

In this attic space, shelves were built in around large windows to accommodate an extensive book collection. Wall sconces were added above the windows to supplement natural light.

Like the guest room, the loft space will already be running on the home's existing electrical wiring and heating and cooling systems and will very likely already be decorated, so you will have fewer issues to face in this conversion than you would with an unfinished attic or basement space. The office loft space has its drawbacks, though. The openness of the loft will leave you aware of the rest of the goings-on in the house, so if you are easily distracted, this space will not be appropriate for you. On the other hand, if you want a sense of community, the loft space may be your best bet.

■ *Attics and Basements*

Attics and basements are often overlooked as possible choices for general living spaces because they are often dim, damp, drafty, and good only for storage purposes. But take another look. Your attic or basement has the potential to be the ideal spot for your new home office.

Both rooms have special characteristics that make them good options. For example, if you're looking to be set apart from the rest of the home, both the attic and the basement, as the uppermost and lowest areas of the home, are hard-to-beat locations. With its sloping roofline and under-the-eaves nooks typical in most house styles, the attic possesses some of the most charming architecture in the home. The basement usually has a separate entrance. And because both of these areas are typically unfinished, they

