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Home away from Home

By Lisa Marsh

FRANKLY FRANKLIN : "It's all Ikea furniture," explained cost-consciousness interior designer, Elizabeth Franklin.

You'd expect the headquarters of the Franklin Report, the Bible for New York's top interior designers, painters, contractors and the like, to be decorated in a tasteful super-posh fashion.

Well, think again. Publisher Elizabeth Franklin believes in value over everything else, and most of the office is decorated by, well, Ikea.

"It's all Ikea furniture, except for the Knoll rice-paper wall dividers," Franklin said. The cost of the kitchen cabinetry: \$430, without appliances.

This cost-consciousness extends to Franklin's own office, which is very chicly decorated, but on the cheap.

The leopard-print rug in her office is an ABC Carpet remnant, and the chandelier is also a leftover.

"The chandelier was the most disgusting green you've ever seen," Franklin said. "My nanny and I spent six hours painting it

and then threw on some silk lampshades."

While it vastly improved the chandelier, the nanny's life course was also altered.

"My nanny ended up going to the finest faux painting school - Isabelle O'Neill," Franklin explained. "It changed her life literally."

The office's toile pillows, green sofa, flowers and crystal bowl, however, are definitely more upscale.

"The sofa and chairs are very fine, from Mariette Himes Gomez," she said of the antique French sofa and English chairs."

The office's walls, however, are bare and probably will remain that way.

"There's usually 1,000 small notes up there," she said. "Between New York and Los Angeles, redoing my own apartment and taking care of my two kids, what's necessary is the approach here."