

# 'MAN CAVE' ready for fall entertainment

BY MEGHAN GILL  
For the Herald

"There is a poker table and a full wet bar that is fully stocked with over 30 bottles of booze," he said. "The walls have custom-made wood panels about three feet up from the ground and are sheetrocked to the ceiling. There are also shelves along the walls so people that are standing away from the bar can rest their beers." Some memorabilia in his man cave include the leg lamp from the movie "A Christmas Story." Like the mannequin, the man cave masquerade, a suit of armor, a Yankee Stadium SONOS, and Hulu as well as other web apps designed to deliver streaming media.

Susan J. Smith, owner and creative director of Rooms that Work, LLC, a home staging and interior design resource based in Andover Township, says, "The man cave should incorporate his favorite hobbies, sport teams, music, past accomplishments, really anything that reminds him of who he was and who he wants to become. This is a place for him to let his imagination and dreams run a bar and surround system," said Chris Sacchiero, owner of Sight and Sound Audio Video in Newton. One of the latest trends in home theater is ease of use. "People don't want 10 remotes." Sacchiero uses Home Theater Master, a universal remote system that incorporates screen, sound, Internet, lighting, home automation and music deserve a special place, too," she said.

Photos by Dan Frel/New Jersey Herald - Below: Steve Catone, left, sits in his custom-built "man cave" in the basement of his Rockaway Township home with friend Jason Baran, who designed and built the room. The "cave" includes two TVs, with outlets for a third, a card table and a full wet bar. Above right: An "open man sign" sits on his bar. Right: A wall dedicated to the New York Yankees is in Steve Catone's "man cave." Below right: A mannequin dressed in a Houston Oilers uniform is near the bar.



A far cry from primitive caves with fire and etchings on the walls where humans have sought refuge from the elements, the man cave is the space usually located in basements, garages or spare room of a home. Essential components of the man cave are a state-of-the-art home theater system, including a big-screen television, comfortable seating, pool or poker table, bar area, and a convenient location for beverages and snacks. With the 2011 football season kicking off, local sports fans are thinking about their man caves.

"When my wife and I bought the house, I had one condition, from the threshold of the door to the basement down is my domain. I told her you can decorate the rest of the house with pink walls and flowers but the basement is mine. She agreed," said Steve Catone, of Rockaway.

Catone's man cave has a "Welcome to Steve's Man Cave" sign in the entryway. The room is tiled, with a cozy area rug, two leather couches and two flat screen TVs are set up, and a third TV is brought in for football season.

## Stocking the Home Bar

(MS) When outfitting the home bar, here are the essentials to have on hand to make most of the common drinks a person can find in bars and restaurants.

### Liquors

Amarretto, various Schnapps (apple, peppermint, etc.), vermouth, triple sec, and Irish cream

### Liquors

Light rum, gin, brandy, bourbon, vodka, tequila, and whiskey

### Beer

Foreign & domestic

### Mixers

Sour mix, water, club soda, cola, lemon-lime soda, orange juice, tomato juice, tonic water, ginger ale, cranberry juice, and pineapple juice

### Garnishes

Bitters, black pepper, cocktail olives, limes, lemons, oranges, genadine, maraschino cherries, salt, sugar, and Tabasco sauce

## Ten

# MAN CAVE tips

1. Before beginning the design, agree on a budget. Your marriage is worth it.
2. Use his favorite colors. When in doubt, remember that darker colors hide more dirt.
3. A strategically placed area rug over carpet gives double protection and creates a nice zone.
4. Must have a chair that is more comfortable than attractive. And big.
5. TV. Bigger = better.
6. Don't forget the mini-fridge and recycle container.
7. Store stereo and pre-marital music collection in milk crates.
8. Use open storage so he knows what is where without having to ask you. Bookcases are ideal.
9. Brag wall for photos, concert posters, certificates, favorite sport team paraphernalia etc. (note: paint a wall with magnetic paint — cheaper and more flexible than framing individual items).
10. And the most important design rule of all: He's baring his soul and should not be mocked. It's his tree house and girls aren't allowed.

Courtesy of Susan J. Smith, owner and creative director of Rooms that Work, LLC

