

House Calls

By KATHLEEN HOM

Homeowner

Deborah Crabtree

Neighborhood

Alexandria

Problem

After her original office was torn down for a house renovation, Crabtree converted her 10-by-12-foot sunroom into her new work space. A horticulture student and amateur photographer, Crabtree uses the room to study, print digital photos, grow plants and interview gardening clients. She would like to create a sanctuary, but it's currently full of leftover and broken furniture that "does not function well at all," Crabtree says. She'd like to keep her two cockatiels and their large cage in the room and include new window treatments and storage for books and camera equipment.

Designer

Andrea Houek of A. Houek Designs in Arlington, www.ahouekdesigns.com.

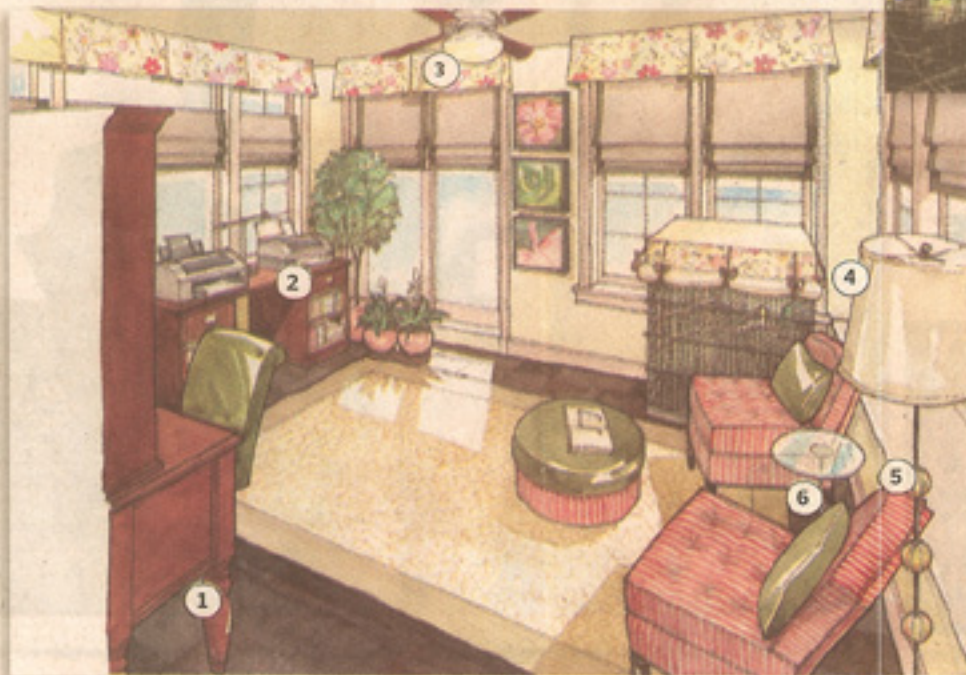
Suggestions

Draw inspiration for the color scheme from Crabtree's pink-and-green photos, which are showcased along one wall. Pick office furnishings that can hide a mess when clients arrive, such as a storage ottoman and a desk with a hutch. Use the fabric from the window treatments to sew a cover for the bird cage. Because Crabtree wants to keep the dark slate floors, paint the walls and ceilings a lighter color to make the room appear larger.

GET A CLOSER LOOK See other recommendations for this room in a photo gallery at washingtonpost.com/housecalls.



Paint: Vanilla Cookie for walls, Peach Pie for trim, Stanhope Yellow for ceiling. All colors from Benjamin Moore.



BEFORE



To control sunlight and minimize glares, put up window shades and valances. Natural woven flat fold shades, top down/bottom up in New Brighton camel with canvas leaf edge binding, from Smith and Noble (www.smithandnoble.com, price varies according to size). Create custom valances in Sorbet from Duralee's Ashberry Transitional Prints collection (www.duralee.com, \$43.90 per yard) and in Kudos in Aloe (27078-4) at Kravet (www.kravet.com, \$37 per yard).

Tie together office and client seating space with a rug. Risque Tufted Frond (\$15.99 per tile), edged in Laurel Velvet Twist (\$15.99 per tile), both from Martha Stewart Floor Designs at Flor (www.flor.com).

Mount photos in box frames. Box frames in black from Image Impact (www.imageimpactinc.com, price varies according to size).

Place a tall hutch against the wall without windows and put printers nearby. Home Office Ensemble three-drawer desk with hutch in antique cherry (\$1,349). Place printers on an Office Designs desk, anchored by one-drawer shelf cabinets in aged pine (\$499). Covington desk chair (\$99.50) can roll on the slate floor. All from Ballard Designs (www.ballarddesigns.com). Desk chair upholstered in Aloe Terrain (23846-315) by Kravet (www.kravet.com, \$39 per yard).



Lighting. Berkeley table lamp in bronze from Ballard Designs (www.ballarddesigns.com, \$129). Panama ceiling fan with Scavo glass, brushed nickel motor and blade finish that matches new desk hutch, available at Casablanca Fan (www.casablancafanco.com, \$433). Globe floor lamp in Aurora with cream silk shade and black powder-coated cast-iron base by Tracy Glover (www.tracygloverstudio.com, \$708).

Create a seating area for clients with chairs, ottoman and table. Hanover slipper chairs available at Ballard Designs (www.ballarddesigns.com, \$499 each). Chairs upholstered in pattern 26278, color 317 (\$29.90 per yard) and pillows custom-made with Urbanna split pea (25586-323, \$33.80 per yard), both from Kravet (www.kravet.com). Mimi storage ottoman upholstered in same fabrics as on chairs from J. Raymond Furniture (www.jraymondffurniture.com, \$429). Tele Table at Umbra (www.umbra.com, \$52.50).