

lake norman

WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF WOMEN

BRINGING IT home

featuring

**ANGELA ROCHE OF
ELEMENT FUNDING**

LKN FUN
for the
ENTIRE FAMILY
(pg. 20)

a valuable
LIFE LESSON
from DAD
(pg. 40)

**IS IT TIME TO
come home?**
(pg. 56)

HOME
sweet
home



Bringing Work HOME

By: Starr Miller

I REMEMBER SITTING IN A CORPORATE MEETING in 1995 when the president of the company was describing a future where we would have access to our desk and work at all times. Whether riding a bicycle or sunning on a boat on the lake, our office would always be available. My reaction was, "Oh goodness, no!"

Well here we are. Everyone has their smart phone, text, Skype, scan, and access to you at all times.

On a personal level, I moved out of my home office into a studio about eight years ago. My team grew, our library grew, and this growth pushed us out of the nest. But, like most, I still maintain a home office for days I need to work on the weekends, wait for the repairman, or just have a change of scenery. For me, a smart phone is not ideal for writing an article, a contract, reviewing spreadsheets, or drawing.

So how should a home office differ from an outside office and should it? Where do you put it? How do you hide the clutter? Must it be in the basement where no one can see me, and I can't see them because there are no windows?



Starr Miller is the president and principal designer at StarrMiller Interior Design, Inc. Contact her at 704.896.3321 or visit www.starrmiller.com.

SHOULD A HOME OFFICE DIFFER FROM A CORPORATE OFFICE?

It should be whatever you want it to be as it relates to look, layout, and function. Yet, in a large corporate office they tend to ensure you have ergonomic seating, a keyboard drawer, and other resources to make sure you are not hurting yourself while at work. You should do the same for yourself.

WHERE SHOULD I PUT MY HOME OFFICE?

Dining Room (Living Room, Parlor, Music Room) – Are you using your dining room? If not, this makes a great place for an office. A dining room typically has a window with a view which is nice. However, it is typically in the foyer and the first thing you see when you walk in the door. So, add doors. In a casual home, you could use a barn door; in a more tailored home, it could be a door with mirrored panels, and if you are super tidy it could be a French door.

Guest Room – For the six days a year when you have guests you may need to work from the dining room table, but the rest of the time this is wasted space. Why not add a sofa bed, a murphy bed, or a daybed for guests?

A Closet, anywhere in your home – This can be done with incredible organization and beauty (see ideas on the Ikea website or Pinterest) and simply closed and locked when not in use.

IDEAS FOR HIDING CLUTTER

- 1 I was at a dear friend's home this weekend where she **hung drapery** two feet out from the wall, the full length of the wall in her bedroom, and had the most amazing storage I have ever seen. If I had not checked I would have thought it was a wall of windows with the drapery closed. **Genius!**
- 2 There are wonderful **file cabinets** that you would swear were a beautiful chest of drawers. **Perfect for the home.**
- 3 **Lovely boxes** and baskets and magazine files have always been safe choices.
- 4 Ballard Designs has some very home-friendly **wall pockets** and you can use their Shutter TV Cabinet to hide a bulletin or white board.