



ROY INMAN | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Yes, there's such thing as a stylish man cave, complete with electronics galore, game tables, comfortable furniture, interactive lighting and books.

NO NEANDERTHAL HAD A CAVE LIKE THIS

The idea of a “man cave” is on the surface quite simple, but what it offers can become very complex.

The cave offers sanctuary. Is he in dutch with the wife? Hiding from his mother-in-law? Or just escaping to watch the game?

Once in the cave it's anyone's guess how long he'll stay, so it is important to furnish it with cutting-edge electronics, plenty of games and comfortable furniture.

The client wanted, in his words, a “techno-industrial-themed man cave.”

So his first call was to Janet Young, now with A-V Design Studio in Overland Park. She designed the ultimate home theater using a high-definition projector and a 100-inch screen.

The system can source content from no less than 10 devices, including a Sony PS3, an Xbox, a DVR, a turntable, a VCR, a



tape deck, an FM tuner and three state-of-the-art gaming computers built by the client's teenage son. It can switch high-definition video between three screens and the projector. The computers can be used for gaming, recording studio work or web surfing.

Two computer screens placed on a table double as side-by-side gaming stations and a recording studio. Recording equipment includes three electric guitars, two basses, a keyboard, electronic drums, amplifiers, a mixer and an upright antique piano. The stage lights over a pool table make use of programmable multicolored LEDs that react to sound and dance to a beat.

A huge, intimidating bundle of exposed wires runs from the computer table to a column, disappear into the structure and reappear at the audio-visual rack. The electronic components are exposed on a metal AV tower, allowing for access and

upgrades, and add to the techno theme.

The color scheme was influenced by a U2 print from the band's 2005 Vertigo Tour which the client attended. The grays, blacks and reds from the print translated to chrome, black leather furniture, black granite and black equipment. Splashes of red are brought in with pillows and an intense red abstract painting by local artist Frank Kuzava.

The FLOR tiles bring carpet into the basement but allow for easy clean up for spills and drying out after basement water leaks. All the tiles are navy, but a random mix of five textures contrasts with the sleek equipment.

A variety of seating options is important for comfort levels and activities. Leather recliners with footstools, a sofa and Fatboy bean bags face the TV screen. High bar stools and tall tables surround the pool table. A game table and chairs are close to the foosball table. And leather desk chairs sit in front of the

computer screens.

The fireplace needed a facelift, so the hearth was enlarged to provide additional seating. It was clad in sparkling glass tile. Steve Austin of Austin Iron Works in Kansas City took my original simple idea and created a fabulous raw steel surround with a stainless screen that slides up and disappears inside the structure — his own engineering feat.

To allow for a respite from the computers, TVs and band equipment, about 200 linear feet of shelving runs the perimeter and contains science fiction, comics and history books.

With a man cave like this, it would be easy for a guy to stay down there for days. But it has been known to host a sister's sleepovers and movie nights, and may host Mom's charity meetings.

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