

gallery

Special spaces

One of the nicest luxuries to have in a house is a room dedicated to working at home or pursuing a hobby, or otherwise customized to meet an individual's or family's wants and needs. Many new homes are designed with a flex or bonus room, often over the garage, that can be tailored to meet the desires of the owner. Another way to add a special-use room is during a home renovation, with the assistance of an architect or designer. Here are a few examples of special-use rooms that were crafted by savvy designers and smart homeowners to meet some very specific needs. Whether it be an established bonus room above the garage, a lower-level remodel, or the takeover of a seldom-used spare bedroom, these rooms will inspire anyone contemplating the addition of a special space in their own home. —*Maureen Friedman*



THIRD FLOOR'S THE CHARM

Tucked under the roofline, this third-floor media room features something most media rooms don't: a sauna. To remind them of their home in Russia, the homeowners had a friend paint murals on the walls to recreate the feel of a birch forest. This room is now a great space for the entire family—whether they're watching television, playing a game, or relaxing in the sauna.

Architecture and interior design

Board & Vellum, Seattle, boardandvellum.com

General contractor NRC Homes, Seattle, nrchomesgc.com

Photos John G. Willbanks Photography, jwphoto.com, courtesy of Board & Vellum



WHAT'S OLD AND VIEWS

Built in the mid-1960s and situated on a rise across from North Puget Sound, this house was given a complete overhaul that included the addition of a curved eyebrow dormer. The 7½-ft. by 12-ft. space created above the front entry is used as a home office and features the homeowners' roll-top desk, a treasured heirloom that has been in the family for years. A barrel-vaulted ceiling of tongue-and-groove planks adds character to the small room. Windows with a view to the Sound and a large opening that overlooks the staircase allow natural light to flood the space.

Architecture and interior design Board & Vellum, Seattle, boardandvellum.com

General contractor Manos Construction, Seattle

Photo John G. Willbanks Photography, jwphoto.com, courtesy of Board & Vellum



SEW SUITE

This combination sewing and laundry room is a private space where the homeowner has a quiet area to work, separate from her family. Located on the second floor, just down the hall from the bedrooms, one area of the 7½-ft. by 10-ft. room houses the washing machine and dryer. The majority of the room is dedicated to a space for quilting, sewing, and the owner's other hobbies. The design team helped create the placement of the convenient work triangle of sewing table, fabric-cutting station, and pull-down ironing board, leaving plenty of room for the homeowner to decide where to situate her many sewing supplies.

Architecture and interior design

Board & Vellum, Seattle, boardandvellum.com

General contractor

NRC Homes, Seattle, nrchomesgc.com

Photo John G. Willbanks Photography, jwphoto.com, courtesy of Board & Vellum

INDOOR JUNGLE GYM

This 20-ft. by 24-ft. bonus room above the garage in a Vermont home was transformed into a playroom for a boy addicted to monkey bars. To help make the transition from their old house to their new easier on their young son, the homeowners decided, as part of a complete-house remodel, to create a room they knew he would totally love. They kept their work a secret and two weeks after the move presented it to him as a birthday surprise. It was—and still is—a big hit, where games like monkey tag, freeze tag, and dodgeball can be enjoyed by the young and young-at-heart. The existing wood on the walls and ceiling was painted to lighten up the room. The ladder and monkey bars are made of iron gas piping. A climbing rope found online serves as a way down from the monkey bars.

Design and construction Reap Construction, Ltd., Richmond, Vt., vermontcontractor.com

Photo Susan Teare, susanteare.com

