

Motor Madness

Car connoisseurs are creating unique spaces to store their collections.

BY CAROLYN CROOKE

We've long been curious about the AutoMotorPlex in Chanhassen, a condo complex built for the cars of passionate collectors. The units are secure, temperature-controlled spaces, many of them tricked out with bars, gyms, entertainment areas and more. At the center of each unit: the cars.

One unit is owned by a collector who specializes in American muscle cars, with a focus on Mustangs — particularly the rare Shelby model.

"For most car collectors, space is a big issue," he explains. "But this is more than just storage. There's a social culture built around cars here, and it's also a fun place for my whole family to hang out. Instead of driving way out to a cabin, we come here. The kids play basketball and video games or do homework, I can work on the cars, my wife and I entertain. It's a way to spend time together."

The collector worked with architectural designer Jeff Tritch and contractor Konen Homes on structural elements then tapped Sandy LaMendola, ASID, of Twist Interior Design to deliver on the details.

LaMendola and the collector came up with the idea of creating an homage to classic service stations and the heritage of Detroit. (The collector and his wife both hail from Michigan.) "Once the seed was planted for vintage appeal, the project quickly evolved," she notes. LaMendola went to work infusing the space with a fun, vintage personality. The result? A space with pitch-perfect details, from the vintage brick walls to the metal-wrapped doors, the diamond-plated steel stair treads to the concrete floors, which LaMendola had polished down to the stone for a classic appeal.

"This was a blast to work on," she adds. "It's also a brilliant concept — a space created to invite the whole family into what could've easily been a solitary passion." **AL**



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hometown homage TOP Design details such as the distressed custom sign and two-level façade pay tribute to classic Detroit and family filling stations. BOTTOM At the forefront, the perfect place for kids to do homework or visit with dad while he works on his cars.

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