

Designing the home office

by architect Dion Seminara



I started my original practice from home and re-started a new version of the same practice 10 years later.

For many businesses that don't need to have much face-to-face client contact in their own space it is the perfect way to keep overheads down, it is also the perfect way to stay in touch with your family. Sometimes though, when you start to employ staff, and when you need a business face, it is time to move on.

You need a clear understanding of how you want the home office space to relate or not to relate to other parts of the home.

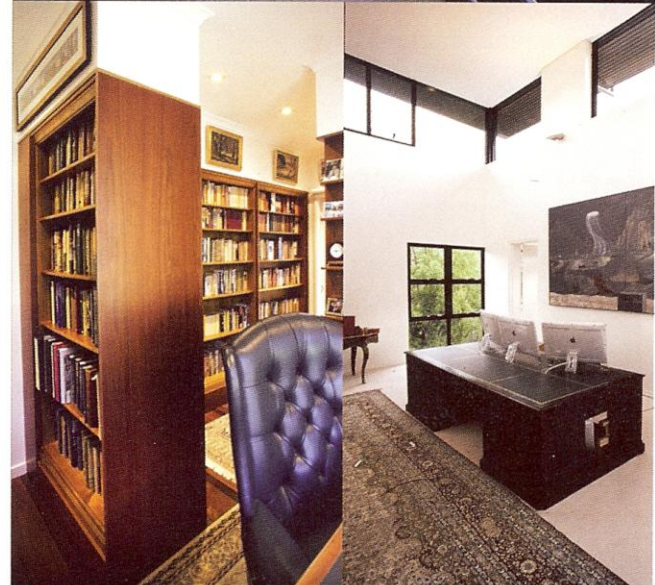
If you want relationship, it comes down to how much relationship. As the kitchen is the hub of the home sometimes being close to this area and central to the house is a good way to juggle many things at once. Sliding windows, doors or shutters can close off this space when needed or operable walls or rotating bookshelves like you see in the movies.

If you don't want an interactive family relationship or want the option of being separate make sure you have noise insulation. This is important if your work requires you to keep the house noise and activities out so you can efficiently and effectively get your work done and get out of the office.

For a home office to work well there must be a space for everything. You need to understand how you work so the space can be designed to ensure you work efficiently and effectively.

If you need inspiration at work then a view out is great as long as you manage the elements like sunlight and breeze. You can have a home office without airconditioning as long as you can control breeze and the heat. If you have to have airconditioning ensure your office is well insulated and shaded so that your power bill doesn't send you broke. Your view doesn't need to be out to the sea or the mountains, you can create your own view by looking into a courtyard or across a backyard.

With computers now part of many homes and with household bills part of every home even if your not running a business it is nice to have a spot like a study nook somewhere close to the kitchen so that the kitchen isn't the dumping ground for all the household affairs.



Phone: (07) 3899 9450

Email: architects@dsarchitecture.com.au or

Web: www.dsarchitecture.com.au

If you need design input and advice our 2 hour verbal advice service is a good way to start out.