

All of us go to work everyday. Be it from our home or in a skyscraper, we each hit the pavement on a daily basis as CEO, receptionist, designer, engineer, retiree, or any other particular profession. But one of the perks for working at The Ritz-Carlton in Marina del Rey (MDR), California is the engineering office.

“Every one of our ladies and gentlemen absolutely adores this office,” said Emmie Lancaster-Wingler, public relations manager of the Ritz-Carlton MDR. “It’s such a unique space, dedicated to an automotive theme and much like the streets in L.A.; always busy with ladies and gentlemen working to ensure our hotel is running smoothly.”

The mastermind behind the garage-style break room was Alan Snyder, director of engineering for The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey.

“We had a good sized room, and I had something similar to this in my personal garage at my former home in Florida,” he explained. “My thought was that I was always happy in that space – it was fun, so why wouldn’t it be fun to have a work space in a similar fashion?”

Turns out, he was right.

With the idea in hand, and permission from the higher ups to begin creating a unique engineering office replete with a retractable big screen for training videos, a locomotive



Work bench is solid, and in the ceiling storage is hidden.

running around on tracks suspended near the ceiling, asphalt-look floors, nostalgic signs and lights all around, the heart of this hotel took shape with an alarming pace and astounding enthusiasm. Today, even when employees have been off the clock or on break, they’re often found spending time in the special room, according to Snyder.

“I ordered a lot of signs and components from GarageArt.com, they had pretty much all the décor I needed,” he said. “Once the idea was drawn out, it really just put itself together.”

“It’s great to see how this room brings people together from other departments. They really do care for it and appreciate its uniqueness, especially as a type of break room and nerve center for the facilities management crew.”

The challenge of the most fun room in the hotel was to make sure it still functioned as storage for everything the engineering department might need, such as tools, spare parts, and other requisite supplies. Good thing it was an engineering project from the get go.

“We made sure we could still keep everything in this space, it’s just been hidden,” Snyder said. “But even the stuff that’s visible looks right at home, because it’s a garage-like theme, so big cans of paint and such don’t seem out of place.”

Snyder and his crew took time to design hinged panels overhead between the fluorescent light boxes to act as pipe storage. Linked to two major winches, at the press of a button, the ceiling panels lower, revealing the hidden spaces that are home to spare piping and other odds and ends that may be needed on a moment’s notice. Upholstering the walls in diamond plate gave the room a slightly larger feel as the reflective nature of the steel has a similar effect as a mirrored room, while the painted red portions lend a daredevil racers-edge feel. The yellow lines upon the black floors tie the room together nicely with the decorations and eye candy, and the theme winds up the stairwell which is also laden with art and even a slot machine.



Diamond plate and garageart.com decor brighten the stairs.