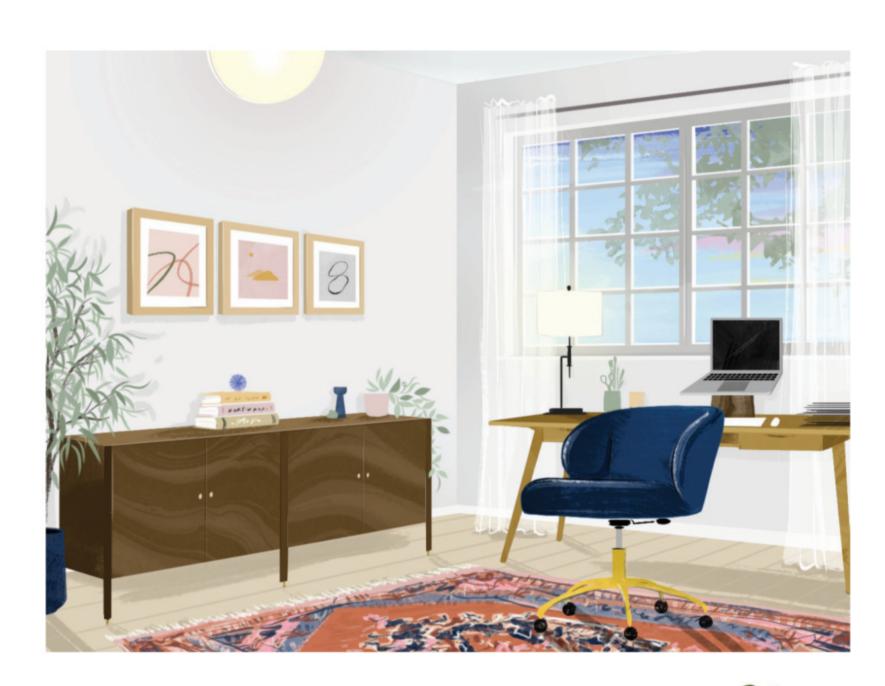Room Rx

Design a Zoom Room

INTERIOR DESIGNER AMY SKLAR SHOWS HOW TO CREATE A SPACE THAT LOOKS GOOD…AND MAKES YOU LOOK GOOD.

By Leslie Corona

Q:

I'm struggling to find a spot in my office for Zoom meetings. How can I make the area attractive for video calls?
—*Nayomi, homeowner in Portland, Oregon*

1

CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIGHT

At night, use a lamp with a white drum shade and soft, warm LED bulb (look for a color temp around 2,700K). It will cast a pleasant glow, whereas overhead lighting and exposed bulbs can be harsh. During the day, sheer curtains can diffuse bright light. **TO BUY:** Atticus Metal Table Lamp, $179; potterybarn.com.

2

HANG ART, BUT KEEP IT SIMPLE

Find a balance between walls that are too barren and ones that are too busy. Artwork with a lot going on may distract your Zoom mates. If you can, avoid placing a bookshelf directly behind your desk, which can also pull focus. **TO BUY:** *In Between the Lines of Elegance* by Morgan Harper Nichols, from $44; society6.com.

3

PICK A PLEASING COMPUTER STAND

Do yourself a huge favor and raise the height of your laptop or desktop to slightly above eye level. It won't just save your neck and shoulders—it will show your face at its best angle. Invest in a nice-looking stand or just make a stack of art books. **TO BUY:** Wooden Macbook Stand, from $159; yohann.com.

4

GO GREEN

Indoor trees and hanging plants can add life and color to a bland corner. Keep it low-maintenance by selecting artificial foliage— you'll never run the risk of a sad, wilting plant appearing on camera. **TO BUY:** Faux Potted Eucalyptus Tree, $199; cb2.com.

Submit your own design dilemmas to **room.rx@realsimple.com.**

Illustration by Babeth Lafon