


**NEW HOMES & CONDOS**


An entire wall of cabinets maximizes storage space while making access to paperwork or office supplies a breeze.



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# Home office/guest room is two spaces in one



JO ALCORN

## SMART SPACES

City living may mean limited space, but you don't have to sacrifice functionality. I was recently challenged to find a clever way to maximize a space. All of the bedrooms were occupied but the home lacked a guest room, plus a more efficient workspace and storage in their walkout basement. This is how I created a dual-purpose room.

### An efficient layout

A multifunctional room needs a practical layout. What is the room being used for? In this case, we knew

the home business needed stations for three workers, a sitting meeting area, closed storage, plus it would be a bonus if the room could double as a spare room for out of town guests.

I maximized the space by creating a layout, which utilized the perimeter of the room. This freed up the middle of the room for easy movement and created the feeling of a larger space.

### Let's work it out

I wanted a clean, streamlined design for the office space, with plenty of counter

space. I wanted to use every inch of the room, so store bought pieces were out of the question. I went to Harkel Office Furniture [www.harkeloffice.com](http://www.harkeloffice.com)

for customizable desks with a simple, solid line leg, to maximize the wall space. This office uses laptops, great for maximizing space because you can get away with a smaller desk depth. It also allowed us to run a desk down the middle of the room, dividing the room into two distinct work areas and creating more counter-top space.

### Storage is always key

Offices usually come with a ton of paperwork and clutter, so closed storage is key to an organized office. I turned to Cutler Modern Living <http://www.cutlermodernliving.com/> for a unique office solution storage systems. I designated an entire wall of cabinets that would house office storage. Accessing paperwork or office supplies is a breeze. Instead of awkward, in-the-way cabinet doors, this storage system has flip-up upper storage cabinets.

### Colourless

The basement office had low ceilings and a lot of furniture being added, so I had a few tricks up my sleeve to make this room look larger and airier. I added a light

and fresh coat of JoJo White-wash PF17 from Para Paint on the walls to open up the room. I continued using this colour in all the wall perimeter furniture. The furniture blends into the walls, creating a calming effect in a tight space.

### The overnight guest

Who doesn't need more space for those overnight guests? A sofa was needed for the meeting area, but we decided a standard sofa wouldn't be ideal for an overnight guest. We selected a multifunctional pull-out sofa for the space so it can double as a private retreat for out of town guests.

### The finishing touches

The room was pulled together with a few finishing touches.

At EQ3 <https://www.eq3.com/ca/en> we found a much-needed floor lamp, plus the perfect little round table to drink a coffee, take notes or use as a bedside table for overnight guests. I also added a round metal mirror, great for reflecting the light and making the room look larger. I finished the room with stainless crystal wall sconces from the Jo Alcorn collection by Artcraft Lighting.

And there you have it! A bright, organized multifunctional space you don't want to leave!

— Jo Alcorn is co-host of HGTV's *Critical Listing* and a celebrity designer specializing in small spaces and design solutions for all budgets. Visit her at [www.whitewashco.ca](http://www.whitewashco.ca).