



PARTY IN THE GARAGE!

FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER JEFF MURPHY AND HIS CLIENT, THE GARAGE IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO PARK A CAR.



THIS PAGE: Murphy designed a clean, contemporary motor shop on the first floor with space for three cars, plus two 7,000 hydraulic lifts, a mechanical room with a built-in air compressor, and a separate snowmobile entrance with ski guides built into the floor.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MURPHY & CO. DESIGN

●● The doorbell
●● says it all. As guests approach the timbered garage, they're greeted by the General Lee car horn from *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

For Jeff Murphy, owner of Murphy & Co. Design, and his clients, the doorbell is a signal that this garage is more than just a place to park a car.

The clients came to Murphy with a unique set of challenges posed by their narrow lakefront lot. They wanted space for hanging out, but the elevation



of their home prevented Murphy from building a basement-slash-rec room. They needed space to store cars, boats, snowmobiles, and all the various toys and accoutrements necessary for life on a Minnesota lake, but strict restrictions on maximum garage space and impervious coverage were dictated by the city.

Murphy, a gifted architectural designer, responded with a spectacular garage carefully positioned between mature pine, spruce, and birch trees that complements the main house in terms of scale, beauty, and attention to detail. For sheer entertainment value, however, the garage is the clear winner, and a favorite destination for adults and kids alike.

On the main level there is a clean, contemporary motor shop with lofty, nearly 11-foot ceilings, custom diamond tread doors with 1967 Chevy Chevelle handles, a checkerboard floor with an eight-foot trench drain for washing cars, space for three cars, plus two 7,000-pound hydraulic lifts for additional vehicles.

Other highlights include a mechanical room with a built-in air compressor, a fueling station, and a sepa-

rate snowmobile entrance stall with ski guides built into the floor. Air conditioning and radiant in-floor and in-wall heat systems make the garage comfortable in any season.

Upstairs is a multi-purpose media and entertainment space, with three televisions, multiple speakers and subwoofers, a curved granite and fir bar, a dartboard, billiards table, an air hockey table, and arcade games.

The garage bathroom features a sink made from a 55-gallon VP racing fuel barrel and a custom mirror made from the barrel top clasp, flanked by rear-view mirrors from a mid-1950s roadster.

Now, when relatives and friends pull into the driveway, they know that if the family isn't out on the water, they're inside the garage, working in the shop, or upstairs playing games, enjoying pizza and movie nights, celebrating birthdays, and trading funny lines from *The Dukes of Hazzard*. ●

OPPOSITE: The bathroom features a sink constructed from a 55-gallon VP racing fuel barrel and a custom mirror made from the barrel top clasp, flanked by rear-view mirrors from a mid-1950s roadster.