

EXECUTIVE STYLE OFFICE

Welcoming Signs



Comfort Zone:
Tami Halton Pardee at
real estate brokerage
Halton Pardee + Partners'
office in Venice.

TAMI Halton Pardee, owner and principal broker of Venice's **Halton Pardee + Partners**, has sold more than \$2 billion worth of residential and commercial real estate since launching the business in 2005. But when it comes to her workspace, the "residential" side of her personality wins out.

"I wanted it to be like a little house," Pardee said, enjoying a recent sunny morning at an airy office the company has occupied on Abbot Kinney Boulevard since 2011. Halton Pardee also has an office in Santa Monica and is opening a Mar Vista outpost later this year.

"We sell homes, so I didn't want it to feel like an office," Pardee said. "I wanted an open vibe. I wanted people to be in communication. I did not want a corporate feel."

Pardee, 45, said she shudders at the word "corporate."

"A corporate environment gives me major anxiety," she said. "I feel like my creativity is totally stifled."

Her energetic manner and ready laugh belie the fact that she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis just over 16 years ago. The diagnosis is a big reason Pardee tries to "enjoy every moment," which to her means working in a friendly space where employees feel free to bring a pet, cook lunch, relax after business hours with wine or beer, and dress for comfort.

"When people start feeling comfortable, they let their guard down," she said.

The family-friendly vibe is also evidenced by the frequent appearance of Pardee's four

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children at the office, where she puts them to work serving coffee and answering phones. The young entrepreneurs also set up a lemonade stand outside the office in the summer, donating the proceeds to charity.

While much of the office is designed to look like a home, its white oak ceilings hold a special place in Pardee's heart.

"When I was little, I had wood ceilings like this in my room, so I wanted them in my office," said Pardee, who also made sure to include "big, sparkly" light fixtures so the space would feel "girly and feminine and glamorous."

"I'm a woman. I'm not a man," Pardee said. "I'm not trying to be a man. I'd rather be me."

— Diane Haithman



Wall signs: Pardee spotted the “peace & love” sign at a boutique during a ski trip to Aspen, Colo. “I want to be with things that ... make me light up, and that literally makes me light up.”



Rooster painting: Purchased at charity auction for the Boys and Girls Club of Venice. Pardee said the painting, made by a teenager, reminds her not to be a “jerk,” noting there’s another term for a rooster.



Bell: The bell is rung “when we close a big deal. I just like to acknowledge everyone.”



Bailey’s Rules: “I like them because they are so simple and kind and how we should all live,” Pardee said. “Have fun is the first one and that is the most basic. I do that every day.”



Lakehouse sign: Found at Venice’s popular Abbott Kinney Festival about six years ago, it inspires her to keep working hard to buy such a home someday.