

élan

CELEBRATING THE ARTS | OCTOBER 2017





INTERIOR DESIGN

Jewel of the Home

ADDING 2,200 SQ. FT. OF FAMILY SPACE | BY TROY BLEWETT

One of today's top remodeling trends involves turning an unfinished basement into livable space. Remodeling the lower level is a great way for homeowners to put what is normally a large expansive space to good use and add value to their home at the same time.

"The ideas for transforming a basement are endless," says Sonny Nazemian, president of Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes in Fairfax. "Trends include guest suites, work-at-home offices, 'man caves', home theaters, exercise rooms and more. As an added benefit, a base-

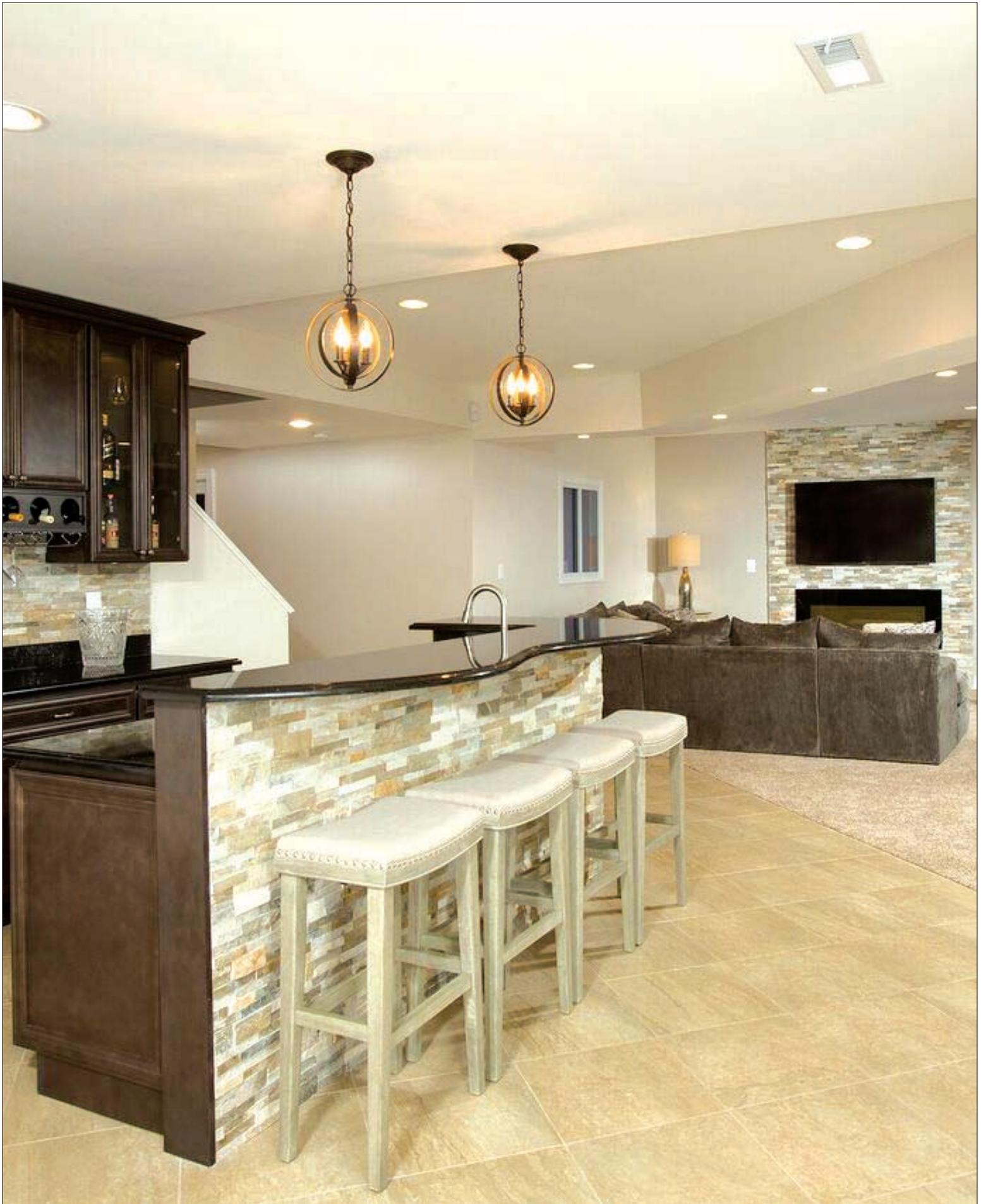
ment renovation can be done without adding an addition," he says.

Here are a variety of ideas for transforming an unfinished basement, some of which Nazemian and the team at Michael Nash recently incorporated into an award-winning basement remodel for the family in Lorton.

When Angelo and Eleni Linardakis purchased their home, it had an unfinished basement. Three growing children later—ages nine, six and four—they wanted to create a living space in their basement that the entire family could enjoy.

"[Basement remodeling] trends include guest suites, work-at-home offices, 'man caves', home theaters, exercise rooms and more."

—Sonny Nazemian





Page 43: The granite-topped bar seats five and is equipped with a refrigerator, microwave and wine cooler.

This page, from left: The basement now includes a 13' x 12' guest bedroom with full bath that is set away from the entertainment area; and the glass-enclosed shower is equipped with a bench and hand sprayer, and features dark porcelain tiles that contrast beautifully with the marble topped vanity.

Opposite: The 1,000 sq. ft. gathering space which includes a bar area. Ledger stone ties the bar into the sitting area, which features a fireplace and large television. Just a few steps away, a game area offers a variety of pursuits.

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Creating a multi-purpose room takes advantage of the normal open, expansive nature of most basements. It allows the homeowner to create space for several different uses, while they all open up to each other; for instance, a bar area that opens to a game room, or a family room that opens to a refreshment center.

A large portion of the Linardakis renovation was turned into a 1,000 sq. ft. gathering space. It combines a bar area, sitting room and game room that all flow from one area into the other. The granite-topped bar seats five and is equipped with a refrigerator, microwave and wine cooler. Ledger stone ties the bar into the sitting area, which features a fireplace and large television. Just a few steps away, a game area offers a variety of pursuits.

HOME THEATER

If a traditional TV room isn't enough or the homeowner is a movie enthusiast, a home theater is a great option. These spaces typically include enclosed walls, plush

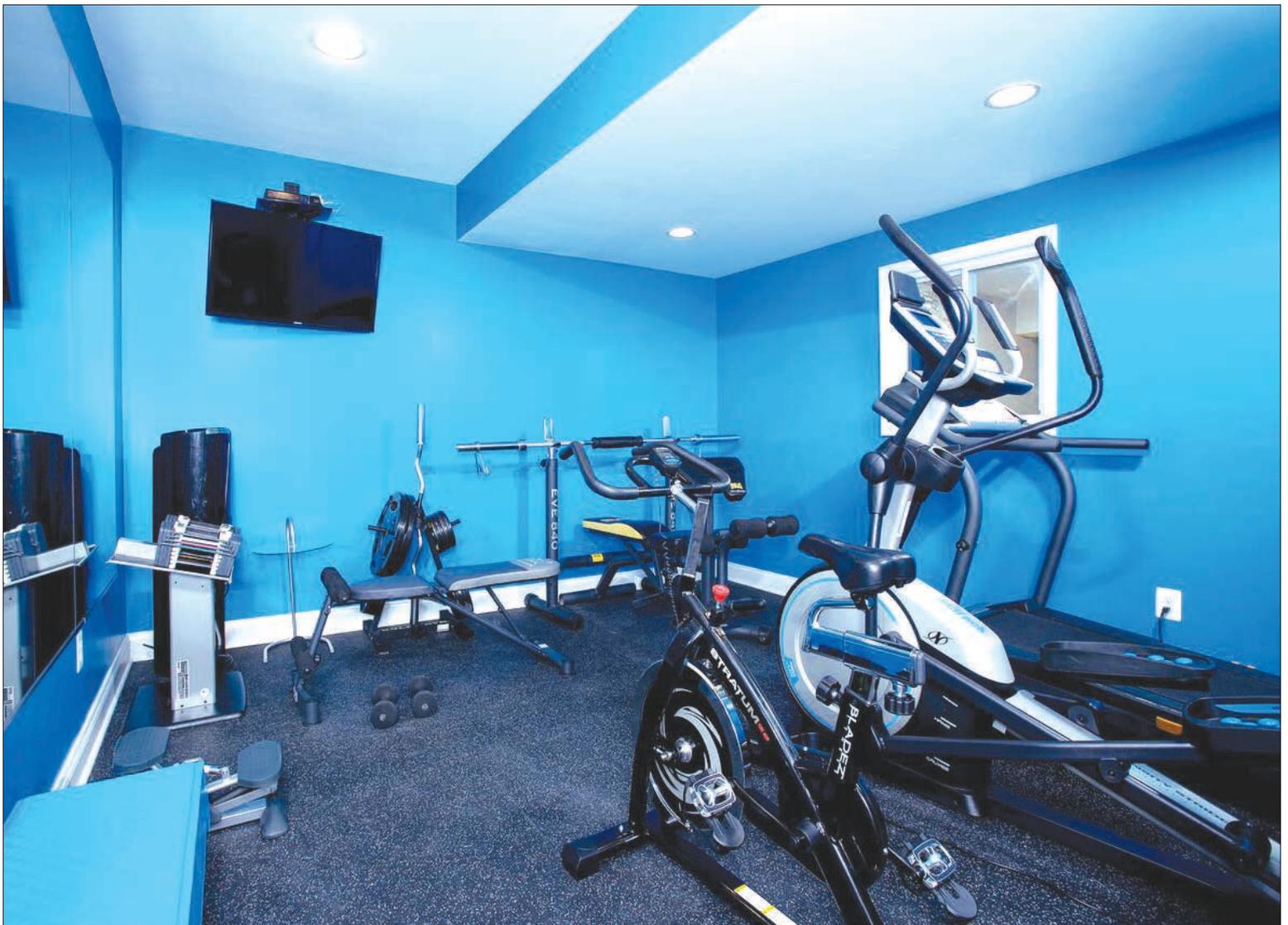
reclining seats, a projection screen, surround sound and sound proofing.

For the Linardakis family, a 15' x 14' home theater with sconce lights on decorative columns, burgundy walls and a dark ceiling offer a cinema-like feel. Six leather recliners offer tiered movie-style seating and face a professional-grade HD projector. The theater is separated from the rest of the basement by a set of French doors.

EXERCISE ROOM AND SPA

Almost any size basement allows a home gym and/or spa to be set up. A larger space gives the homeowner the ability to bring in more workout equipment or add a sauna, but even a small space can usually handle one or two machines.

The Linardakis gym touts an elliptical trainer, spinning bike and weights. A mirrored wall flanks one side of the room; the other features a slider window facing the game room. A rubber floor keeps the sound down.



“Every member of the family has a different favorite spot. Mom loves the fireplace, the kids love the game room and movie theater, and dad calls the entire space the ‘jewel of the home.’”

—Sonny Nazemian



GUEST SUITE

Adding a spare bedroom with a bath is a very popular option in basement remodeling. Whether it’s for in-laws, out-of-town guests or a growing teenager, it can offer guests both space and privacy.

“Larger suite areas are increasingly popular,” says Nazemian. “Homeowners with larger basements or long-term guests often design a full suite with a living room, kitchenette and spa-like bathroom.”

The Linardakis basement now includes a 13’ x 12’ guest bedroom with full bath that is set away from the entertainment area. The glass-enclosed shower is equipped with a bench and hand sprayer. Dark porcelain tiles contrast beautifully with the marble topped vanity.

MUSIC ROOM

Ready to rock and roll? Whether you play an instrument or just enjoy listening to music, sound-proof music rooms are increasingly popular; however, they take planning, given acoustics and power needs, but can make a wonderful addition for the music aficionado.

“MAN CAVE” OR SPORTS ROOM

The basement is a great place to set up a sports room because it provides an out-of-the-way spot where



This page, above: The 15-ft. x 14-ft. home theater with professional-grade HD projector and six leather recliners offers tiered movie-style seating; and the French doors that open into the home theater.

Opposite: The fully equipped exercise room, complete with an elliptical trainer, spinning bike and free weights; and another view of the living/television area; and the French doors that open into the home gym.



you can also set up something big enough to enjoy with other fans. These spaces often include bars and kitchens.

HOME OFFICE

If you work at home, you're part of a growing movement. Approximately 4 million people or around 3% of the U.S. workforce works from home, resulting in a boom in home office renovation. Functionality, privacy and comfort are key to these designs, making a separate space in the basement ideal. Again, power needs for computers, printers and other equipment must be considered in the design.

AN AWARD-WINNING BASEMENT

The Linardakis basement renovation is a hit. In fact, the project garnered a Contractor of the Year (CoTY) award for Michael Nash. The project was named "Best Basement Remodel between \$50,000 and \$100,000" by the metro D.C. chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

"Every member of the family has a different favorite spot," chuckles Nazamian. "Mom loves the fireplace, the kids love the game room and movie theater, and dad calls the entire space the 'jewel of the home.'"