

# HOMES & GARDENS®

## Big city life

INSIDE LONDON'S CHICEST HOMES

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**STYLE  
STATEMENTS**

CREATIVE  
HOME OFFICES

DECORATING  
WITH STRIPES

WHERE TO SOURCE  
ELEGANT HARDWARE

**OUTDOOR  
OASIS**

TRANQUIL  
URBAN  
GARDENS  
THE BEST  
EXTERIOR  
LIGHTING

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## WORK STATION

One of the advantages of creating a desk area within a kitchen is that the temptation to spread everything across the kitchen table is immediately lessened. In addition, some of the cabinetry can be repurposed as storage for documents or stationery, hopefully ensuring the work area remains tidy and uncluttered. This scheme by kitchen designers Roundhouse has a strong cohesive look thanks to the fact that all the cabinetry is hand-painted in the same colour; in this case it's Farrow & Ball's Hopper Head.

## STOCK TAKE

Surface area and storage requirements will depend on profession: a lawyer or broker working will often use double screens, whereas musicians and artists might need more floor space. As a result, it's always wise to consider the must-haves to see how these can be accommodated, says Philipp Nagel, director of Neatsmith. 'It's also important to ensure as much light as possible can flood into the room without disturbing the screen. We find that a combination of recessed LEDs and a reading lamp works well.'

## BELOW STAIRS

For those wanting to be located away from the main part of the house, an alternative is to consider the lower ground floor. The team at Th2 Designs transformed a dark basement of a mews house in London's Notting Hill into a home office space that doubles as a sitting room and TV area. While it is possible to do this only with artificial light, there is a risk of the result feeling like a dungeon. Here, there is a little patio that draws in some natural light. →

