



The discovery OF THE MAN CAVE

BY JOHN THEO JR.

Man-Cave \man-k_v\ *noun* - A designated region within a house decorated by the male free from any female interference. Also known as a man room, man town, recreation room, game room, cigar lounge, music room, garage or basement.

The premise is simple: Every guy needs a place to call his own, a refuge where cheap beer, fine scotch and expensive cigars complement one another. A sanctuary or manuary where boys can be boys. The term "man cave" has permeated our culture to the point that it is now a topic for realtors to discuss when showing properties to prospective homebuyers.

History recorded the first man cave discovery in the Middle East back in the early 1990s. Scientists were able to carbon date it to the early part of the Neolithic period. What they thought were stone tools turned out to be the precursor to modern day ping-pong paddles. Upon further study, they uncovered what appeared to be a large mortar and pestle, which actually were the remnants of the first foosball table.

Modern-day man caves have evolved and fully embrace technology. There are certain must-haves for all man caves, such as flat-screen televisions. Surround-sound systems are usually at the top of the list as well. While these core necessities are consistent across most man caves, there is a subjective approach to how the remainder of the space is adorned.

I personally opted for the sci-fi motif of posters, action figures and Star Wars dioramas for my basement refuge, but other cave owners have embraced sports themes, movie memorabilia, NASCAR, music, hunting, fishing, wine cellar, pubs, ... and the list goes on. The only limits are budget and the cave owner's imagination. Designs range from mismatched couches and a scatter rug to high-end leather recliners, hardwood floor, wainscoting and granite bar.