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MAUREEN FOOTER

DESIGNS on the corner office

We asked three interior designers to create offices referencing their executive clientele and shifting office "dress" codes. What you'll see is function and style without a mahogany lateral file in sight.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY THIBAUT JEANSON

While Maureen Footer made the career leap from banking to design in the 1980s, her Wall Street résumé still comes in handy, and not just for cash-flow statements: her clientele includes many in the upper tiers of finance. With a staff of up to 10 employees, she juggles six full-scale projects a year, each budgeted between \$250,000 and \$4 million. Since 2005, her firm has shown a steady 25 percent annual growth rate, with current revenues of "a million-plus," she says.

Footer experiments with design ideas at show houses in New York. When developing a concept room, she often focuses on a hypothetical client—here, Dolly Lenz, vice chairman of Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate, a friend and colleague.

The office design reflects both Lenz's success and her interests. Sleek midcentury Saarinen chairs are paired with a gilt-edged Louis XIV-style desk. In one corner, Italian marble samples artfully set in a vertical frame counterpoint a 1710 wool-and-silk tapestry.

Footer says that most of her office commissions come from clients who know she'll incorporate antiques into the overall design. "But I always use antiques in an updated way," she says. "For example, mixed with architectural furniture for a modern approach. You want to send the message that you're forward thinking."

Designer Maureen Footer checks final details in the executive office she created for *ForbesLife Executive Woman*. Mallett Antiques' Boulle-style desk; Saarinen table and swivel chairs; Bertioia stainless steel chairs; Chinese Porcelain Company French bergère chairs, signed Jacob (foreground); F.J. Hakimian berber carpet; Steuben crystal. An 18th-century Aubusson tapestry provides a rich backdrop. Resources page 115.