficionados are embracing an exuberant maximalism and this trend will continue to gain followers and become firmly entrenched in 2019," says the team at Design Intervention in Singapore.

Personalisation remains a driving trend, from monogrammed inlays within joinery and furnishings to custom blotters, leather desktop sets, antique pen cups and drawers purpose-built for custom, colour-matched stationery. And desktops set the stage for creativity in more ways than one.

"A sense of fun will be important in 2019 — funky, colourful art work, family photographs hung in interesting ways, crystal jars of sweets," says Katharine Pooley, who has worked with several royal families and international business figures, including Sir Richard Branson, for whom she and her team designed five homes.

Investing in spaces like these means working from home is no longer a chore, but a pleasure.



Interior designer Carolina Von Humboldt



Von Humboldt's twin desks — designed for a former office — overlook her large terrace



PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHE VON HOHENBERG

The table was a gift from photographer Christophe von Hohenberg, who also took the framed photographs of attendees at Andy Warhol's memorial for Vanity Fair

NEW YORK

Interior designer Carolina Von Humboldt's personal office

Former model-turned-designer Carolina Von Humboldt has only occupied this 1910 beaux arts property on New York's Upper East Side — a former mansion featured in the movie *Annie Hall* as the titular character's home — for three years, but the two apartments she rents, one as a residence and the other an office, feel extremely well-established, largely because she's furnished them with an eclectic mix of textiles, gifts from friends and art collected on her travels. "We spend many hours at work and I like feel that — yes, we are working — but that the atmosphere is 'décontracté', even

if we are super-busy," says the designer, who has decorated the Estée Lauder headquarters in Paris and Le Bilboquet restaurants in New York and Atlanta. Lamps — which range from white minimalist ceramic to striking creations by Gabriella Crespi — are everywhere; a large table surrounded by Pierre Jeanneret chairs and a sofa and pair of red and white armchairs, a gift from a friend and upholstered with handwoven fabrics in Mexico, provide perches for perusing fabric swatches for her next project.

cvhinteriors.com

FEATURE



Georgian sash windows provide treetop views

LONDON

His and Hers private studies by Katharine Pooley

Katharine Pooley's Chelsea-based team of 47 designers and architects has completed a palace in Kuwait, beach villas throughout Europe and the Emirates and a palatial villa in Malaysia in the last year, but this pair of His and Hers offices project is closer to home — in a family residence in the adjacent Knightsbridge neighbourhood of London. Pooley has opted for open painted joinery set within silk wallpaper wall panelling, ceiling moulding and chevron parquet timber flooring for an elegant, timeless feel. Complimentary bespoke light and dark stitched leather art deco desks with matching ebonised chairs create a sophisticated focal point in both spaces. In one room, a floral silk Roman blind lifts to reveal Georgian sash windows overlooking the leafy garden; in the other, silk and cashmere curtains frame the desk featuring a handpainted porcelain globe from Katharine Boutique, her eponymous retail brand.

katharinepooley.com



Eclectic desktop decor for a personalised feel



A home office concept for a potential Hong Kong project

PHOTOS: ERIC PIASECKI



Vibrant purples offer an uplifting effect



A chaise longue where the designer can relax and read

PHOTOS: ESIMON UPTON

LONDON

Brownstone office by Alex Papachristidis

New York native Alex Papachristidis earned his first commission — a large Manhattan apartment — while still studying at the Parsons School of Design and since establishing his own firm in 1987 has become known for his sophisticated, eclectic style and dexterity in combining classicism with a modern perspective — a signature richly rendered in dazzling colours and thoughtful accessories such as handpainted dishes, couture tissue holders and custom blotters. Standout details in this expansive office in the London brownstone home of fashion and jewellery designer, Fruzina Keehn include an 18th-century *secretaire* a *abattant* (fall front desk) and 1940s brass lacquer desk framed by brass chairs in plum velvet upholstery complemented with sculptural lamps in amethyst silk, and a 19th-century, neoclassical Italian chaise lounge in striped silk taffeta illuminated by a gilt bronze lamp.

"The greatest pleasure for me is when clients tell me that we've made their home into 'an exquisite backdrop' — a place to live, enjoy, and entertain," says Papachristidis.

alexpapachristidis.com

FEATURE

Neutral tones and textures are layered for a sleek, modern look



Neatly stacked books emphasise the geometric carpeting



PHOTOS: DESIGN INTERVENTION ARDMORE

SINGAPORE

Ardmore Project by Design Intervention

Nikki Hunt and Andrea Savage's team at Singapore firm Design Intervention are no strangers to awards. The Ardmore Project, a private residence in Ardmore Park for a female homeowner in her fifties, has already won a slew of accolades, including best interior lighting, bathroom and kitchen (Singapore) at the Asia Pacific Property Awards 2018. (It is among global contenders for World's Best, to be announced in December 2018 in London.) Five artisans crafted the bespoke Belinda table — shortlisted in the Table Design Category at the 2018 International

Design & Architectural Awards — that takes pride of place in this feminine, light-filled office. A carpenter crafted the wooden base, finished in gold leaf by a special-effects painter; a specialist upholsterer wrapped the desktop with paisley-patterned leather and a metal worker forged its cage-like frame while an electrician wired the desk with charging docks and LED strips for an ambient glow. *PI*

designintervention.com.sg
See more of this bachelorette pad on page 58



A plush blue reading chair by Paul McCobb complements the hues of Hudson River

NEW YORK

Tribeca condo office by Alyssa Kapito

New York-based Alyssa Kapito is ranked on *Elle*'s list of top international interior designers and British *Vogue*'s top Instagram Accounts to follow and this luxury Tribeca condo for a couple — one of whom works in finance and the other at a fashion start-up — is a great example of the exquisite textures and clean lines for which her eponymous studio is renowned. Eclectic artwork provides a colourful counterpoint to the otherwise neutral palette, anchored by a custom wooden

desk and Eames chair framed by wool fabric-upholstered walls. The Paul McCobb lounge chair overlooks the Hudson River. "It's such a peaceful view from a New York city apartment," says Kapito, whose recent projects include a gut renovation of an Upper East Side pre-war apartment, a modern beach house in Bellport, and a chic family home in Beverly Hills.

alyssakapito.com

PHOTOS: ERIC PIASECKI



The Belinda desk is set within an open office-living space overlooking the city