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basement space for everyone to play



by **Fred Heim**
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Renovations by Garman

Whether you're a foodie, movie enthusiast, fitness buff, pool shark, or still sporting diapers or braces, this is a basement with something to offer you!

Built in 2013, this Denver home had a spacious 3,000 square foot unfinished basement. In 2015, the homeowners turned to us, Renovations By Garman, to create an entertainment hub where their family could spend free time relaxing, connecting, and entertaining guests. It had to appeal to their children, ages two and twelve, and accommodate them throughout their teenage years.

At 3,000 square feet, we had the luxury of possibilities. The challenge was defining specific spaces for different purposes and adequately dividing them from each other.

The family decided the basement would include a home theater, kitchen and

bar, pool room, ping pong room, play room, home gym, and full bathroom, as well as organization and storage areas for wine and belongings.

Divide & Conquer. A major worry was competing noise from various activities. The owners wanted cohesiveness in the space, and a sense of inclusiveness for all of the participants, but they wanted to ensure the gym equipment would not disrupt those enjoying the home theater. Nor did they want the home theater to compete with the audio video equipment of those exercising or people engaged in the game rooms.

Another concern was preserving the adequate natural light provided from the walk-out basement. If certain areas were walled off for

noise purposes, it would eliminate that lighting benefit.

To conquer these problems, we designed a 'divided yet open' solution. We closed off the gym from the other spaces, but used a double door glass entry and installed interior windows in the dividing wall to let the natural light shine through.



Structural columns that march down the middle of the remaining space offered a natural design concept to build around. Using these columns as a guide, the design team allocated different "rooms." Each is visually defined by a unique ceiling treatment, giving the illusion of separate space. The theater and kitchen area have tray ceilings with rope lighting, while the pool area has an inverted tray ceiling, creating a moodier ambience to hang a low overhead light.

To further separate certain sections, entries were designed with an arch flanked by columns of dry stack stone and wood paneling. A free-standing section of custom cabinetry and shelving with a two-way fireplace divides the billiards room from the media area. A television is secured on either side of the dividing wall. Each "room" throughout the basement has its own independent sound system zone accessible via wall mounted keypads and utilized through blue tooth technology.

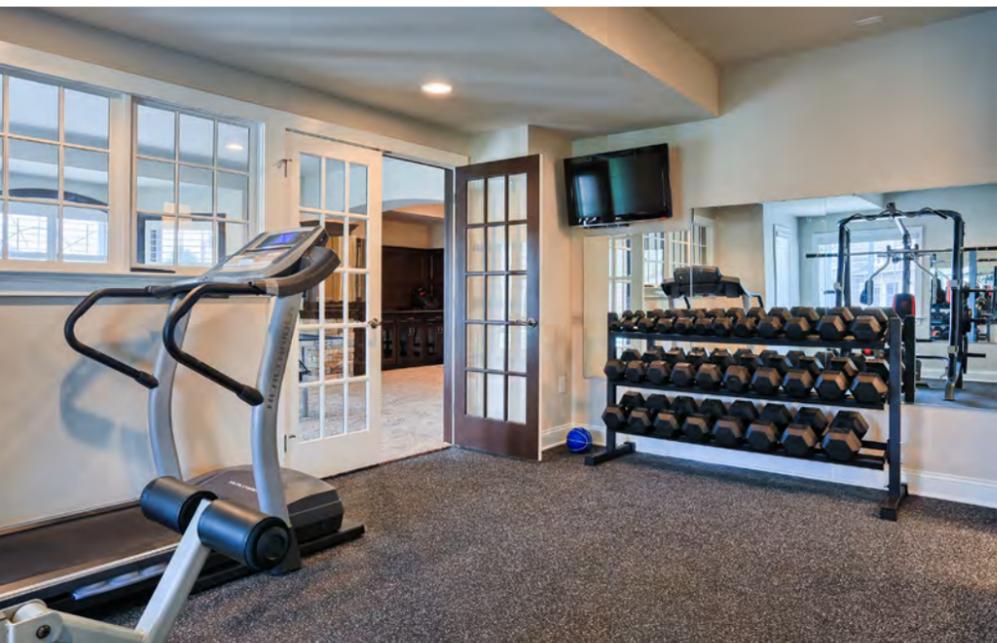
Illuminating The Darkness. It was key to maintain as much brightness as possible in the basement so the space is functional and feels open. However, a single layer of bright lighting would have made it feel unnatural, so adding a few shadows was the trick to give it a sense of space.

Ambient light was created by installing recessed lights on dimmers. Then we added another layer of accent lighting with pendant lights in the kitchen and low-voltage rope lighting concealed in the tray ceilings and behind large crown moldings on the walls. This built contrast, depth and volume. LED lighting was installed in the media room's built-in shelving for displaying sports memorabilia. Each room or area has its own lighting controls.

Home Theater. Perfect for the gamer, movie buff, or sports nut, the basement's central space is a subdued theater area with in-wall speakers, a plasma screen TV, and concessions area for drinks and popcorn. Additional bar seating overlooks the area for full TV screen visibility.

Extra Kitchen. A complete additional kitchen equipped with full-sized appliances, a reverse osmosis filter system, and expansive bar seating allows for gourmet entertainment in style. Display shelves for liquor and a built-in wine rack underneath a pass-through window area make accessing and serving drinks convenient. The kitchen and pool room share their own plasma TV, so you won't miss a second of the show, even if you venture from the theater room.





Home Gym. While exercising, the clients have visibility of the other areas in the basement through glass doors and windows, which also allows the natural light into the enclosed room. A bathroom is situated directly off of the gym for easy and immediate shower access.

Playroom. A 200 square foot playroom appealing to children in the wide age range of 2-12 was designed to include a rock climbing wall, a custom built-in fort, monkey bars, and a framed magnetized chalk board. It is pre-wired with cable to accommodate internet, television, and gaming. A dark green commercial grade carpeting with extra thick padding provides a durable but soft, cushy flooring that can withstand many years of playtime activities.

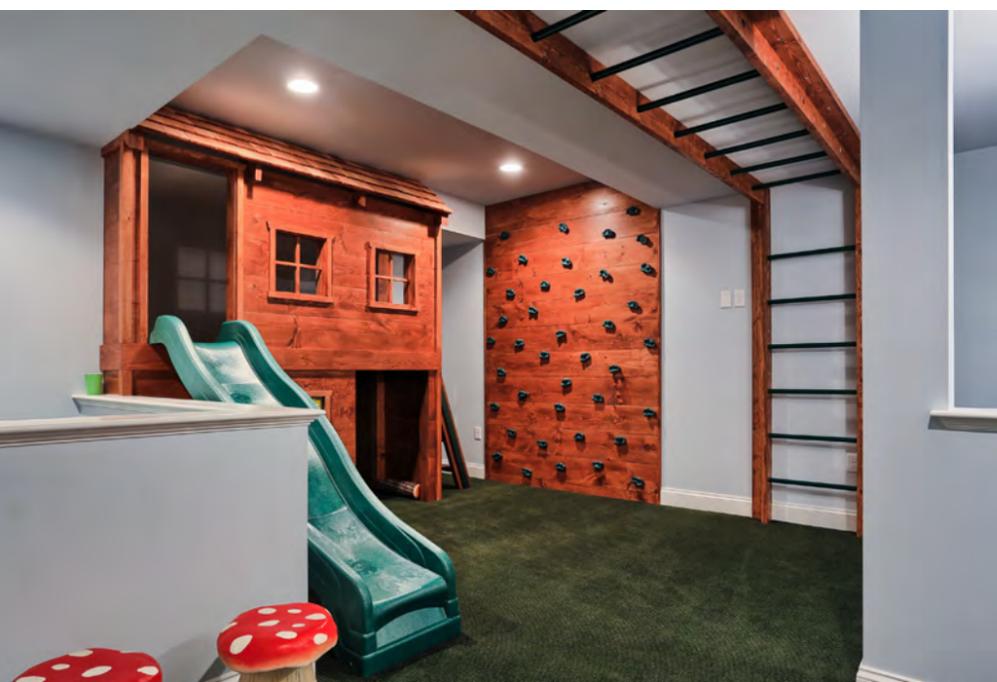
Not Just Fun and Games. Built-in curved seating was added around the bay window in the ping pong room for onlookers, and it also doubles as extra storage. Custom mud room cabinetry and a laundry room were also included in the renovation.

The client reports that guests typically exalt their living space down under as the "nicest basement they've ever seen!" They also confess their basement is now "far nicer" than the rest of their home and they currently spend the majority of their free time down there. It truly has

become the ultimate entertainment hub they had dreamed about.

If you'd like to talk to us about your dream basement or other home renovation or addition project, please give us a call.

R&A



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