

Drawn to New and Its Opposite

If you have a home office, it seems beneficial to have gadgetry and furnishings. Why not, with all our options?

Me, well, I've been sharing an office with my husband for 30 years and still have the same two desks and bookshelves. We've painted the room numerous times, added baskets for organization, and hung bookshelves, hanging files and bulletin boards...nothing fancy.

A designer would probably describe it as pathetic.

A few years ago, I found a collection, in a desk drawer, of 1980's Hardee's California Raisin figures. I positioned them on a shelf for comic relief.

Budget aside, who really has an excuse NOT to have a perfect office space. With the likes of Pinterest Pinners throwing fresh, new taglines to their equally modern frame art. Like: "Awesomeness happens here," "Teamwork makes the Dream Work," or how about, "Great Ideas Currently Being Accepted"?

Plus there's the latest technology. I've seen converted closets and pull down desks for those with minimal space. If you get tired of sitting too much, you have the pop-up computer lift tables. Or you can use a stability ball as a chair nowadays — it's better for your back... provided you don't fall off...ahem.

Instead of neat framed art, inspirational quotes are scotch-taped to the edges of my shelving. I still read them. They seem to help in times of need.

So what is it about my workspace that makes me MOST productive?

Even though my office is small, its organizational ability is significant. I know where everything is and it has a primal arrangement that is very manageable. There's a place for everything as long as everything is in its place.

For example, when I want to compute figures I don't even have to look. My fingers can find the calculator. There is a certain symmetry to the tape dispenser, 1950's Pilot stapler, and paperclip holder on my five-foot desk.

The office window, though, is the piece-de-resistance.

It is what physically draws my attention, besides my computer of course. It stimulates ideas and is a form of escape. Outside that window is the world — my place for thinking,

dreaming, agonizing, and getting through writer's block.

I like my lived-in office space, even though my consumerism tendencies are craving a new look, I think I'm equally drawn to the opposite of new.

If I update to a modern office, I would want to take the old workhorses from my old room and incorporate them into the new by saving my most basic things which are working so well.

With all the focus on making offices comfortable, workflow manageable, papers organized; with the introduction of ergonomically correct chairs, colorful picture frames, little sticky things to keep track of your bigger sticky things, unlimited pen styles, how can they BUT HELP free up time for more writing!