These desks get down to business

Consider scale and placement for modern office

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ALY'S FAVOURITE THINGS

Fall is the best time to get organized. If you're anything like me, the summer days are spent outside, so things inside can start piling up, especially in the home office. I like to start here, and task one is to clear off the desk.

This annual task got me thinking about my desk and what a great place it is for me to catch up on email and pay the bills. The office is a room that many clients overlook or don't put money aside for, and the desk is often the last piece of furniture on a long list but one that makes a bold statement in a home.

Gone are the days of heavy, solid, bulky wood desks. Today's modern offices are better served with desks that are streamlined and on the industrial side. Storage is still a huge concern, but especially in smaller offices, resist the urge to buy one that is out of scale. It is important that your office not be taken over by a desk that is too big.

The other thing to keep in mind is placement. Are you going to float the desk in the middle of the room or will it be placed against a wall? If you're in a room that doesn't have a view, float the desk.

The room will flow better and you won't be facing a piece of drywall. In this case, ensure that both sides of the desk are finished, especially if it will face an open door or an entrance.

If you've got the luxury of a large window and a view, face it out for a little inspiration. And if you can avoid it, never put your desk in a corner, your motivation to sit there will dwindle quickly.

With all this in mind, look for something that is conducive to what you will do there. Need room to spread out large drawings, get a large desk, maybe something glass to reflect the light. Is confidentiality key, look for something with locking drawers. If stress is an issue maybe you can find one with wine storage. Whatever the case, choose wisely and enjoy the office as much as you do the rest of your house.

Here are my top picks:

1. Crane Desk (Crate and Barrel). The proportions are perfect. The desk gives off an uber chic "Mad Men" vibe and the single pedestal base is something unexpected. The warmth of the wood and clean lines make it the perfect fit for any stylish home office.

2. Iconoclast Table (IZM). This sculptural table could work both as a desk or a dining table. Perfect for a large office, this statement table with its sculptural base is sure to make an impression. Handmade in Edmonton by two fabulous and talented designers also makes it unique.

3. Go Cart Desk (CB2). A bright and fun addition to any home office, this powder coated metal desk is sure to inspire. The addition of castors gives it an industrial edge.

4. Antique Desk (Dasan Interiors). The black lacquer finish and the half round shape makes this an unique desk. Perfect to float in the centre of a room and pair with an ultra modern chair for contrast.

5. Trestle Desk (HomeSense). The raw wood and trestle style gives this desk a really raw and industrial edge.

Dasan Interiors

Antique Desk (Dasan Interiors). The black lacquer finish and half-round shape works in centre of room.

Crate and Barrel

Crane Desk (Crate and Barrel). The proportions of this are perfect. The warmth of the wood and clean lines make it the perfect fit for a stylish office.

CB2

Go Cart Desk (CB2). A bright and fun addition to any home office, the powder coated metal desk has castors, which gives it an industrial edge.

IZM

Iconoclast Table (IZM). This sculptural table, which is handmade in Edmonton, could work both as a desk or a dining table. It's perfect for a large office.

HomeSense

Trestle Desk (HomeSense). The raw wood and trestle style gives this desk a really raw and industrial look.