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A PRIVATE HOME OFFICE

BY HUNTER & COMPANY
INTERIOR DESIGN

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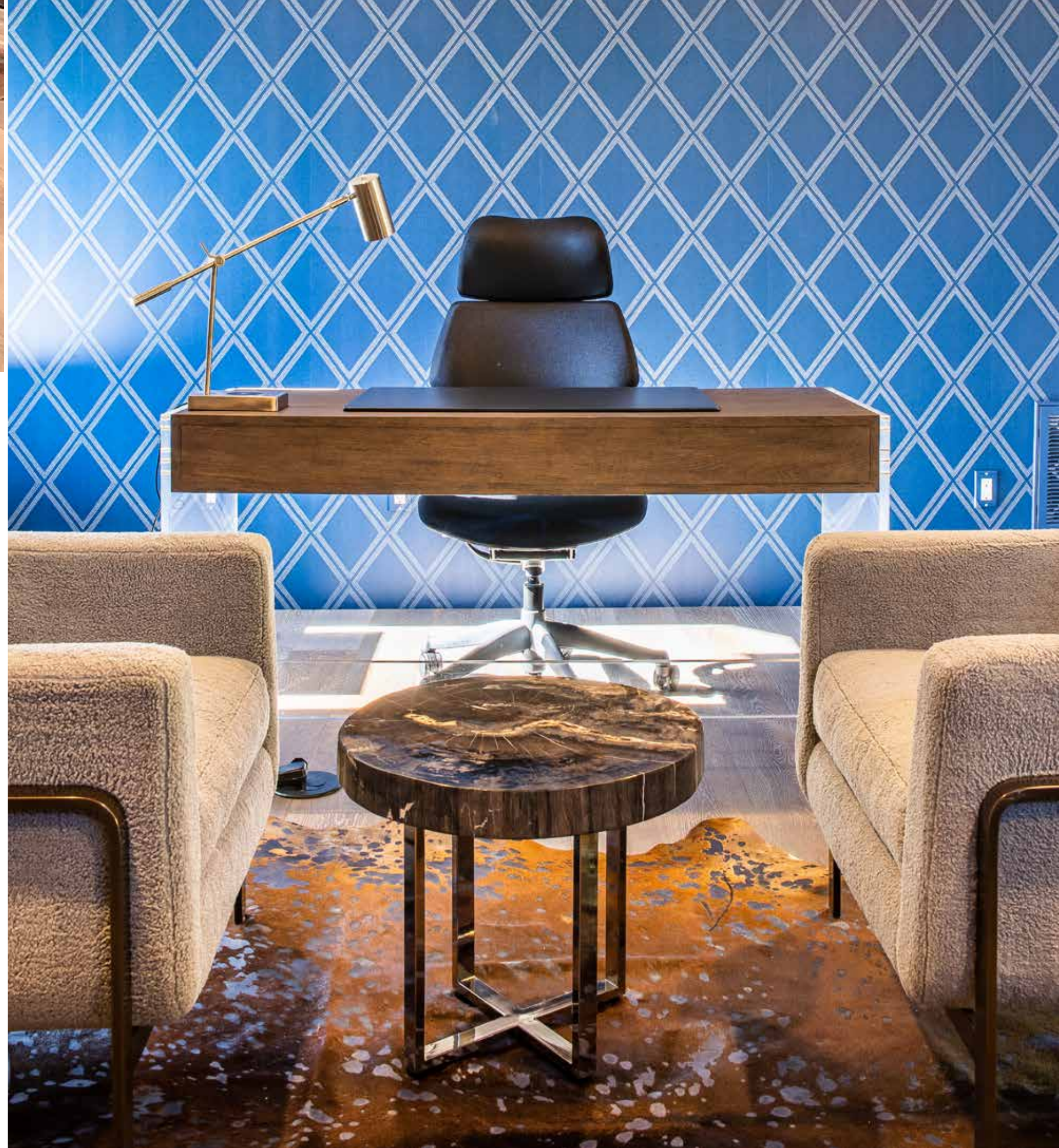
—Hunter Dominick, Founder, Hunter & Company Interior Design

Mountain modern homes are luxurious and clean, but where does one go when they need to close a door to work? Homeowners can create alcoves in the kitchen or mudroom, but the open flow of a contemporary home can pose a challenge when trying to take a private Zoom call or log into virtual school. Although modern floorplans support the ease of modern living, the pandemic unearthed a new need for a formal home office. Whitefish-based Hunter & Company Interior Design takes us through a contemporary one designed for productivity and warmth.

Nestled among the trees with views of Whitefish Lake, the overall vision for the home was inspired by bold patterns and clean lines. The style is contemporary mountain modern, but it departs from the traditional gray color palette with more adventurous colors. Wallpaper creates an individual identity for each room while also creating continuity and flow throughout the entire house. For his home office, the client desired a space away from the rest of the house that was quiet and where he could truly work. He also wanted to be able to have private conversations in a cozy space.

The goal for this particular home office was to design something visually clean but that did not feel too sterile. It needed to have some seating and a free-floating desk facing out. The homeowner also needed a television. Hunter & Co. brought in chairs and a chaise to create a warm space where people could gather and created continuity with a strong element of midnight blue wallpaper.

The home office is on the second level of the house, partially above the garage. “It’s like a treehouse in the woods,” says Hunter Dominick, founder and lead designer of Hunter & Co. “It has a lot of light and feels like a private getaway.” She continues, “Our goal was to capture the texture of wood floors. We brought in a cut hide rug that underwent a contemporary process that makes it look like it has been stained or washed. We used nubby texture fabric on the chairs with metal suspension and houndstooth for the pillows that added texture. The wallpaper anchors the space and creates that feeling of coziness.” It is one of Hunter’s favorite parts of the room.





Although the house itself was originally intended as a vacation home, like many, COVID-19 propelled the homeowners into living there more than they'd initially planned. It went from being a space where theoretically work could be done to one where daily business had to happen. Hunter explains that the beauty of the space is that it is a home office, but it is also multifunctional. A lucite charging station sits adjacent to the desk because the client wanted a clean, uncluttered workspace. On the other side of the seating area are French doors that open up to a home gym.

"A home office that opens up to the home gym is a unique adjacency," Hunter says. "It works well in this house, but it's not a connection we frequently think of when we think of a home office." Here, when the French doors are opened up, it expands the office and increases the functionality of the space.

The utilitarian nature of a home office cannot be overstated in today's world. "Now more than ever, we're renovating homes to have a space where someone can work remotely help their child with online classes," Hunter shares. "The modern architecture and design movement over the past five years has focused on open, lifestyle-focused spaces. We've taken out walls to create larger environments for gathering, but there is no privacy in that model. We've seen that trend flip now, particularly since the pandemic. Where we evolved from traditional homes to more open, mountain modern style homes, we're now melding them

back together. Kitchens have the option to open up, but they don't instantly place you in the living room. Every family is different and every person has different preferences, but COVID-19 seems to have triggered a new trend where we're seeing more defined rooms with doors you can close."

Ultimately, the home office has to be a place of form and function. It has to flow with the rest of the home and also provide an environment where one can be inspired to excel professionally. In this home office, Hunter & Co. integrated color throughout for a refreshing take on mountain modern. The view focuses on the lake, and the lasting impression is sleek, clean, and organic.

Hunter & Co. has been providing full-service interior design to the Flathead Valley for over 20 years. Hunter finds inspiration from the environment around her. From Whitefish to Glacier National Park, to her love of eclectic and antique pieces, her style is a mixture of combining the old with the new. Hunter & Co.'s work fills the gap between interiors and architecture, creative and technical. The team gets to know their clients and their stories and brings it all to life through their interior architecture and design selections, texture, and color. ■ whj

For more information, visit hunterinterior.com or call 406.862.1402.

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