



The 'Mariner's Retreat' renovation to John Smulders' South Surrey home won a recent RENOVATION award. It involved the installation of a suite above Smulders' garage.



The furniture in the main room had to be custom made because of the area's tight space.



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# Dream space provided a good night's sleep

**RENOVATION AWARD:** Pilot finds calm in his 'ship's cabin'

A good night's sleep isn't always the motivation for a major household renovation. But for John Smulders, it was.

Smulders is a marine pilot who steers cruise ships and freighters into Vancouver and up the Inside Passage. A decent sleep is critical, but hasn't always been easy, given that Smulders works shifts and has found that his sleep time can coincide with play time for his two young children.

He decided the solution was to renovate his south Surrey home, so he turned to builder Harald Koehn, who had carried out a previous renovation to his house. The requirements: a place that was beyond hearing range of the piano, built to code and not cut into the existing house.

Designer Ron van der Eerden of Pacific Image Home Designs, was also involved in the project. Three sets of drawings later, they had a plan to add a third bay to the existing double garage and a new 828-square-foot suite above it: a mariner's retreat.

The home is a 1960s rancher, and although the roof was raised to accommodate vaulting during the previous reno, it is still one storey.



One of the most striking aspects of the new space is the ceiling's multi-vaulted tongue-and-groove cedar.

The craftsmanship, attention to detail and efficient use of space of the finished retreat evoke a ship's cabin. The ceiling has multiple vaults covered in tongue-and-groove cedar. In the main room, all the furniture had to be designed and custom-made for the space because it is so tight.

The retreat includes in-floor heating, an energy-efficient gas fireplace facing the bed, a home theatre and a wet bar with granite countertop. But the big-

gest luxury was the promise of a good night's sleep and sophisticated soundproofing measures ensured that.

*Mariner's Retreat recently won a Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association RENOVATION award for Best Renovation \$250,000 - \$399,999. For more photographs of this and other homes by Harald Koehn Construction, visit [www.haraldkoehn.com](http://www.haraldkoehn.com).*