

November 2009

DES MOINES

HOMESTYLE

HOME OFFICES

3 ideas for any budget

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How to welcome guests

A room with a view



Good lighting, vibrant yellow walls and white work surfaces keep Amanda Reynold's basement office bright even on days when it's dreary outside. She has plenty of room to spread out while working on a project, and the open shelving helps her be more efficient. "I hop up and grab what I need without too much searching," she says.



The designer: Amanda Reynal of Reynal Interiors

The goal: Transform a neglected basement storage room into a home-based office for herself.

The style factor: Reynal works primarily on residential interior design projects in older homes, encompassing a range of architectural and design styles. She chose a neutral scheme for her office to avoid competing with designs she has in progress.

The biggest challenge: When Reynal and her husband bought the house, the basement room was damp and neglected

(20-year-old carpet and chipping paint). While it offered the perfect spot to spread out to have a client meeting without disrupting the rest of the household, making a basement room sunny and cheerful was a challenge.

The store: Affordable basics from mail-order companies such as West Elm and Ballard Designs. "Their products are simple and inexpensive and don't conflict with the myriad of furniture periods and styles of clients," says Reynal. Finishing touches include khaki carpet tiles installed by Alan Cookson and custom shelves by Dana Meyers of Dana Meyers Construction.

What works best: The buttery yellow walls and white furniture brighten and lighten the space, even on dreary days. Simple lines for shelves and a series of three tables keep the look streamlined and intentionally "un"decorated.

Special features: The wall of open shelves is a practical and pretty solution to organizing fabrics, furniture catalogs, and rug samples, allowing Reynal to see everything from her desk chair.

Designer tips: Priorities include lighting, outlets, and "storage, storage, and more storage," says Reynal. ▲

