

Kristina

Marburg

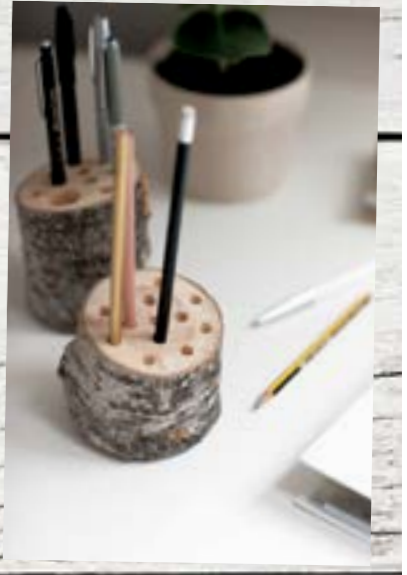
'Living and working on my own terms in this creative space is energising' Kristina

Kristina (32) has learned to embrace change. She used to work as an optician but missed being creative. So she trained as an architect, then realised she wanted to be her own boss. 'Years ago I found a motto that says: "If you do something you love, you'll never work a day in your life".' Now, after working with a women's self-help group and discovering an interest in sustainable design, Kristina's turned her passion for interiors into her work. 'The quote is true - I wake up in the morning and I'm excited!'

Her second-floor, 160m² apartment in Marburg, central Germany, is both home and office so it has to work for both purposes, which can be a challenge. 'I enjoy the fact that sometimes I can stay in my pyjamas, or I can put the washing machine on in the afternoon. But when you're self-employed, it's just as important to make sure you start working as it is to know when to stop!'

But with balance, becoming her own boss and working in her own home has provided many advantages. 'Now, whether I want to make a lamp or design a restaurant or run a workshop, I know I can do it my way.' live's Miranda Thompson finds out how Kristina has created a space that feeds her creativity... →

PHOTOGRAPHY BEN ROBERTSON STYLING LAURENT LABORIE WORDS MIRANDA THOMPSON



Creating a productive workspace 'I need the area to be calm and tidy. I use boxes to store paperwork and small things I use regularly on my desk. This room is in the eaves and has limited wall space so I've clipped plastic storage trays to the desk leg to make use of the space under the desk. White storage makes everything look tidier, but to spark inspiration, I hang all of my samples on some garden trellis.' ● HELMER drawer unit on castors 28x69 white [102-510-45] €xx Try LINNMON table top 200x60 white [802-511-41] €xx ADILS leg white [902-179-72] €xx





Making a warm open-plan living room 'The sofa is at the heart of the living room. I wanted something big to sink into – curling up on it feels like a hug! I've used lights to create warmth; I hide them in every room – under the TV, in the corner, by a bench... I didn't want to close the kitchen off from the living area so I have the bar and stools as a link between the spaces. It keeps the space open and means friends can join me when I cook.' ● **SIGURD** bench 110 white [602-011-52] €xx **KIVIK** so3 + chaise longue Dansbo dark grey [698-969-92] €xx



'The stairs up to my flat are a little rickety and it's a long way up, but every time I reach the top I feel great – not tired at all. Being up here is like living in the treetops...'

When I was looking for a place to rent, I found this flat in a city magazine. It was the first place I viewed. It wasn't perfect-looking, but I fell in love the moment I saw it. I painted it all white – it had green walls before, I like green but not that much! And I removed the doors to give it a loft feeling. The furniture is a real mix – stuff I rescued from the trash, that I made myself, or from IKEA.

I live on my own but my boyfriend David drives 130 kilometres to stay a few nights a week. I like time on my own but love having him around too. He's the only person I like to talk to about my work.

I do have a lot of space up here. But I shared a room with my little sister until I was 15 and now I find I need my space, especially for my design projects. At the moment, I'm making a picture using old dishes for a client. I always think there is a heart and soul in old things, and that it's my duty to use them.

I don't like it when people start afresh and throw everything out. I tried to be sympathetic to the history of this place, while still creating a space that was practical and functional. I opened up the awkward eaves, added hidden lamps to illuminate the walls, removed door frames so the space flows and created a light, well-organised space where I can work on my 'experiments'. But I kept the big, beautiful round window the main focus of the room – it's the showstopper! →

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This apartment is like a grown-up's treehouse. When I take a break and lie on my terrace all I can see are the trees and the sky. I love to bring those greens and blues inside, it makes me feel like I'm always on holiday – which is a great feeling to have in a place where you work and live!

Evening is my favourite time of day. I like the quiet. When I'm working in the evening there's no emails coming in and the phone stops ringing, so I can really focus on what I'm doing. In my business, it's important that I often take time off. If I worked like the customer wanted I would never stop! I always celebrate this time with a magazine and cake – I'll go to the bakery and pick my favourite – and I'll relax on my sofa or bed or in the bath.

Although it's difficult for me to switch off from work, I have tried to create some areas where I can re-energise and recharge after a long day. My bathroom has a different atmosphere to the rest of the apartment. I wanted to use it like a spa, so I created what I like to call a 'wellness area'. There's a great big bath. I chose to display my towels rolled up on a shelf – it makes me feel like I'm visiting a hotel – and helps me to feel far removed from my work when I'm finished for the day.

Calming colours in my bedroom help to promote a sense of relaxation. The muted grey, blue and green colours create a simple and unfussy area where I can escape to unwind. I like that it's a space that's not just for sleeping; I can curl up with a book on my bed or just sit and look out the window at the trees. ■

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● **GÄSPA** pvc 50x60 turquoise [802-304-79] €xx **KARIT** bdsprd+2 cshn cvr 260x280/40x60 grey [502-293-97] €xx **MOLGER** bench birch [402-414-51] €xx **MOLGER** storage stool birch [702-414-59] €xx **GODMORGON** wash-std w 2 drws 100x47x58 high-gloss grey [702-231-39] €xx **SAXSKÄR** bath mat 57x57 turquoise/multicolour [702-253-60] €xx **IKEA PS** cabinet 119x63 white [102-514-51] €xx

