

## How to Make the Most of Your Home Office Space

The development and perfection of fax machines and internet capabilities have permitted working people to be reached at any location from any location, all over the world. Lap-top computers have made it possible for executives to bring their work on planes and trains, even on vacation. This great consolidation of work world has given way to a new area in business that is becoming increasingly popular – the home office.

No other industry has been more challenged to keep up with the quickly changing work world than furniture manufacturers. Now that the home is oftentimes a business person's main headquarters, we have been hard pressed to design a home that is not only livable, but business friendly. Herb Roberts, owner of Curtis Co., Inc. in Manhattan, has the solution: furniture that works as storage, home office space, room dividers and sleeping areas – all at once!

According to Roberts, "Business is becoming paperless. Many companies have discontinued having regular employees and are hiring freelance specialists who do most of their creative and hard work at home. My job is to design a space that makes working at home comfortable as well as efficient."

Starting their 76<sup>th</sup> year on the furniture business, Curtis Co. specializes in solid wood space saving furniture (often used for home offices), custom furniture and a variety of design styles, from contemporary to 18<sup>th</sup> century reproduction furniture to country French. The company has a wide selection of wall units, desks and adjustable armories that hide media centers, office centers, and bars for contract and residential use.

The following are some tips Roberts offers on using furniture to make the most of home office space while not inhibiting their imagination:

\*Making a home office fit in any home is a challenge. Try custom built shelving area that opens up to reveal a work station complete with desk, chair, file drawers and computer stand.

\*Even those who live in apartments can have a home office with a custom made armoire that opens up into a Murphy bed. This allows the area to be functional for work hours while providing plenty of sleep space at night.

\*Keeping a home beautiful while still allowing room for storage space is a problem for home workers. Furnish with stylish Queen Anne or Biedermeier wall units that hide file drawers, bookshelves and computers.

\*Fitting a large office unit in a small room can be a trying task. Pieces that are beautiful and practical can be customized to fit around corners, doorways and windows.

Curtis Co., whose factories are in Greenpoint Brooklyn, maintains showrooms at 40 East 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan.