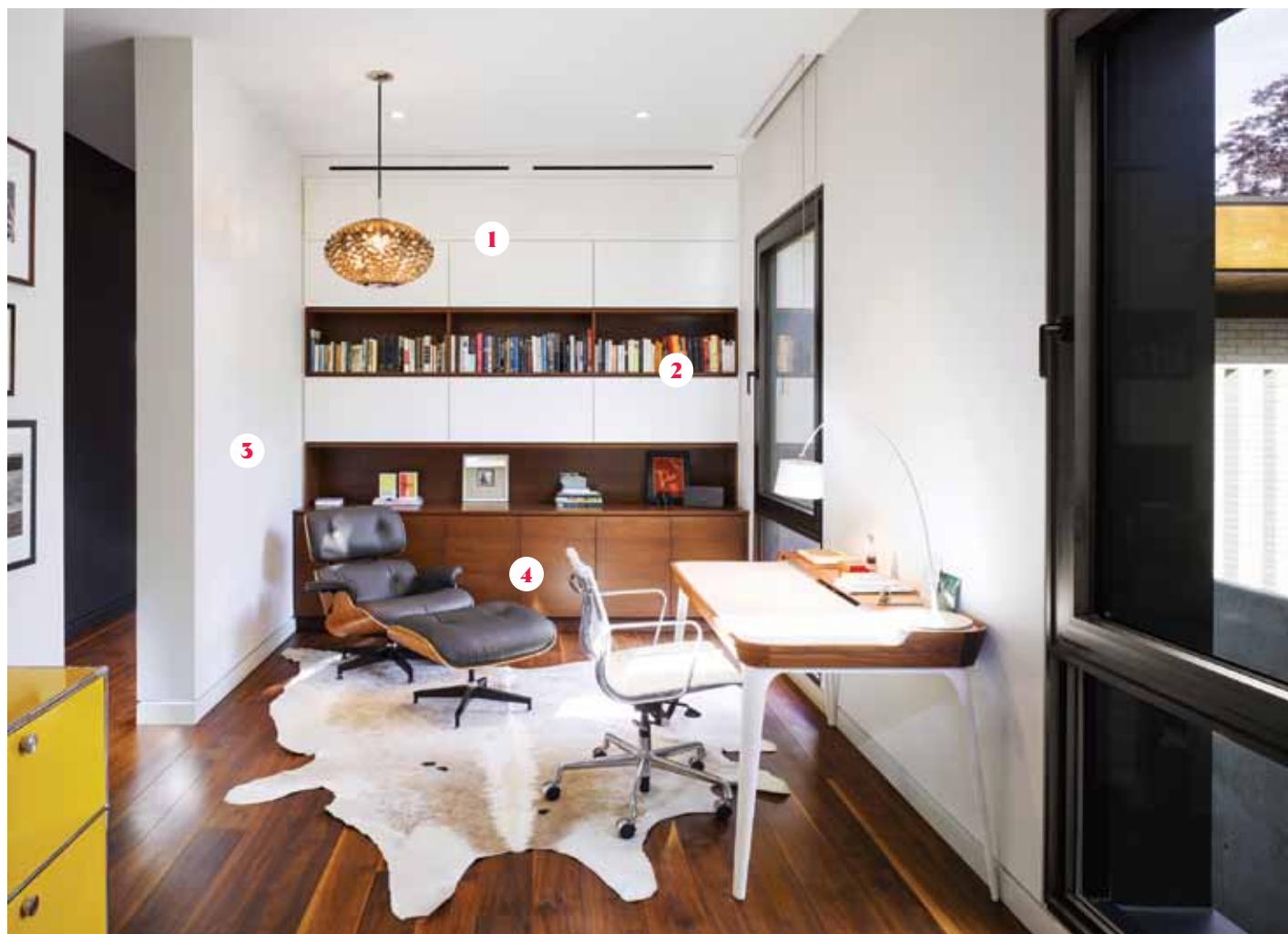


# Booked up

Easy to style built-ins make for a mean, modern library **BY TATUM DOOLEY**



**Styling a bookcase** can be an exercise of monotony — rows upon rows of books can easily overtake a small space. Deborah Wang, senior architectural designer at superkül, knows how to make an office space as practical as it is swoon-worthy. Here she breaks down her award-winning design solution with four great tips for making a crisp, inviting home library.

**1** Clean white walls and cabinets paired with darker wood finishes create a classic, perennially stylish mid-century-modern vibe. The white walls work double duty, allowing for both natural and artificial light to bounce through the space, creating an inviting atmosphere.

**2** The alternating pattern of open-shelves and closed-off storage creates a grid system that's aesthetically pleasing to the eye and highly functional: printers, a/v equipment, and knick-knacks can be hidden

away, while your favourite reads remain elegantly on display. By interspersing open-faced shelves in between cabinets, the design avoids being monolithic.

**3** An empty wall perpendicular to the bookcase ensures that the space doesn't feel too cluttered. This works especially well with the reading chair, nestled into the corner. The graceful lines of an Eames lounge in particular create a sense of restrained opulence—the chair acts as an artful focal point in and of itself.

**4** By building the bottom cabinets deeper than the top shelves, Wang was able to increase the sense of depth by further defining the space at the back of the wall. The expanded-cabinets help provide a sense of the office's depth. By breaking the cabinets into six sections, Wang was able to safeguard against doors that protrude into the space when opened. The upper cabinets flip up for easy access.