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Renovation Husbands

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into old Boston



Design of
the Times
Reinventing the home office

LGBTQ
Realtors
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Gospel
Music
In the key of queer

Wicked
Great
'Plain Bad Heroines'



Vani Sayeed

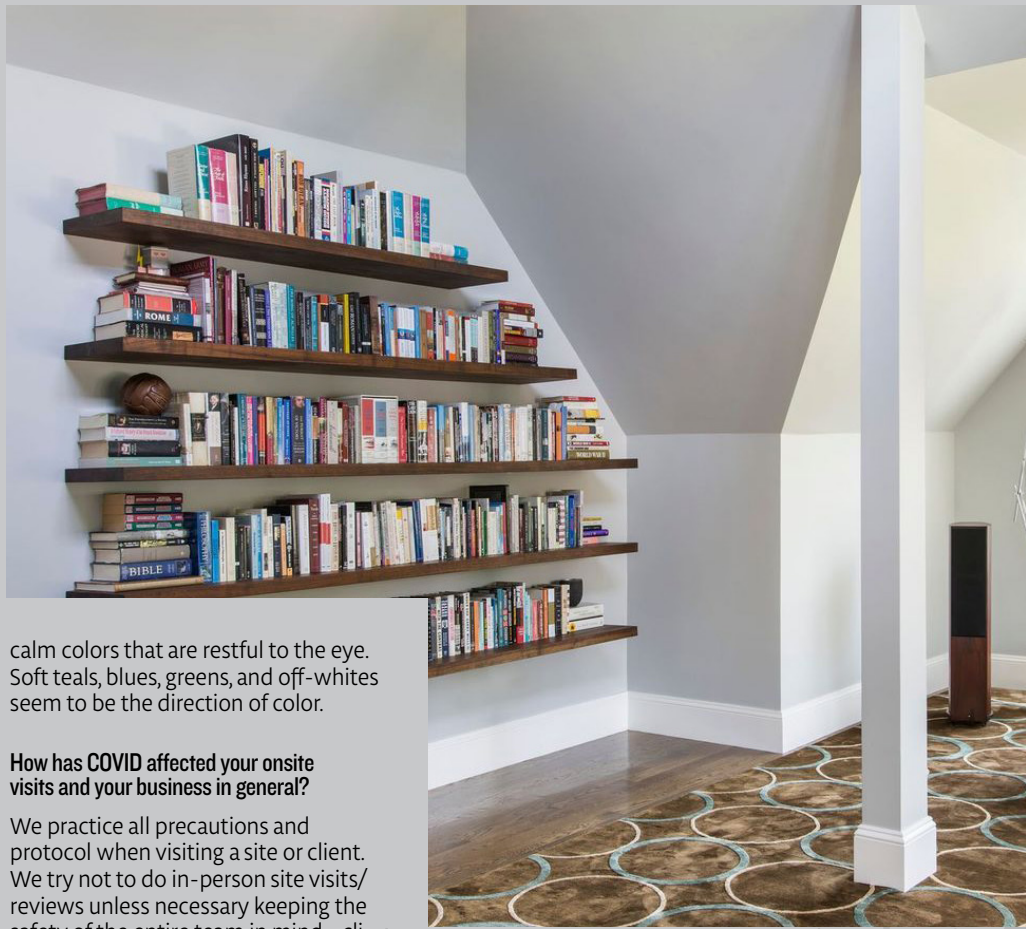
VaniSayeedStudios.com

Have you seen any benefits when designing the home office during COVID?

This has been a great opportunity to revisit and rethink spaces that are least used. For example, the formal dining room and living room are some of the least used rooms in most homes. The formal dining room is easily converted into an office without any major rearrangements. Since most homes have a comfortable dining/eat-in area in their kitchens/great rooms that are frequently used for dining, the formal dining room can see a new use!

What kinds of things are people asking for in home office design?

Clients are requesting more storage, hi-speed Internet and secondary noise management. The downside of having an open floor plan is that it is not conducive to Zoom calls or classrooms, and secondary noise is a problem. We are trying to create quiet spaces in guest rooms or converting a basement/attic play area. Because people are staring at a screen for long hours at a time, they are gravitating towards softer, more



calm colors that are restful to the eye. Soft teals, blues, greens, and off-whites seem to be the direction of color.

How has COVID affected your onsite visits and your business in general?

We practice all precautions and protocol when visiting a site or client. We try not to do in-person site visits/reviews unless necessary keeping the safety of the entire team in mind—client, builder, vendors and us. This has caused a slowdown in communication, problem solving, and decision making, but as long as the whole team is open to collaboration and a little patience, we are able to provide the same level of service as we always do. Our business has stayed steady throughout the pandemic. Internally we have been using the app Slack, which can be used on a phone, laptop, or desktop, to keep communication clear and streamlined.

What's ahead for home office design?

For projects for home office design, we will include an enclosed space for optimum use, productivity, storage, noise management and privacy. So, whether COVID has prompted us to embrace a simple refresh of our existing environment or catapulted us headlong into a home office overhaul, according to our design experts, it seems we are in good company. And, since there's no place like home right now, the opportunity to create a space that provides a productive, comfortable and nurturing place in which to work, is a win-win for all—not to mention a bright spot on the horizon as we navigate our way through the next few months.



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More than 20 years ago, Sandra Lashway left a career in home economics and education to join the Clarke team. She is expertise personified. Ask her anything about cooking and how to create your functional, beautiful kitchen.

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