

PRESS RELEASE

Space man

05 August 2014, Johannesburg: The home is no longer just the woman's domain, men are making it their place of pride, creating masculine spaces that meet their every need. Ryan Beattie, from leading furniture manufacturer, Alpine Lounge, shares his tips on how to make your abode fit for the modern man...

Home cinema

"A home cinema is on most men's wish list – the bigger the screen, the better," nods Ryan. "It's important to consider all the elements before you make any firm decisions on how you are going to deck it out," he says. Ryan recommends wall-to-wall carpets, as they offer superior acoustic insulation and clarity, whilst heavily lined curtains also have similar sound-insulating properties and prevent glare on your screen: "Choose lavish velvet curtains for a theatrical feel, or block-out fabric if you plan to turn on the telly during the day."

Apart from AV equipment, the next most important element in any home theatre is seating, notes Ryan: "Motion furniture is especially suited to home theatre applications, just ensure that they're positioned in line with the television so you don't strain your neck," he advises, pointing out that Alpine Lounge's range of home theatre seating is an excellent choice: "I particularly like the modern lines of the Lido home theatre motion suite. What's especially terrific about Alpine's motion furniture is that they can be customised with a number of various luxurious features – for example, they can be power-operated, or ordered with various centrally-controlled features, such as light-up cup-holders that double up as drinks coolers," enthuses Ryan.

Home cinema essentials: Heavily lined curtains, reclining seating, surround sound system, movie posters, storage for your DVD collection, projector or large flat-screen television, wall-to-wall carpeting.

Cigar lounge

"What better room to relax in with friends on a cold winter's night than a cigar lounge with a roaring fireplace and some good music," says Ryan, who believes its success lies in placing an even number of armchairs facing inwards around a low coffee table to create an inviting conversational atmosphere. This look is all about layering - team sophisticated deep-buttoned leather armchairs with antique and second-hand finds to create an old-world charm, combine Persian rugs with an animal skin for a plush effect, and use several low wattage lamps around the room to create a warm ambiance.

If there's one thing Ryan can recommend for your cigar lounge, it's avoiding Pine wood: "Pine is a soft wood and dents easily, so if you're going for wooden countertops, coffee tables and bar stools, rather opt for a harder wood, such as Kiaat for example. And be sure to layer with several coats of varnish to prevent surfaces from getting scratched and stained."

Cigar lounge essentials: Chess set, deep-buttoned leather armchairs, liquor cabinet, low lighting, music system, rugs, well-proportioned coffee table.

Games room

The most exciting man's room to design has to be the games room – whether it's in a previously underutilised attic, garage or spare room. “For me the ideal games room is situated close to the braai with a large TV as its focal point,” states Ryan, adding, “it's here that you can play with various textures, such as wood, denim and leather to create a sense of masculinity in the space, whilst pops of colour and chunky stripes can bring an energetic vibe.”

Well considered lighting is a must according to Ryan: “Multiple lights above a pool table for example, will generate a solid stream of light that acts to prevent awkward shadows when you're playing your game.” Blinds are also crucial as they can be easily adjusted to create the perfect light conditions for watching sport on TV, and they are easy to clean and don't retain odours.

“Of course, a large modern sofa is key, complete with leather or durable fabric that can accommodate a bunch of sports fundi's with beer and biltong in hand. A corner suite is ideal – that way everyone gets the best seat in the house,” smiles Ryan.

Games room essentials: Large TV, games, sports paraphernalia and collectibles, bar fridge, blinds, down-lighters, durable flooring such as tiles, corner sofa in durable fabric or leather.

Visit www.alpinelounge.co.za or phone 021 951 7150 (ask for sales) to find a retailer closest to you.

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