

four rooms in one!

Maximize function the sustainable way.

BY ALEGRE RAMOS

Designer Alegre Ramos used green materials to transform this 9-x-11-foot space into an attractive office, meeting and planning area—and lounge.



I NEEDED MY 9-BY-11-FOOT OFFICE TO WORK as my design space, a meeting room for clients, a storage area for materials and documents, and as a lunch area for myself and my employees. In order to achieve all these things I decided to:

FOREGO A DESK.

Desks take up a lot of space and are so formal. I wanted to have a more intimate meeting space for my clients, so I set up the area like a living room. I put a large credenza against the back wall, and it serves the same purpose as a desk would.

INSTALL CORK WALLS.

I applied cork tiles on the wall for two reasons. First, they provide sound insulation and therefore privacy to the space. Secondly, they create a vertical working space for current projects. I can pin up fabric, photos—whatever I want. I simply delineate a space with some string or ribbon for each project and away I go!

USE MULTIFUNCTIONAL FURNITURE.

I have two vintage Lucite stools that can be grouped together to form a coffee table, split up to be side tables or even sat on. This allows me to get up to six people seated in the small space. Their see-through looks take up next to no visual space in the room.

CHOOSE PROPORTIONED FURNISHINGS.

The furniture (all vintage) was chosen as much for its size as for its style. I didn't want the space to feel overwhelmed by furniture.

what makes this green?

ALEGRE RAMOS is an allied member of ASID, a LEED-accredited professional and a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, as well as creator of Green and Greener

(find home goods, clothing, pet products and more at green-and-greener.com), so she literally makes it her business to use eco-friendly materials.

- The non-toxic silver paint (from Sydney Harbor) uses mica instead of lead to make it metallic.
- The curtains are made from

tencel hemp fabric.

- All furniture is vintage; the couch is recovered in a color-grown organic cotton (no dye has been applied).
- On the rest of the walls is insulating, sound-buffering, sustainable cork.
- Below the cork, the “wainscoting” is actually old vinyl blinds cut and applied

vertically to the wall.

- The wood trim is certified sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and coated with a non-toxic stain that you could drink!
- The existing concrete floors were polished.
- Ceiling tiles are fully recyclable and green-guard certified.