

# L

LUXURY LIVING  
MANHATTAN TO MONTAUK

**Port Jefferson**  
*Waterfront Charm*

*Restaurant*  
**ReInventions**

*2015's* **LUXURY AUTOS**

# Spirit <sup>of</sup> Giving

**MARLO THOMAS**

Actress • Philanthropist • Author





*David Scott Interiors brings the ocean yet even closer in the home theater of a Southampton beach house where the "floating" recliners, porthole-like sconces, teak wood and sky blue ceiling give it the look and feel of a yacht. Photo by Michael Moran.*

# DESIGNING THE MAN CAVE

## Amid His Favorite Things: A Perfect Place To Chill

By Arlene Gross

Sometimes you don't have to go very far when you want to get away from it all. In fact, you might actually never have to leave home. With your very own man cave, escape can be utterly sublime and literally just steps away. And, as the temperature dips down daily, what better way to spend a relaxing evening than tucked away in your own cozy cavern?

Paradise can come in many forms and is as unique as each individual owner. For jocks and sports junkies, there's all manner of memorabilia to enliven a space. A room fully loaded with vintage auto seats, steering wheels and other treasured

relics will likely thrill car enthusiasts. If you're game for gaming, video consoles, card and gaming tables are a sure bet. A private screening room, complete with surround sound and ultra cushy seating, could fit the bill for film buffs and buddies. And, burrowing in a subterranean wine cellar can certainly uncork the esprit de corps in even the most buttoned up guy.

No matter the theme, style or decor, a man cave can satiate a primal need, soothe the savage beast, or simply provide a rarified retreat for any man, his family and friends.

# DESIGNING THE SPACE

Any room design starts with function of the space, says David Scott, principal of David Scott Interiors of New York City, who starts with the question: "What does a room want to do?"

Color and texture, says Scott, can be determined by taking cues from elsewhere in the house.

"In all cases, we're always trying to create something you feel really happy in," he notes.

Begin with a vision advises Huntington-based builder and designer George Combs, of George W. Combs, Inc. A project should reflect a client's own personal experience, he says, "and whatever vision that the person wants to reflect in their lifestyle is a big influence ... that's the starting point."

To achieve a seamless continuity between a shingle style house and its interior, Combs prominently displayed in the ultra masculine great room, a collection of duck decoys and

hunting and fishing artwork, adding dark green trim, rattan "grass cloth" wallpaper, mahogany wainscoting, dark leather seating, and pine wood floors to create a truly tasteful, rustic hunting lodge effect.

““ In all cases, we’re always trying to create something you feel really happy in.” —*David Scott*

For a client with a kinship to the late 19th century sensibility of Teddy Roosevelt, Noli

Hahn Interiors designed a dark hued library/den for his 200-year old English colonial situated on eight acres in Glen Cove, says Brian Hahn, a partner of the Cold Spring Harbor design firm. Replete with trophies and taxidermy, the space features a billiards table illuminated by an antique lighting fixture, inlaid paneled walls, dark wood bookcases, deep green tufted velvet sofa, leather chairs, vintage Persian rug, and geometric-patterned linen draperies.

For color, they chose dark rich tones of green, red, and a bit of gold, which are on trend now, says Susan Calabria, another Noli Hahn partner.

"It's a place where the gentlemen go to one room, smoke their cigars, drink brandy, play a game of pool," says Calabria. "It's really reminiscent of that type of period."

To add a touch of femininity for when the man of the house deigns to share his den, Calabria and Hahn sprinkled antiques throughout the room. Vibrant fabrics, which can be readily updated, add an element of modernity and complete the space.





Clockwise from top: A roaring fireplace, duck decoys, and dark wood and leather, offset by green trim, give a great room the feel of a hunting lodge, designed by George W. Combs. Photo by Celia Pearson. This Glen Cove library gets a manly makeover with the owner's taxidermy collection, green tufted velvet seating, antique lighting, and wall-to-ceiling inlaid wood. Photo courtesy of Noli Hahn Interiors. Billiard table, mahogany bar, card table, and wood paneling make up this Oyster Bay Cove cave designed by homeowner Bob Castaldi to be "exactly what a real man's man would want to live in." Photo by realtor Lisa Cerreta.





*Top: Football jerseys and sports memorabilia seamlessly complement the décor of a billiard room in this Locust Valley gentleman's grotto designed by David Scott Interiors. Photo by Marili Forastieri. Above: The office of the oceanfront Southampton home designed by David Scott Interiors can inspire productivity or provide a cozy retreat and a quick snooze on the day bed. Photo by Michael Moran.*

#### And For A Different Take ...

The design possibilities are endless, Scott says, and you shouldn't feel limited to a traditional, heavy, dark room if light, bright and airy is your preference. A space can be made more versatile with moveable seating, like the floating recliners he used for an oceanfront Southampton home theater.

"You have to think of the idea of freshness," says Scott, adding that adjusting lighting from dim to bright is key to changing the mood and use of the room. "Just because it's a place where someone's going to watch TV or a movie, it doesn't have to be dark, dark, dark. It could still have some sense of the daylight outside."

A below level home theater that mimics the interior of a yacht – with teak wood, white patent-leather walls, sconces that resemble portholes, and light blue ultra suede for a sky-like ceiling – seemed a natural fit for that East End beach house, says Scott. To give it a more contemporary feel, he added a custom made rug with a grid-like design.

Often a misnomer, a man cave is typically not for men only, notes Scott.

"People need to call a space theirs," he notes. "But it turns out that everyone ends up using a great space."

» Arlene Gross is a freelance writer who lives in Huntington.