

Spring/Summer 2010

cooking • decorating • gardening • nesting

Charleston Home

fresh start

Edisto Island:
Restoring an
18th-century plantation

A Lowcountry-style
lobster bake

Get the Recipes!

{ special section }

The 2010 Symphony
Designer Showhouse

50+

smart ideas to steal

Before & After Contest
See the Winners!



5A \$4.95



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Color Your World

Your palette should suit both the work at hand and its role in the house. Paint household hubs a shade or two lighter or darker than adjacent rooms to maintain their connection to domestic activity. For all-business rooms that keep nine-to-five hours, choose hues that establish a contrast between house and office. And when it comes to creative havens, all bets are off. Choose a shade that wires your mind.



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Satisfy the Senses

Address light and comfort in your office overhaul, starting with quality task lighting. Hang a pair of pendants over your desk for a good-looking twist on the standard desk lamp. Replace any furniture that stalls productivity, including desks with limited surface area and slouchy task chairs past their prime.



brushed nickel pendant light (\$49.98) from Lowe's

Caleb Siemon beehive pendant light (\$1,000) through ESD by special order

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Display Case

Inspire your workday efforts with items that mirror your purpose and gussy up the room at the same time.

Create a Nostalgic Collection: Family photos and children's art projects make for satisfying wall decor.

Inspiration Boards: Dress a standard bulletin board in items that cue your creativity—landscape images, treasured notes and drawings, and inspired reminders all work well.

Portfolio Art: Don't tuck accomplishments away; frame photos or drawings of past projects and hang on office walls.



Prop stylist and decorator Emily Hanson's inspiration board

Home Office Cost Cutters

GO ECLECTIC: Scour antiques shops and tag sales for vintage crates and other chic storage containers.

SCORE USED GOODS: Browse craigslist.com, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and thrift shops for gently used desks and cabinets.

GIVE NEW LIFE TO OLD STUFF: Simple, office-issue bookcases are easily made over when coated with a bright shade of paint and/or colorful wallpaper spread across interior shelves.

BUILD A SYSTEM: Big-box stores stock inexpensive, stackable storage boxes you can add to over time.

CREATE A CORNER OFFICE: Don't have the extra square footage (or money) for a dedicated workroom? Retrofit a coat closet with a petite desk and hang to-do lists and calendars on the interior back wall, shallow shelves on the side walls, and a bulletin board on the back of the door. Add a slim chair that can slide under the desk, and close off the office when work's done for the day.

GET BOARD: Invest in dry erase boards. The calendars can be used for years on end, and the note boards, too, which saves dollars and paper both.

CLOSE IT OFF: Those who regularly work from home can often write off the mortgage or rent for the square footage of their office space. The main rule of thumb is that the claimed space must be solely used for work and is ideally separate from the rest of the house, by a door or otherwise. For details, visit irs.gov and meet with your accountant.

Get Wired-less

Need to tame the cables and cords that crawl all over your office?

1. **Tuck a wireless router away** in an office closet to clear your desk of modems and wires.
2. **Use cord tamer tubing** (from office stores) to collect and conceal cables.
3. **Corral a herd of electric plugs** with a single power strip (and extension cord if needed).