

Southern Breeze

THE GOOD LIFE ON THE GULF COAST

www.southernbreeze.com | Winter 2006

13 family fun getaways



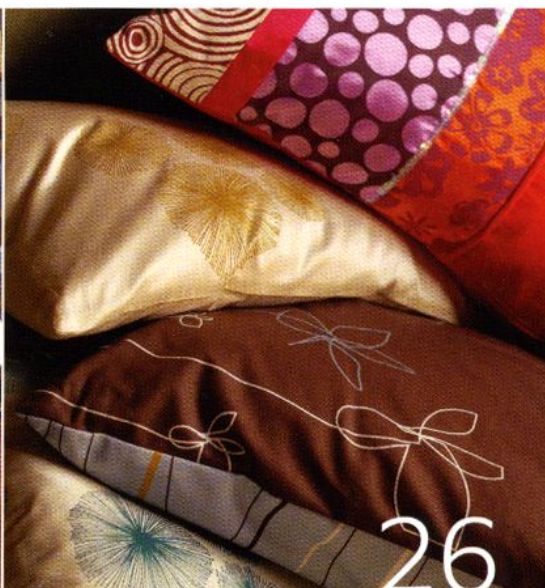
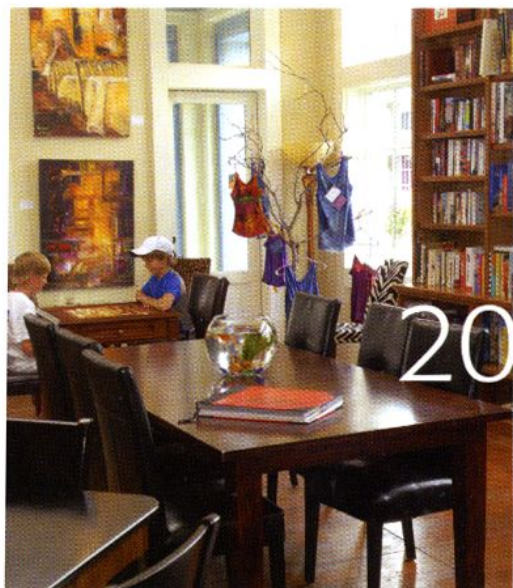
new orleans' healthy appetite
biloxi's winning streak
hot stuff! cooking with tabasco

\$3.95 US \$4.95 CAN



04>

7 25274 98591 3



travel

20 Storefronts
Hybrid Theory
Ceruleans in Watercolor is fast becoming a 21st Century retreat for various talented artisans.

22 Sweet Dreams
Tres Chic
The W Hotel New Orleans is a trendy oasis in the heart of the Crescent City.

24 Art of Living
To Dye For
Ameri'ca Jones uses centuries-old rituals to create stunning works of art on a melange of fabrics.

home

26 Fixtures
Pillow Talk
You'll love laying your head on these plush must-haves ideal for any decor.

28 Our Backyard
Coastal Sunrise
Despite their name, pansies are the toughest flowers you can plant in your garden.

30 Make Yourself at Home
Office Space
Your home office can fit your design sense while still enabling you to get your work done . . . plus the commute is perfect!

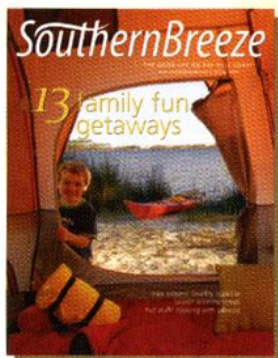
food

62 Cheers
Loco for SoCo
New Orleans born, Southern Comfort has had an interesting history throughout the South.

66 Dish
Fiesta!
You won't want to pass up these three caliente cantinas on the Gulf Coast.

68 Chef's Table
Sushi by the Seashore
Basmati serves sushi and more in Santa Rosa Beach.

70 Let's Eat
Tongues Afire!
Tabasco adds a spicy something extra to these tasty dishes.



on the cover

Grayton Beach State Park, Florida. Photograph by Karim Shamsi-Basha

42 New Orleans' Dining • 50 Biloxi's Winning Streak • 70 Cooking with TABASCO®



With wireless internet and a cell phone anything is possible. This third-floor office tower and terrace (facing page) with a view of the Gulf offer inspiration and distractions for author Lynn Nesmith who works at home in Seagrove, Florida.

SPACE

office

story by MICHELLE
ROBERTS MATTHEWS

HOME OFFICES HAVE BECOME AS UBIQUITOUS AS GARAGES—ONCE YOU HAVE ONE, YOU WONDER HOW YOU EVER LIVED WITHOUT IT.

It has become a question we ask up front," says architect Lea Verneuille of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects in Fairhope, Alabama. "It grew out of the idea of an artist's studio or hobby room, but now offices, or home work centers, are much more common."

Having a space of your own to work, uninterrupted, in your home is a sign of the times. Now that just about everyone is online, working from home in many cases requires nothing more than a telephone and an Internet connection, and more and more businesses are giving employees the option of telecommuting.

In the case of vacation homes, interior designer Stephanie Chennault of Lovelace Interiors in Destin and Watercolor, Florida, Lea says that for a lot of business people, a home office is essential for economic reasons: "That's how they can afford to spend time here."

Whether the home office is a true "office away from the office" or just a supplement to the workplace, it needs to be an inviting space that offers peace, quiet, and comfort.

"The key, to me, is that you still have to make it a delightful place you want to go to," Lea says. "It has to be well thought-out, not an afterthought."

Lea recently designed a home for Dan and Lucy Sundbeck in downtown Fairhope that includes a well-planned office for Dan above the garage. As vice president of sales for a chemical manufacturing company—a job he says he can do anywhere—Dan's commute to work couldn't be easier: He steps out the back door and walks up the stairs to his office.

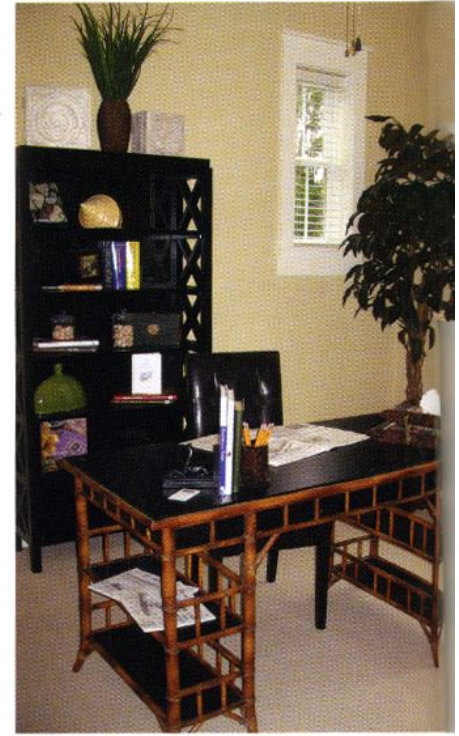
With high ceilings and French doors overlooking the New Orleans-style courtyard, Dan's office features quarter-sawn pine floors and walls painted a neutral olive shade trimmed in off-white. He has a desk,



LEFT & MIDDLE BY FRANKLIN VIOLA; FAR RIGHT COURTESY OF LOVELACE INTERIORS



A home office can be tailored to meet your design specifications as well as your professional needs. From hardwood floors with hunting trophies (left), to mini fridges (above), to a bamboo-accented desk (right), your home office can speak to your own unique sense of style.



WITH HIGH CEILINGS AND FRENCH DOORS OVERLOOKING THE NEW ORLEANS-STYLE COURTYARD, DAN'S OFFICE FEATURES QUARTER-SAWN PINE FLOORS AND WALLS PAINTED A NEUTRAL OLIVE SHADE TRIMMED IN OFF-WHITE.

credenza, bookshelves, file cabinets, four closets for storage, a couch, and an ottoman for relaxing in front of the television when he needs a break, a half-bath and even a small refrigerator. As a personal touch, the walls are lined with mounted animals from hunting trips around the world, including a Canadian moose, Caribou, and trophy elk.

Lea says the location of the home office really depends on who's using it, and what it's used for. "So much depends on the nature of the work you want to do as to where you position it in relation to other parts of the house."

Interior designer Cheryl Slade of Lafayette, Louisiana, finds that more functional offices are often hidden upstairs—or, in the case of one of her clients, in the basement of an Atlanta house. "His was a place where you really escaped," Cheryl says. That couple has relocated to Mississippi, where basements are rare, so Cheryl is helping them find a "far corner" for the home office.

But she has also designed a full-fledged home office for one client where the computer station is hidden in a corner of the family room, allowing the father to work while surrounded by the rest of the family. When he's not working, the area doesn't look like an office thanks to built-in cabinetry that hides his office space.

Many people turn an extra bedroom into a home office. In a model home at Santa Rosa Golf Villas in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, designer Stephanie designated the first-floor bedroom as

the office. "I kept it pretty simple," she says. She opted for a table desk, a style gaining prominence with the advent of laptop computers, as well as a simple bookshelf for storage and a cozy reading nook in the corner.

The rest of the model home is decorated in coastal colors—mostly blues and greens—and Stephanie added chocolate browns to the color scheme in the office, incorporating darker woods with woven and rattan accents in the furniture. She also used beach-themed accessories to tie in with the home's location.

Cheryl says the quality of the color is more important than the color itself in a home office. "It's a matter of choosing a tone or value that has enough light-reflecting quality to let you see well," she says. "You don't want glare or a workspace that's too dark."

Most of all, a home office should be warm and inviting, as opposed to the sterile environment of many workplaces. "You don't want to feel like you're 'at work,'" Stephanie says.

Some people with home offices use them for other purposes. One of Cheryl's clients, a professor at the University of Lafayette, comes home to his third-floor office and naps in a favorite recliner there. And Dan jokes that his office is also known as his "dog-house" when his wife gets irritated with him. ●

Michelle Roberts Matthews is a freelance writer whose home office consists of a laptop on the kitchen table.