

Outdated coach house becomes perfect home office

The important role that colour can play in your living and working spaces

What do you get when you blend the needs of a creative entrepreneur with an old coach house and a good dose of imagination? The perfect home office.

James Voulakos, business coach and professor at George Brown College, is a very creative person who needed a home-based office in his central Toronto home. He decided to transform his old coach house into an airy, elegant and functional home office.

“Once we cleared away some of the junk, then we demolished most of the ceiling,” says Voulakos. “And, that’s when I realized that a cathedral ceiling would be great for an office/study space.” As well as vaulting the ceiling, everything was insulated, and skylights, hardwood floors and a gas fireplace were added.

Picking the right colour for the walls presented a challenge to Voulakos, and that’s when he called Colour Theory for assistance. I soon realized that the colour would have to address several different

elements. It had to underscore a professional image and help create a comfortable atmosphere. It was also important that the colour reflect a contemporary feel and support the type of work that Voulakos does. And, naturally, he had to like the colour since he spends so much time in his home office.

We experimented with a few different shades until it was decided that the soft buttery yellow (Benjamin Moore #CC-170 Honey Harbour) would best match the criteria. This subtle and elegant tone is warm and inviting, as well as updated and businesslike. Yellow functions as an extroverted and uplifting hue. A great cheerleader, if you will. The soft personality of this particular yellow makes it easy to live with and, most importantly, Voulakos likes the colour.

We painted the vaulted ceiling and window wells a lighter version of the wall colour. The look of continuous colour makes the space appear larger. A white ceiling would have compromised the graceful lines of the inner space.

“Colour Theory has been a joy to work with and an inspiration for me in helping me transform the concept of what I wanted in terms of look and feel, into the reality of my life,” says Voulakos. “I’ve received numerous compliments on the awesome look and feel of my office/study, all thanks to Sylvia O’Brien’s instinctive knowledge of colour.” **RD**

Sylvia O’Brien is a colour consultant and creative director of Colour Theory, a Toronto-based firm consulting on colour for living and working spaces.

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