

# homework

Rather than face a daily commute, one entrepreneurial mom chose a remodel and created a dream office at home.

Writer **Pamela Porter** Photographer **Werner Straube** Producer **Hilary Rose**

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**ABOVE:** Andrea Goldman's A-frame-style office space features a neutral color palette, hardworking built-ins, and a long dining table turned desk. A versatile bench provides seating in the conversation area and for clients around the desk. Skylights drench the room in natural light, essential for her interior design work.

To find the perfect office in suburban Chicago's North Shore, interior designer Andrea Goldman looked out her bedroom window. Where many would have seen a sharply pitched garage roof, Andrea saw potential. She and her husband, David, transformed the angular area above their garage into a dream work space.

Here's how a busy mom zkeeps it all under control, in her own words.

**What's the biggest advantage of working from home?** The flexibility is priceless. I can work odd hours, popping in and out of my office as needed but still be accessible to family.

**What storage solutions do you consider indispensable to the space?** The room wouldn't function smoothly without the built-ins. The deep drawers and cabinets hold my wallpaper, wood, tile, and stone samples, and the shelves house baskets for fabric swatches. And I have a whole drawer that's nothing but paint chips!

My camera is also critical to staying organized. I pull out numerous materials at a time to come up with just the right combination. I snap a photo to document everything, and then put it all away.



**ABOVE:** Andrea loves baskets for their warm texture and because they're inexpensive. She uses them to sort fabric swatches by color and pattern. Soapstone countertops contrast with the mostly white room and continue her earthy palette. **LEFT:** Andrea enjoys the view from her light-filled, upper-level office.



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Choose bins and boxes in dark colors to hide fingerprints.

**How did you get everything to fit so perfectly?** I knew what I needed to organize first, then I found bins, boxes, baskets, and containers to meet my needs. Finally I had the shelving and cabinets built to fit the containers.

**How do you keep electrical cords under control?** Most people forget about having an electrical plan to provide power where you need it. If your printer is inside a cabinet, run power in there. To streamline cords, we installed outlets exactly where I needed them, including right into the floor under my desk.

**What other tips do you have for organizing a home office?** I'm a residential designer, so even though it's a work space, I'd suggest to think less "office" and more "decorative" instead. Forget the industrial metal file cabinet and standard desktop kits. Use containers and accessories with a homey vibe to gather paperwork and supplies. It inspires me to be surrounded by beautiful things, and you can find beautiful things that function well, too.

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**ABOVE:** Deep drawers and open shelving contain essentials and a slew of graphite-color storage boxes featuring pulls with integrated write-on labels. **LEFT:** A tall basket corrals rolled up floor plans too large to fit in drawers. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Decorative bowls are used in lieu of standard desk containers to hold small office supplies. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Living a few steps away from work gives Andrea the best of both worlds. She has an open-door policy for her kids, who regularly invade the irresistible space to hang out or do homework.



**SPACE-SAVING TIP** Maximize storage within an angled space by stacking books horizontally and augmenting with trays, boxes, and decorative items. The resulting pyramid-shape piles are easy to shift right or left to follow the angle of the bookcase or room.



A coat rack near the door offers grab-and-go convenience. It also welcomes clients.