

MODERN LUXURY

BOSTON COMMON

Men of the Moment

J.D. MARTINEZ &
4 OTHER BOSTON
TASTEMAKERS
TAKING THE LEAD



Sun- Soaked Style

MEN'S FASHION
BRIGHTENS UP

Game Changer

GAME OF
THRONES' NIKOLAJ
COSTER-WALDAU
IS SLAYING IT

Plus

Top Chef's Adrienne
Wright, Style Guru
Hamish Bowles & Tony
New Boutiques!



Clockwise from top left: Before Annie Hall's bright, colorful remodel, the walls of this office were deep gold and the woodwork a dull black; Katy Harding's husband did not want his home office to feel corporate, so anything stark or modern was out; Dane Austin's client chose a mink gray leather swivel chair from Room & Board.

WORKING 9 TO 5

Five Boston designers take on men's home offices, with very different results.

By Marni Elyse Katz

Does it matter how your workspace looks? Sure it does.

"Function has to take a front seat in an office," says designer Nina Farmer (ninafarmerinteriors.com). "Everything else comes after." That said, the home office she designed in a historic West Newton home is a looker. Farmer played off of existing wood details with tweed-y wallcovering and windowpane-plaid patterns and shades to create a menswear vibe. "The earthy tones make it more masculine than the rest of the house," she says. Luckily, the office was already equipped with a wall of built-ins. "Offices require unattractive equipment that needs to be concealed," Farmer notes. "You want the room to feel harmonious."

Tasked with a complete overhaul, designer Annie Hall (anniehallinteriors.com) also had to create copious storage space for paperwork that cluttered practically every surface of a home office for a psychiatrist in Cambridge. "In addition to the shelving and cabinetry we created on the window wall, we updated two closets with custom shelves," says the designer. The office also desperately needed brightening. Hall transformed the dark, dull space with primary colors, textured wall panels and a fun cloud ceiling fixture. As for the desk and chair, the client kept what he had, since it functioned perfectly.

For a Wayland homeowner, ergonomics was the primary concern. Designer Kate Maloney (kmid.co) commissioned Holmes Fine Furniture to make a walnut sit-to-stand



CLOUD FIXTURE PHOTO BY JOHN KENNARD; SHEEP PHOTO BY SEAN LITCHFIELD; BLUE DESK PHOTO BY EMILY O'BRIEN



From left: Kate Maloney hung an abstract artwork by Karine Leger from Lanoue Gallery in SoWa behind her client's desk; a vintage painting by Roger Tolmer from Charles Spada Antiques works perfectly with Nina Farmer's earthy color scheme.



desk she designed after much discussion with her client. The midcentury-modern-style desk boasts a bank of drawers that suits the homeowner's needs and also hides the desktop's electric mechanism. The bent shape prevents the piece from resembling a long table, and provides a stationary work surface, since just the center portion rises. As for aesthetics, "the whole house has a light, soft color palette with deeper accents," Maloney says. "The office is an extension of that."

How to decorate for a semiretired New York transplant with a taste for Russian literature and dumpster graffiti? Paint the walls a historic green inspired by a room in *Downton Abbey*; hang art by well-known street painter Paul Richard and place a red desk with spindly gold legs front and center. "He wears Paul Smith suits and bow ties, but appreciates the grit and grind of the city," says designer Dane Austin (daneaustindesign.com). "I surrounded him with pieces that stimulate." At the same time, Austin was careful not to overwhelm, choosing to custom fit the closet to house the client's book collection. As for the cast resin black sheep, Austin says: "It matches his quirky, against-the-grain mentality and resonates with him."

Usually designer Katy Harding's (hardingandco.com) husband leaves the decorating to her. However, when it came to his home office, which she put together with her sister and design partner, Abby Harding, he had opinions. "He wanted a cozy, clubby look," says Katy. His vision, half-jokingly, included a desk like the one used in the Oval Office. While they installed many distinctly masculine touches, including a pinstriped grass-cloth wallcovering, a plaid wool-upholstered wing chair, and a vintage brass and Lucite bar cart, they went rogue with the desk, opting for a less boxy style in navy blue. "It would have been too brown and heavy," Katy says. "An office shouldn't feel onerous." ■

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. LEE