

The Man Cave



Written by Erik Tormoen • Photography by Summerset Studio

A garage nestled between trees on a tight lake property, where the natural sounds of Buffalo, Minnesota, meet the growl and rev of powersports, has been furnished to masculine splendor by Jeff Murphy, owner of Murphy & Co. Design.

"I did design the garage myself," professes

Murphy. But the 24x42 space defies that suburban term, "garage." With as much wiring as a normal house, plumbing to boot, and an upper-level kitchenette, Murphy's creation is more like a 1 1/2-story man cave.

"The garage floor tiles are by 'RaceDeck,'" he says, explaining the professional sheen



The original 12x20 garage.

of the checkerboard flooring. Along with the stainless steel countertops and prevalent fluorescent lighting, it produces an effect sure to make any motor enthusiast envious.

The cave sports a separate entrance for snowmobiles, with traction mats and ski guides to protect the flooring.

Washing the vehicles is made easy by an 8'-long trench drain that swallows up the suds.

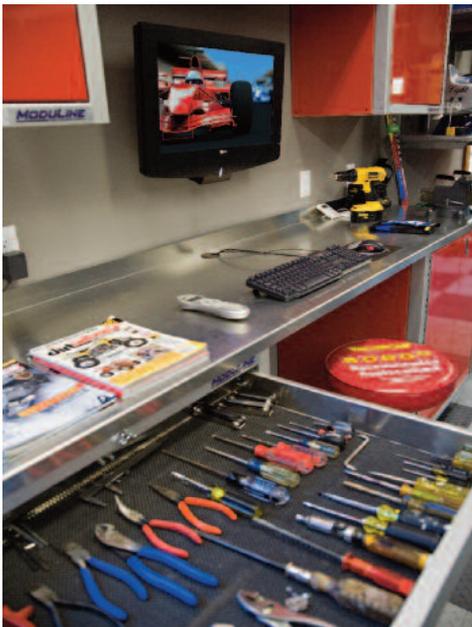
And, after washing up or using the fueling station, one finds the bathroom sink is built into an empty 55-gallon barrel, once full of VP racing fuel. Surrounding are two rear-view mirrors taken from a 1950's car. Clearly, Murphy finds value in authenticity.





A television and computer monitor on the main level is tied into the electronics system of the main house nearby, connected via two underground conduits 4" in diameter. This permits TiVo in the man cave, along with the entire workings of Murphy's computer network.

It's all protected by an electronic keypad lever lock (making lost keys a thing of the past), and though the cave's cedar exterior may look disarmingly quaint, there are three security cameras on constant vigil.



Going upstairs, one passes what Murphy calls the “art wall.”

“It’s a wall of bulletin board that the kids can add newly completed art work, awards and pictures to over the years,” he says.

This is a prelude to the game room and theater area upstairs; the two combine to create a teenager’s dream haven.

The theater area alone features eight speakers, a 65” television, a custom-made entertainment center and, of course, a spacious couch.

This doesn’t include the game room, where a 42” plasma television, 10” ceiling speakers and a stand-up arcade game provide ever more entertainment.

To top it off, all the shine, flare and design is hinted at by a subtle fixture that takes you in before you’ve even stepped through



the front door: a *Dukes of Hazzard* air-horn system is tied to the doorbell.

A man could hibernate well in Murphy’s cave.

