

Integrate a corner space

Victoria Wormsley, French-Brooks Interiors

A well-conceived corner or alcove can make an ideal workstation with the right joinery or freestanding furniture. In this ground-floor study, a custom bookcase desk complements the proportions of the Regency architecture.

'The room is small and yet has high ceilings, so the challenge in making it work as a home office was to incorporate a practical work area which was in proportion to the tall, narrow space,' says Victoria Wormsley. 'We designed a desk with a bookcase above, which makes the corner feel quite cosy yet elegant. There is room for stationery and a printer on a pull-out shelf in the right-hand cupboard, and a keyboard in the centre drawer.'

The top of the desk is inlaid with leather to provide a resilient work surface. Meanwhile, the back panel below the desk top is mounted on clips and can be pulled out to access sockets. 'Cables can be fed down through a couple of cut-outs in the desk's top to the space behind the panel, keeping them out of sight.'

The house is Grade II listed so it was not possible to install downlights in the original ceilings. Instead, a small table lamp gives a warm glow at night, while LED ribbon provides lighting on the underside of the bottom shelf and the top of the bookcase.

ABOVE Walls covered in paper-backed linen, combined with sisal flooring and printed velvet curtains, make the space feel warm and inviting. Desk and bookcase designed by French-Brooks Interiors and made by Matthew Collins Furniture. The table lamp was sourced from Ebury Trading.



Build in for maximum use of space

Suzy Hoodless, interior designer

Rather than being separate, static rooms with a desk and filing cabinet, home offices often need adapting to different stages of family life. 'This room is a good example of that,' says Suzy Hoodless, of her teenage daughter's bedroom. 'From the outset, I wanted it to evolve as she grows, with a proper workspace that will support everything from homework and creative projects to studying and, one day, working from home.'

Located in the loft of her London home, the room has sloping ceilings, so bespoke joinery was the obvious solution. Hoodless designed a built-in bed, desk and shelving as one continuous piece, making use of every inch of space while maintaining a sense of calm. The cabinetry is painted in a rich moss green, chosen to bring a sense of nature into the space and create a cocooning atmosphere despite the abundance of daylight.

Open shelving allows books and personal collections to become part of the design, while concealed storage keeps everyday clutter out of sight. 'For me, a successful home office is never just about practicality; it should also be somewhere you enjoy spending time,' Hoodless explains. 'Good natural light, thoughtful storage and a restrained palette are the foundations, but adding personal objects, artwork and books gives the space warmth and individuality. When a room can comfortably balance beauty with function, it will continue to work long after its original purpose has changed.'

PHOTOGRAPHS: VICTORIA WORMSLEY: (MAIN IMAGE) MARK NICHOLSON; (PORTRAIT) MARK BOLTON. SUZIE HOODLESS: (MAIN IMAGE) DARREN CHUNG; (PORTRAIT) TOM MANNION

Located in the eaves, this room utilises every inch of space via built-in storage. Panelling, cut extra wide for a contemporary look, is painted in Farrow & Ball's Breakfast Room Green.