

Q What are the key areas to consider when planning a home office renovation?

A There is more to designing the perfect home office than functionality and aesthetics. You need to consider your family dynamic, the type of work life you will use the office for, and your own personality in terms of working style. Combined, these three elements are the basis for a strong initial design direction.

Q What often gets overlooked when designing a home office?

A It's important to remember that a home office still needs to function in the same way as any corporate office, but as part of the home it should also reflect your chosen style and aesthetic. Think about designing a space that reflects your personal taste and style rather than focusing solely on creating a generic office space that just 'does the job'.

Q How has the shift to working from home influenced home office design?

A Post-pandemic, people have realised they have free rein to create a home office environment that is comfortable and a pleasure to work from. For many, the relative freedom of working from home has also reinforced their entrepreneurial spirit – and we love to see this reflected in the space.

Q How can good design ensure a harmonious blend of practicality and comfort?

A We strongly believe that home and office space influences mood. Colours, lights, freshness and the flow of a house come together to positively impact family life – and that includes a home office area. Where design shines is in incorporating your own personality and creating a tailor-made space that is practical and personal.

Q What kind of lighting should be used, and for what effect?

A Indirect light is a must-have. In the perfect space this could come from a side window. Bonus points for natural lighting that also offers calming outdoor views of greenery or

Ask Marco and Cinzia



The duo behind Smart Renovation (smartrenovation.ae) share their tips for a home office re-dos



water. In a windowless area, diffused light is the answer; for example, using cove lighting in the ceiling supplemented by a desk lamp. If you have a desk integrated into a bookshelf, we love to use warm LED lighting tucked away on an upper shelf.

Q Any tips on designing a home office on a budget?

A Use existing furniture mixed with a few new pieces to refresh the space and keep it simple. We've seen some very expensive yet soulless

working spaces; it's not about budget, it's about smart design fused with practicality and personality.

Q If the office space is also a multi-purpose room how can design tick all the boxes?

A Compromise is often a design prerequisite and that's where good home office design is all about integration. For a multipurpose space, we recommend designing an office area that can be cleverly – and easily – concealed using screening such as wooden panelling, for example.