

The Home Designer

Do Your Homework

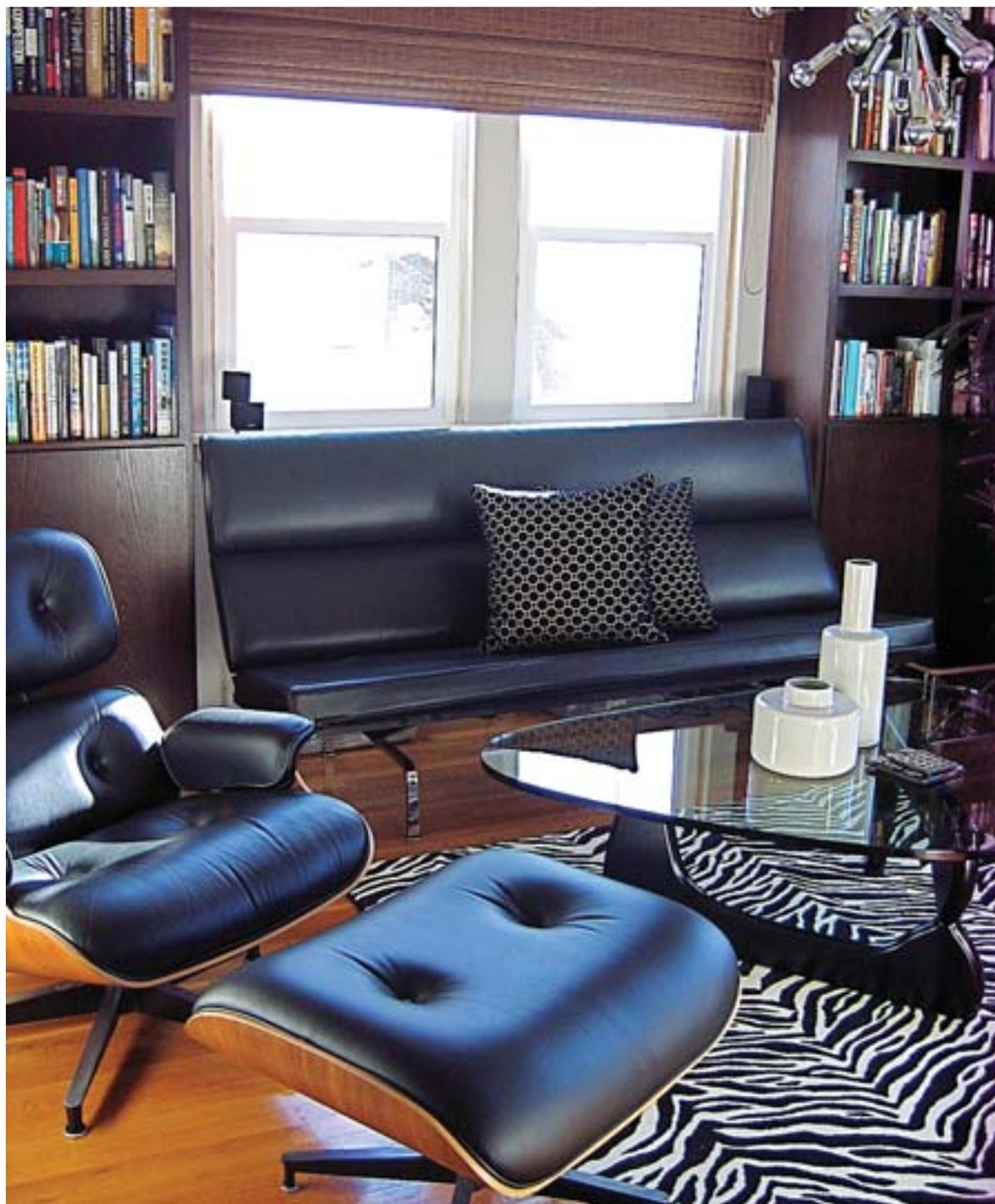
By Brandon Neff

In light of the current job market, millions of Americans are still out of work, and many Bay Area professionals are choosing to launch their own home-based businesses and take the reins of their employment futures firmly into their own hands. If we are asked to make lemonade out of lemons (and this is shaping up to be another banner lemon of a year economically), then regaining control of your own destiny is key to navigating this lopsided economy. Truly, home offices are quickly becoming both a necessity and a refuge. If you're like many of your contemporaries, and looking to take back some power, I have a few tips on how to create a work space at home to keep you competitive with all of those C-level posers on Wall Street. So, before you go back to that card table you call a home office, take some A-list design inspiration and create yourself a comfortable and beautiful space to build your empire.

Keeping your at-home, work zone comfortable, yet practical and chic is the key to successfully creating an office that can help you grow your business. However, as most home offices need to fulfill several functions – like guest bedroom, dining room or the space you store your better half's family heirlooms – interior real estate is usually at a premium, and knowing how to effectively lay out your room is key. Read on.

Stay focused. It's important to keep visual clutter to a minimum. Choose storage boxes in one color for all of your magazines, receipts and office supplies – russellandhazel.com offers great, colorful options. These can be displayed on your desk or shelving – keeping needed papers at the ready – while giving you easy clean up at the end of your tasks. If, like many, your office doubles as the family dining table, keeping your office clutter under wraps will help you take a visual break from your office responsibilities while not at work. Most importantly, respect your home office, and the sacred space you've created, by separating work activities from home activities while on the clock. Minimizing distractions will increase productivity and allow you to accomplish your professional goals.

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Create a relaxing and beautiful work zone without a desk - just add your laptop or tablet.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design