



## INVISION DESIGN PARTNERS, LLC

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*In our first visit with you we LISTEN to your needs and wants for the project. Only then, we propose ways to accomplish them. Please call or email, we will respond promptly.*

### **ACCOMMODATING A BUSINESS AT HOME, Why Good Design Matters**

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One of the leading trends influencing the housing industry with regard to planning new homes or the remodel of existing ones is a dedicated space for a home-office. Such space is used for activities as small as paying household bills or as large as running a home-based business. Research suggests that working from home is a growing trend that is currently being practiced by millions of Americans. (Specific data validating this claim and offering information regarding the size and characteristics of US citizens that use their residence in part or as their only work place may be found through the US Census Bureau and other independent organizations such as Forrester Research).

A home-office, like any other work place interior, requires proper design attention in order to maximize its functionality and integration with the rest of the house. Design of such spaces considers the needs of users including interaction between people, furniture and equipment. The results of proper design contribute to successful business operations in a pleasant and productive environment, and helps minimize potential health problems resulting from improper work ergonomics or habits.

Working from the home has its own special requirements, and issues can occur when the home-office is inadequate. A properly designed workplace in both residential and commercial spaces includes:

- Allocation of appropriate space for intended activities
- Maximizing space for size, orientation, and layout of furniture/storage
- Adjustable seating and work surfaces for proper ergonomics
- Sufficient and adjustable task and natural lighting
- Planning for IT needs (computers, communications)
- Accessibility and adequate traffic patterns
- Storage capabilities
- Personalization, aesthetics and style

If these factors are neglected, inefficiency and less than optimal productivity occur. Failure to address them may also result in certain health problems including overall body stress, back and neck pain, poor blood circulation in the legs, carpal tunnel syndrome and vision fatigue (inability to focus).

While there are obviously differences between a home-office for business and a home-office for paying the bills, designing these types of interior spaces follow similar principles and must consider your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. The design must offer creative alternatives for your space layout, provide functional, aesthetic & emotional comfort, help increase productivity, efficiency and safety while minimizing the risk of health problems, and help create a credible business environment.

For the best results use an experienced professional designer for your workplace design.  
The benefits will surely outweigh the investment cost.

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