



Home Office News & Notes

Reclaiming The Home For Work And Family Time

(NAPSA)—Today's concepts of work and leisure are being reshaped to make home and family the center of American life. To spend more time with loved ones and establish independence on the job front, individuals across the country are striving for a "customized life," with individual blends of work, leisure and family time. Today's technological advances and flexible work arrangements make this lifestyle more accessible.

High-tech developments like wireless home networks, video and Web conferencing, hand-held PC's and cell phones, make it practical to work outside the office. In fact, one-third of all homes accommodate a home office, and the ranks of teleworkers rose by 17 percent in the past year alone, according to a recent survey by the International Telework Association and Council.

"Today's home office is one of the keys to the family-focused, custom-designed life," says Susan Dountas, vice president of merchandising for Sauder Woodworking. "This space makes it possible to welcome the outside world, but in the comfort, privacy and security of the home."

Expanding the definition of a home office has paved the way for professional-level furnishings and technology to enter the home, explains Dountas. Changing attitudes also have encouraged furniture designers to carefully consider the functions of today's home office furnishings.

Computer carts, computer armoires and corner workstations are scaled to make the customized life a reality for space-challenged



homes. Sauder's Cottage Home computer armoire, with a fold-away chair that stores inside the cabinet, creates a self-sufficient—and space-efficient—home office. Ample work surface, generous storage and ergonomic details, such as an adjustable chair seat and keyboard tray, fit today's business needs. The flexible design helps ease the transition to family time.

Sauder makes the personalized home office more accessible with a free space-planning service for its new Adaptech line. Qualified space planners help consumers to analyze work needs and develop a custom-fit, professional-level work environment. The contemporary Adaptech line of modular furnishings is designed for easy reconfiguration, as office needs change. Versatile components—including cubicles, open workspaces and peninsulas—provide limitless opportunities for comfortable, productive work areas that fit nearly any floor plan.

"A viable home office is essential to achieving a customized life," Dountas says. "Today's home-oriented consumers are demanding versatile furnishings that support their family-centered work arrangements."