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Home Bars Tap Into Guy-Friendly Style

Belly up to rich wood, sports memorabilia and plenty of beer — pub spaces are letting guys run wild without leaving home



Mitchell Parker

Houzz Editorial Staff; writer, musician, father and husband. [More »](#)

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Gathering over a few drinks at a bar or pub to share ideas and catch up on friends' lives has long been an important part of community life. In Britain pubs have historically been integral as working-class social hangouts. But Paul Jennings, author of *The Local – A History of the English Pub*, says that these spaces have actually been declining for more than a century. "Reasons include the ever widening array of alternative leisure pursuits, and the increased importance of the home as a place to spend time in," he told *BBC History Magazine*.

While I couldn't agree more with Jennings about the importance of spending time with family, I'd venture to say that perhaps Jennings has forgotten how clever we ever-evolving humans can be. Pubs aren't decreasing. We're just bringing the concept home.



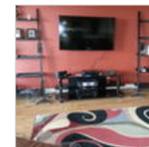
by Current Concepts Home Automation



The home bar has become one of the quintessential bonus rooms in homes today. And while men and women alike are planning and adapting these spaces, it's common to see a



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masculine influence in their designs. Rich wood, TVs, leather-backed chairs, pool tables and cigar porches are popular features of the modern-day home bar.



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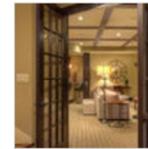
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by The Art of Bespoke



“It’s the ultimate man fantasy — have all your bros, and some pretty ladies too, sidle up and loosen up,” says Tina Skinner, an author and publisher who’s written more than 100 lifestyle books, including *Entertainment Rooms: Home Theaters, Bars, and Game Rooms*. “With the boom in square footage that drove the market in the last 15 years, there are a



lot of homes with rooms to fill. Why not fulfill fantasies?"



This homeowner's business takes him to London frequently. Every time he's there, he stops off at his favorite pub. He loved the atmosphere so much that he re-created it in his New York state home.



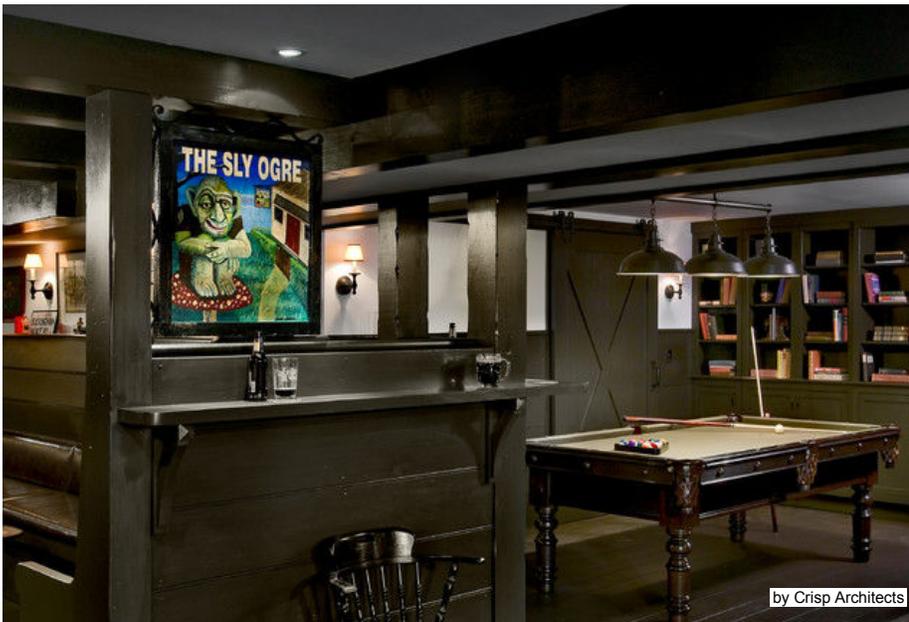
His wife had more control over the decor in the main house, so he made this his personal project. He reached out to architect [Jimmy Crisp](#) to help him realize his vision for creating a London-style pub in his basement.

There was a strong push to get an old feeling just right in the space. The contractor even dragged chains across the stained pine floor to add dents and marks.

Paint: Bittersweet Chocolate, Benjamin Moore



"He can have a party for 60 people and at the end of the night close the door, and the house is still pristine," Crisp says. "Everything is perfect except the pub."



In the all-pine space with a custom-made bar top, the owner watches sports, plays pool, entertains a few friends and has big parties.

"This is the man cave," Crisp says. "The homeowner wouldn't call it that, but that's what it ends up being."





nowhere to sit.

Macaluso estimates that a space like this would cost about \$100,000 for the cosmetics — furniture, custom cabinets, floors, detailed wood ceiling, custom cabinets, top-of-the-line TVs, audio system, wine rack.



Bar stools: *Mimi London*

by Ike Kligerman Barkley





by Knight Construction Design | Chanhassen, Minnesota

The rest of this house is bright and white with pops of color, so the owners of this space wanted something darker and moodier. The husband showed designer Kristen Peck a photo of a pub and said, "I want the same feel."

While the husband and wife agreed on the aesthetics, the husband's preferences drove many of the selections, such as tin ceilings and knotty alder cabinetry. There's also a copper sink, a dishwasher, a microwave, LED rope lighting, a TV and a natural quartzite floor.



by Bob Michels Construction, Inc.

Contractor **Bob Michels** turned a storage space above his home garage into an enviable pub with great views.

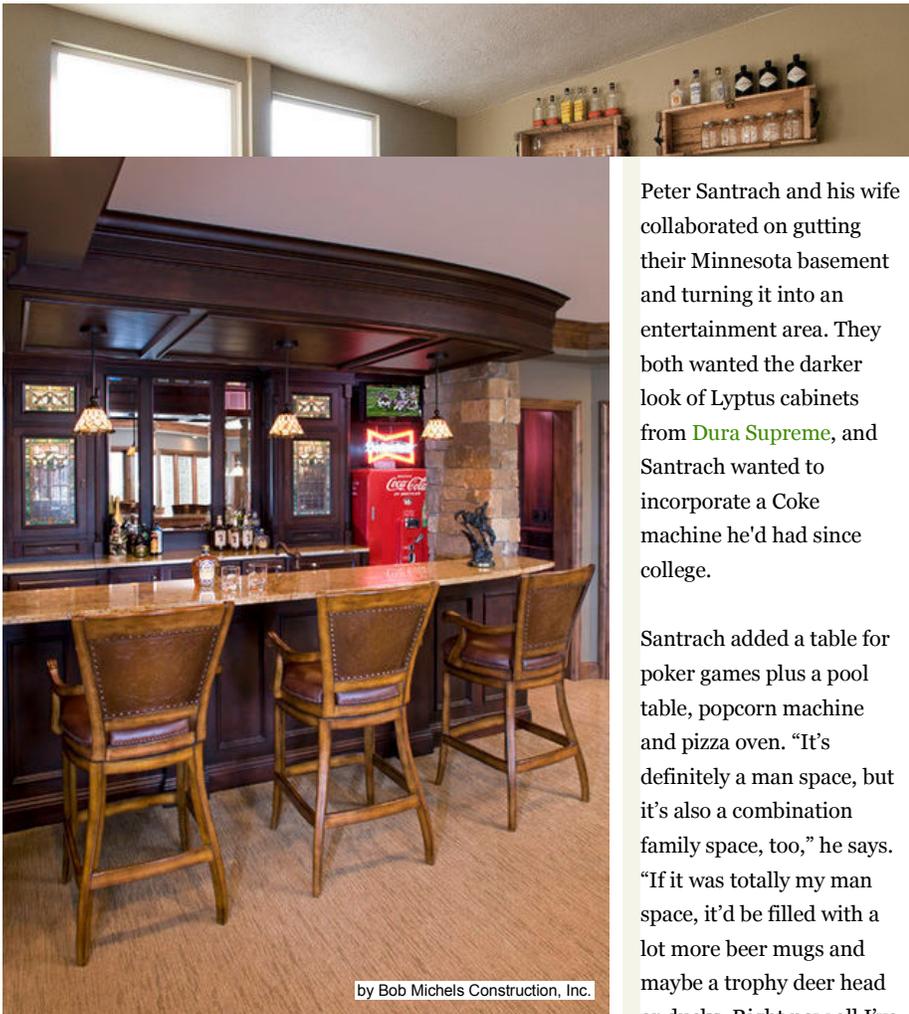
His wife had picked out the carpets and wall colors in the main house, but this space was all his. The room has a pool table, in-floor heating and beautiful custom cabinets from **Dura Supreme**.



The designer of this New Jersey basement bar maximized a tight space, making room for essentials like a sink, a refrigerator and plenty of bottle storage. The ceiling is actually **Fry Reglet** acoustical wall panels (pattern B) that were fastened with exposed stainless steel screws and trim washers.

Bar stools: **Room & Board**;
wine rack: **Wine Enthusiast**





Peter Santrach and his wife collaborated on gutting their Minnesota basement and turning it into an entertainment area. They both wanted the darker look of Lyptus cabinets from **Dura Supreme**, and Santrach wanted to incorporate a Coke machine he'd had since college.

Santrach added a table for poker games plus a pool table, popcorn machine and pizza oven. "It's definitely a man space, but it's also a combination family space, too," he says. "If it was totally my man space, it'd be filled with a lot more beer mugs and maybe a trophy deer head or ducks. Right now all I've

got is a wooden duck."

Santrach estimates that the bar area cost about \$25,000 for parts, labor, counter, mirror, lighting, metal ceiling, installation, electrician, plumbing and appliances.



This is a basement space at a lake cabin for a young family with four kids. The wife drove its aesthetic. She wanted a more rustic vibe, with knotty barn wood supplied and installed by local craftspeople. There's an electronic poker game on the bar top plus a fridge, popcorn maker, wine cellar and microwave.



by Michelle Fries, BeDe Design, LLC

The baseboard is corrugated metal.



by Michelle Fries, BeDe Design, LLC

A local metalworker designed the footrail.

Your turn: Show us your home bar!

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Dura Supreme Cabinetry I love the 3 designs featured by Knight Construction and Bob Michel's Cosntruction. They both show great design work with Dura Supreme Cabinetry!
39 hours ago · Like · 1



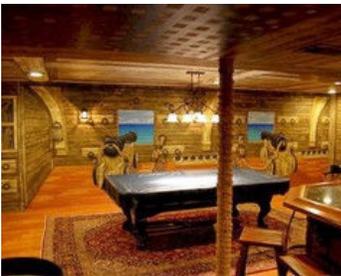
Wow Effects-Murals and Fine Art Love these in home bar areas. I thought you might like one more that I painted in a pirate ship theme throughtout the entire lower level and bar. "Drink up me hearties you ho."



36 hours ago · Like · 6



Wow Effects-Murals and Fine Art Here's another shot from the other side of the bar.



36 hours ago · Like · 5



mojo2172 I especially like how they are watching "The View" in this man-cave :-)
31 hours ago · Like · 3



midmodfan Some are nice, but most - to me! - are proof that men are from mars and women are from venus.

By far the worst is the taxidermy. Who in their right mind can relax and have fun in a room

full of dead animals?

28 hours ago · Like · 3



Walker Woodworking What beautiful rooms! Love the wine cellars!

25 hours ago · Like · 1



Sierra Jones Agree midmodfan.....Hey maybe in another life, WE will be the ones destroyed, stuffed and put on display in a bear CAVE (no- I didn't realize the pun until I wrote it :) for all the animals to stand around and gaze at us, while they socialize and enjoy themselves.

Just a thought :0)

22 hours ago · Like · 4



Patricia Pelgrims Home bars are so passé and tacky, IMO

20 hours ago · Like



Wow Effects-Murals and Fine Art @Patricia... So you're the one that flicks the lights at the end of the night for all of us to go home. :)

18 hours ago · Like



Patricia Pelgrims No, I wouldn't @Wow Effects I am usually the one that keeps the party going, believe it or not. I just like to do it in the lounge, kitchen, diningroom or garden. I don't see the point of a 'home bar' for entertaining when I can just as well do it in the said spaces.

18 hours ago · Like · 1



[Empty comment box]

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Ideabook updated on June 5, 2013.