

'Built Ford Tough'

BY MICHAELLE BRADFORD

Vault Garage out of Portland, OR, fabricated this system for a local homeowner. The client was looking for a way to spruce up his garages and add durable storage space. According to Chad Haas, chief gearhead of Vault, the homeowner has three garages: a primary garage attached to the main house, a 10-car showroom that stores his luxury vehicles and a three-car, work-bay garage where he and a freelance mechanic work on the cars.

Vault fabricated pieces for all three garages, with most of the work done in the three-car, work-bay garage.

"The client wanted something more organized, but he was also looking for a visual impact," Haas says. "He was looking for something sturdy."

After considering several woodgrain products, the client decided to go with metal-based cabinets because of the type of tools and fluid containers that would be stored in them.

"This gentleman had a need to store heavy-duty things: power tools, hand tools — screwdrivers, wrenches, sockets — and he didn't want to consider anything other than metal cabinets. He was also going to store automotive fluids — car cleaners, paint cans, varnish containers — and he was concerned that the weight of the five-gallon containers wouldn't be supported by the shelves," Haas continues.

Haas worked up several designs and the client decided to go with the design that had a two-corner configuration. The cabinets go along three entire walls of the garage — the back,

left and right walls.

"On the right-hand side, we made a custom sink vanity where we customized the size for him to drop in a sink, so that when he's working on his vehicles and gets grease and grime on his hands, he can go over and wash things off."

The base cabinets feature a countertop product called Paperstone to create a seamless look for the work surface, Haas adds.

"It's a product that we've been promoting because it is durable," he explains. "It doesn't dent, and it's beautiful and looks like silk stone."

Creating a finished look was important because the client wanted an unobtrusive work surface, "where the cabinets have a built-in appearance even though they are modular."



The cabinets were finished in the brand color of the client's favorite car company.

"He wanted the cabinets to integrate the [feel] of the entire place," says Haas. "He likes Ford [cars], in particular the Ford Shelby. He has an original 1965 Ford Shelby Cobra. He asked if we could powder coat the cabinets in Ford Blue. We took it a step further and also created a custom floor called garazzo."

For the floor, Vault took the Ford Blue color scheme from the cabinets and added grey and white.

"That pattern really appealed to him," Haas says.

The luxury garage also features stainless steel slot walls with aluminum inserts. According to Haas, these touches were added to create a "wow" factor when people enter the garage.

"This is not just a great place to work on a car, but it is the place where he hangs out with his buddies. He has a large screen TV and a couch. It's his getaway. The Beach Boys are playing in the background - the garage is wired for surround sound. This is his room, his destination, his refuge." ■

