

Game Time

Designer Harold Pell emphasizes that the best game rooms provide versatility, and that the de rigueur wet bar should be expanded into a full galley kitchen, so there's no need to run to the other end of the house to fire up a pizza. He stresses the importance of a sitting area, too, so that when some people are actively playing, others can gossip around

neon-lighted ticket windows or concession stands inside game rooms to tie into adjoining home theaters.

At the 30,000-square-foot nautilus-inspired Portabello Estate, on a rocky cove in Southern California, the owner has recreated the entire main street from his childhood home town, including a posh art deco movie

game rooms) and ample floor space for swinging a club or racket.

The former ranch of mid-century movie star Robert Taylor, on 112 acres in L.A.'s Brentwood neighborhood, is anchored by an 11,700-square-foot main residence. Among its 34 rooms is a spectacular brick-and-wood game room packed with vintage



a fireplace. "But it can't be walled off... it has to be informal so that people can migrate," says the San Diego-based Pell. He encourages sliding walls to integrate the game room to an outdoor space, which allows extravagant temporary exhibits, like rolling in a prized vintage Corvette.

Williamson is currently equipping a new home with a game room custom-tailored to a diehard Cowboys fan, a luxuri-

theater, operational malt shop, and a two-lane bowling alley. A billiards table, however, is situated in a nearby lounge beneath the glass bottom of a swimming pool located on the terrace above.

Williamson believes billiards tables can actually be artistic centerpieces, such as a high-end Gothic-style version from Dallas' Emmanuel Design Group. However, in a La Jolla, California, house updated by Pell, the

slot machines and gaming tables — roulette, blackjack and craps — beneath a soaring wood-beamed ceiling (shown below). "The entire property is set up for entertaining, and this incredible casino room complements that lifestyle," explains prominent Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage agent Joyce Rey, who is currently listing the property at \$65 million. Entertaining is also a high priority at a sleek Scottsdale Contemporary priced at \$2.999 million by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Walt Danley. Its spacious game room, with a bar seating six and adjoining terrace, offers panoramic views of the Arizona desert through floor-to-ceiling windows.

The Inside Game

In the realm of ultra-luxe properties, indoor swimming pools, shuffleboard courts, bowling alleys and basketball courts are not uncommon. A stunning Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, mansion claims swimming pools and tennis courts *both* indoors and out. Listed at \$11.9 million by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Elaine Pruzon is a Victorian stone-clad estate in Millburn, New Jersey, that includes a regulation squash court (certified by the World Squash Federation), complete with spectator seating and an adjoining bath. Last year, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate's Jill Eber and Jill Hertzberg sold basketball star Shaquille O'Neal's opulent Miami Beach home. Naturally, its 20,000 square feet incorporates a full-size roundball court.



ous man cave with walls lined with autographed jerseys and multiple flat screen TVs. The room's *trompe l'oeil* ceiling will replicate the view from the stands in Cowboys Stadium, looking skyward through the retractable roof. "Everything is over-the-top in Texas," Williamson reminds us. She has installed

impact of modern technology is evident in a pool table with microchips embedded in balls and cues for electronic scorekeeping. Meanwhile, the now-essential Nintendo Wii console, which has video gaming applications for golf, tennis and skeet shooting, requires big screens (up to 120 inches in the showiest