

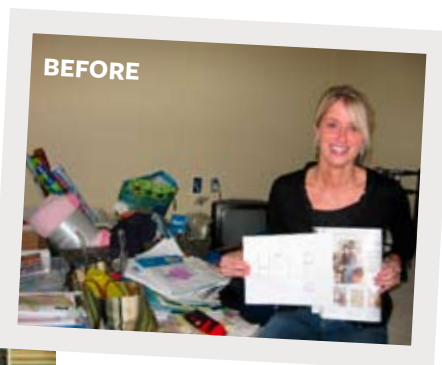


# House Calls

with *Stephen Saint-Onge*

When a reader called for help, Stephen answered. A slipshod room became a put-together work space with personality.

BY JOANNA SMITH  
PHOTOS KELLER + KELLER



## Bare Bones

The room was tangled with wires and piled with paper; a lonely desk was the only piece of furniture. Other than the soothing deep vanilla wall color, the space was so uninviting that homeowner Kristin Halpin avoided it. After business trips, she would drop off boxes of souvenirs in the room, then quickly close the door on the unorganized mishmash.

## To the Rescue

Kristin asked for a room pretty enough that she'd want to be in it, and Stephen delivered with an exciting paint treatment, tons of storage, and a modular desk unit to keep her organized. With the addition of her travel mementos, this home office definitely merits an open-door policy.



### DESK JOB

"I chose a modular desk unit that can grow as needed," says Stephen. The separate base cabinets, corner desk piece, and hutch look like custom furniture and can be reconfigured or added to later. Office Designs Collection, [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)

### EASY PIN PROJECT

For these tailored bulletin boards, Stephen removed the glass and backing from picture frames and cut foam core to fit. He wrapped the foam core with fabric and replaced the frames. Kristin uses them to tack family photos and to-do lists right at eye level.

### HIGH-ROLLER

Kristin likes to be mobile while she's on the phone or on her laptop, so an office chair on wheels was a must. An area rug with a low pile allows for easy rolling. All the electronics in the office are wireless, eliminating pesky cords once and for all. Rug, [lowes.com](http://lowes.com)



#### WORK-IN CLOSET

To give the office a bonus work station, Stephen removed the doors from the closet and installed an inexpensive MDF board at standing height. Paint transformed the unfinished stool, and a seat cushion wrap finishes it. Cushion, [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com)

#### EVERYTHING IN PLACE

In both the closet and the room's main desk area, labeled storage is the key to keeping things tidy and organized. Now, instead of tossing travel receipts and documents on her desk, Kristin can just open a labeled file drawer and drop them in place.

#### CONTINENTAL COLLAGE

Magnetic primer beneath sage green paint turned the back wall of a closet into a tribute to Kristin's travels. Peel-and-stick magnets (found at crafts stores) attached to foreign coins hold up train tickets, maps of Hong Kong, postcards, and currency from almost every continent. Magnetic primer, [rustoleum.com](http://rustoleum.com)

### GO GREEN

This zero-VOC, zero-carcinogen paint doesn't emit harmful gases. Clover Honey 091-3 (dark tone); Vanilla Frost 085-1 (light tone), [mythicpaint.com](http://mythicpaint.com)



#### PAINT PREPSTER

Stephen used painter's tape to mark out stripes, painted every other one a lighter tone of the existing wall color, then peeled away the tape.

#### GREEN CHOICE

Fresh coats of spray paint rescued a thrift-store side table and pair of lamp bases. Reuse is an easy way to be eco-friendly, Stephen says.

#### SHELVE THE SUBJECT

Mounted drawer units earn their wall space by giving a home to sentimental ticket stubs (stashed in the labeled drawers), and a triple-time-zone clock. Shelves, [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)

#### MINI VACATION

"The chaise gives Kristin a place to kick back with her laptop," says Stephen. "Plus, the throw pillows add instant color." Chaise, [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)

For buying information see page 232.



#### OFFICE ASSISTANT

A trip to the local office supply store yielded colorful and feminine folders, note pads, and document boxes. A repainted tray neatly contains binder clips, sticky notes, and other desktop essentials.



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