

# man caves & garage nuts

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NEIGHBORHOOD GAS STATIONS, ONCE THE OIL THAT LUBRICATED AMERICA'S CAR CULTURE, ARE AS RARE TODAY AS 25-CENT GAS AND DIME COKES. THE ONLY WAY TO RE-CREATE THOSE SIMPLE DAYS IS TO BUILD YOUR OWN STATION FROM THE GROUND UP. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THIS TEXAN DID.

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## star-quality Texaco garage

“Hang a Louie” on a central Texas street and a 1970s radio jingle pops into your head as you park outside Roger Quincy’s place. The words roll out just as clear as they were blaring from your tinny AM radio decades ago: “You can trust your car to the man who wears the star. The big red Texaco star!”

This station looks good enough to be the real deal, right down to Fire Chief gas at 24.9 cents.

Whoa, Nellie, catch your breath. It’s not a time warp: Roger, a retired hydrologist, has painstakingly created a slice of Americana on his property.

“When I first started my dream retirement garage,” Roger recalls, “I had an idea of making it look just like a gas station. When I approached my wife, Shirley, she seemed to think it was a cool idea.” What better endorsement does a guy need?

Step through the door, and you’ll find plenty of modern-day creature comforts sprinkled among the petroliana (collectible gas station signs and equipment). Roger’s shop includes a 52” LCD television, computer, and a walled-off

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Roger modeled his backyard garage (far left) after Ambler's Texaco Gas Station (near left) in Dwight, Ill., on U.S. Highway 66. The 1933 station, described as the "house and canopy style," is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Near left: Reproduction signage rings the inside and outside of Roger's garage, but the 1949 Coca-Cola vending machine is the real McCoy.

Far left: Roger bought a Texaco gas pump and air meter from an Odessa, Texas, petroliana dealer; he restored the pump himself (right down to an exact match of Texaco red). Gas at 24.9 cents? That's the 1971 price Roger paid to fill his 1967 Mustang when he ran out of gas the same day he got his first driver's license.

Photos: Tom Clemons, The Photo Studio



Near left: An 8'-long checkered countertop of black-and-white vinyl composition floor tile (VCT) continues the auto theme on Roger's cabinets. He cut 12"-square VCT into 5" squares. He top-coated the tile with BondTite 1101 from Alpha Garage (alphagarage.com).

Far left: On fall Saturdays, a 52" LCD screen beams college football games into Roger's shop.



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painting room to contain dust from his auto projects (Roger has painted all he restored, including the 1969 'Vette shown at right).

And check out Roger's floor—not at all what the neighborhood corner station had. In previous garage build-outs, Roger had outfitted his floor with vinyl composition tile (VCT) and mass-market epoxy. This time, he applied 100% solid epoxy (alphagarage.com) on about 660 sq. ft. of concrete. Roger couldn't be happier with the outcome.

Roger's dream garage took four months to enclose. He spent another year trimming the exterior, building out the interior, applying the epoxy, refinishing the gas pump, collecting signs, and landscaping around the station.

Now, back to the cars. 🌳



**Above:** Roger does all the maintenance on his 1969 Corvette ragtop in his main work area. The door in the background leads to a walled-off second bay (not shown) for painting and other messy tasks.



**Left:** Above a window near his computer, Roger displays license plates from cars he has owned over the years. The 14' counter has space for his computer and stereo equipment.



**Above:** A scale-model collection of die-cast cars, trucks, and planes beg to be picked up.

**Left:** During construction, Roger's wife, Shirley, uses a pneumatic nailer to attach window trim. The red and dark green wall accents closely mirror Texaco's historic colors.