

My top 5 organising tips...

1. Tidy your work space at the end of each day. Put work tools away so that you can start afresh the next time.
2. Storage is paramount. You don't have to spend a fortune though. Cover old boxes with decorative papers and use jam jars for small items so that you can see exactly what you've got.
3. Clothes pegs glued to a length of painted wood and screwed to the wall is perfect for photos and papers that you don't want cluttering up your desk.
4. Vintage baskets are great for storing fabrics, yarn and ribbons and they're easy to move around as well.
5. Label, label, label! Use parcel tags to write on and attach to boxes so that you know at a glance exactly what's inside.



Photography Sharisse Eberlein



Q&A

with Alison Norris-Baber of Agnes Coy

Why does this office space work so well for you?
 Even though there is very obviously a work space and a display section to my studio, it is still open plan so customers can see where I work and the fabrics and materials I'm working with.

An office needs to be inspirational and reflect the person it's for. Does yours?

For me to create, I need to surround myself with materials that make my heart beat a little faster such as old mother of pearl buttons, antique French linens, photos of forgotten people and embroidered cloths.

All of these are on show and stored in glass fronted cabinets or open shelving which I have made myself from old nail boxes painted and lined with pages from tattered books. Labelled cardboard trays house old lines and lace; and lengths of peg boards hold my patterns and inspirational papers in place.

The key thing to think about when planning your office space is?

Try to think ahead. How will you be using the space in 5 years time? My first studio was inside our little 1910 cottage. I soon outgrew it!

The best part about working from home is?

Your home is the backdrop to your life and living and running a business from here works for me. I do have to be quite strict with myself about work and home boundaries though. It's so easy to work long into the night, especially when it's a space that you love.

For more from Alison visit www.agnescoy.co.nz or phone 06 379 6693

"I fill my studio with fresh flowers, burn gentle oils, play music or perhaps have an old black and white film running in the background. My space reflects the work that I do - it's very much a sensory experience for me."

