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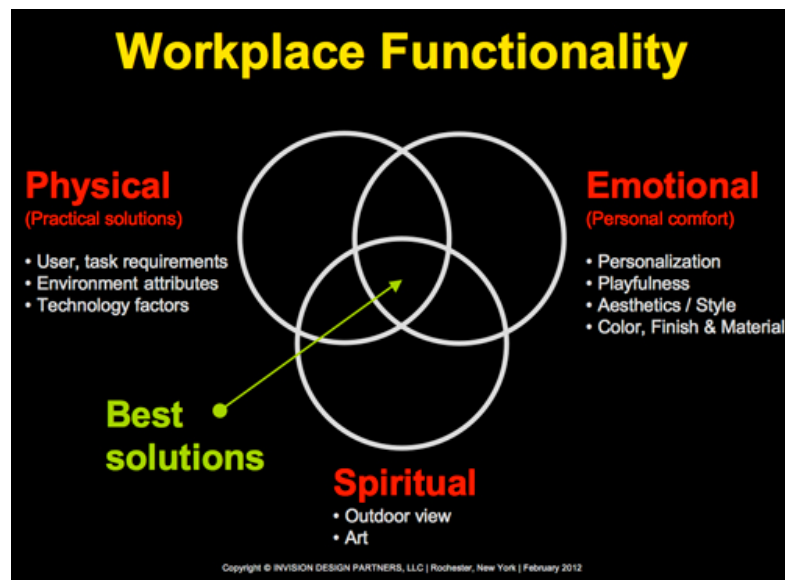
In our first visit with you we LISTEN to your needs and wants for the project. Only then, we propose ways to accomplish them. Please call or email, we will respond promptly.

HOME-OFFICE DESIGN

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First published in INVISIONS, Vol. 8, March 2012

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter (volume 7, February 2012), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) pinpointed the home-office as an emerging trend in the housing market. Although their forecast refers to new homes, we believe homeowners will be looking to modify their existing properties to include such a space as well.

According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 20 million persons work partially at home as part of their primary job. The data also suggests that about 90% of all self-employed individuals chose the home as their primary workspace.



Working from the home has its own special requirements, and problems 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 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. These factors may also result in certain health problems including overall body stress, back and neck pain, poor blood circulation in 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, minimize risk of health problems, and help create a credible business environment.

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