



## MOVE OVER, MAN CAVE

INDUSTRY PROS SHARE IDEAS FOR ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS THAT THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY

By Mallory Evans Jacobson

**L**et's be honest. As a design approach, doesn't the man cave feel a bit archaic and out of touch?

Do all men really aspire to possess a hideaway full of

clunky, dark furniture?

That certainly seems to be the consensus among industry professionals. Overall, masculine-themed retreats are no longer trending. In fact, many families either don't have the room for one, or choose to utilize extra bedrooms in more useful ways.

For example, a home office has become necessary for South Floridians as employers continue to stress the importance of working from home, or at a minimum, abide by a hybrid model. Therefore, having an actual desk beyond the kitchen table, and a quiet setting for calls and Zoom meetings, has outweighed

the need for a space in which to play video games and display a beer can collection.

If you're looking to rethink the way you entertain in your home, and maximize the space that you already have, here are three areas to consider.

**THE LIVING ROOM:** Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the living room was a space for enjoying conversation and an occasional cocktail. But, like the formal dining room, it's an area that's frequently underused. For this reason, and because they are no longer reliant on achieving the absence of light, many interior experts have seen an opportunity to blend this previous iteration of the traditional living room with a setting that creates the ideal media viewing experience.

For example, when Miami design firm Britto Charette was called on to create the featured living room rendering for a custom penthouse in Miami Beach's new Ritz-Carlton Residences, David Charette envisioned an open concept space with ample seating options and a colossal television that resembles a work of art.

"Although the unit extends to almost 7,500 square feet, it lends itself to entertaining and allows family members and guests to interact with each other from anywhere in the space," Charette notes. "But the configuration also allows for separate areas for eating, drinking and socializing, creating a feeling of being separate yet together."

**THE MEDIA ROOM:** When designing or updating a home today, people are much less likely to request a conventional home theater. Instead, South Florida's ultramodern homes are being outfitted with media rooms that have multiple uses. Gone are the days of cherry red accents, vibrant patterned carpet, massive reclining seats, and cumbersome A/V equipment that has to be configured behind panels and walls.

As shown in the featured media room, which was orchestrated by Stephanie Ruiz of First Priority Audio

in Pompano Beach, designers are choosing to employ calming earth tones, sleek lines, comfortable sofas and more streamlined appliances. "The accessibility of flat-screen televisions, like Sony's recently released 100-inch Bravia model, has eliminated the need for the large projectors and accompanying screens that were once essential," Ruiz says.

**THE BACKYARD:** As temperatures start to drop in South Florida, albeit slightly, we'll be spending even more time outdoors. Therefore, let your

backyard become a true extension of your home's interior as an additional zone for entertainment.

Ruiz also worked on the outdoor setting shown (bottom of this page), where the flat-screen television is positioned amid trees and serves as a focal point of the pool area.

"The goal was to create openness and allow the family and their guests to interact from different areas of the backyard," Ruiz says. The result is a tropical oasis that feels like a great escape while still being connected to the overall vibe of the home.



**FROM THE OPPOSITE PAGE:** Living room by Britto Charette in Miami; media room (top) and outdoor setting (above) by First Priority Audio in Pompano Beach