



# The Amazing, Adaptable Bonus Room

by Melissa Dybas

Photography by Leon Thompson/  
Homeplans, part of Move

**H**ave you ever wanted your very own study? Or hobby room? Or place, no matter how you label it, where you can escape to? Perhaps you could show off the trophy from your latest hunting trip, or set up an art studio, or practice piano, or even display all the stamps you've been collecting since you were eight years old. Regardless of your favorite hobby, the versatile bonus room can honor it with its very own space.

Maybe you would love to have a room all to yourself, but it just doesn't seem realistic. After all, who really is willing to dedicate an entire room to their special collector's edition Star Wars memorabilia? Or more importantly, whose spouse will let them?

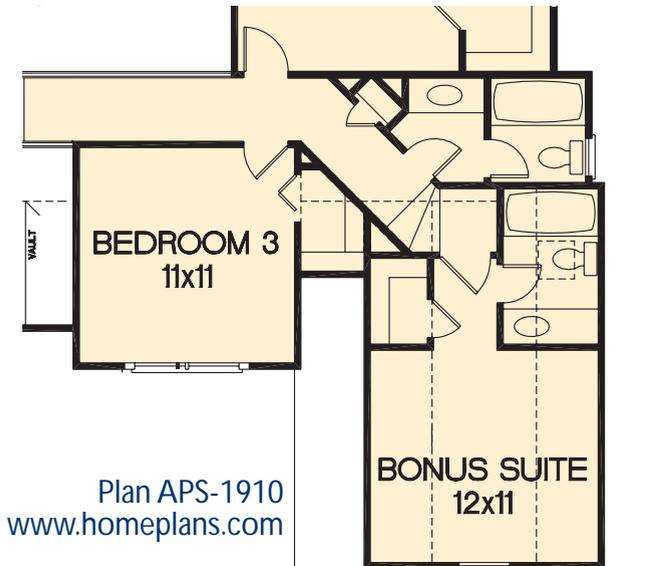
A bonus room offers a feasible solution, because it is, in fact, a bonus. Unlike a future area, which is a space designed

*These bonus rooms were built from the same floor plan, though the homeowners had different uses in mind.*

to be finished later, a bonus room is built at the time the house is built. And unlike any other room in your house, the bonus room doesn't have a designated purpose. Without a designated purpose, the bonus room can be used for anything you want, which makes it, in some ways, the most used, most livable room in the house.

Compare the two bonus rooms shown above. They were built from the same home plan, APS-1717, but by two different families. The bonus room on the left is used as a home office by a man completing his graduate studies online. The bonus room on the right is being used as a playroom for young children. Although both rooms looked exactly the same on the blueprints, the homeowners envisioned them differently, and the rooms were flexible enough to accommodate their needs.

Take a closer look at the photos. Both rooms are topped with a vaulted ceiling and offer a window to invite bright sunshine or cool evening breezes to fill the room. These characteristics can lend a private, "getaway" kind of ambience that enhances an office or a "kids only" playroom. It's the decorating style, however, that ultimately dictates the room's feel, making the room itself quite flexible. After the man finishes his graduate studies, perhaps he will decide he no longer needs a study and will convert the room into a game room for poker night. Maybe when the children get



too old for the playroom, the room will be turned into a computer room.

You'll also notice that each room is furnished with a futon couch, instantly turning the room into a guest room. Some bonus rooms, like the one in Plan APS-1910 (see floor plan above), also have private baths, making them exceptional for overnight guests, as well as for an older child craving independence. Remember that episode of *The Brady Bunch*, in which Greg and Marcia both discovered that the attic was unused and would be a perfect place to get away from their younger siblings? Bonus suites offer an excellent place for growing children to enjoy extra privacy.

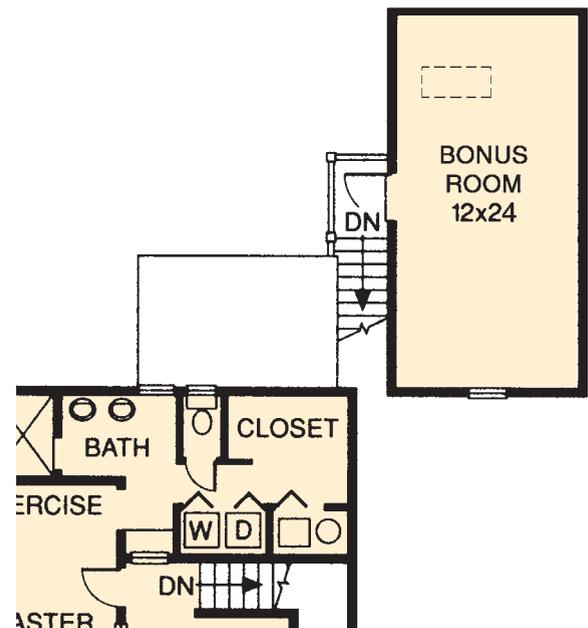
For even more privacy, some bonus rooms are accessed from outside the house, like the one in Plan BC-1500, shown at right. Housed above the garage with a convenient entrance that is separate from the home, bonus rooms like these make ideal music rooms or workshops, where loud noise is kept away from the rest of the home.

While one of the major advantages of a bonus room is its ability to change uses, you can make the most out of your bonus room by thinking ahead about what some of those uses may be. For example, will your bonus room serve as a private getaway for quiet relaxation? If so, you might consider an entrance that is separate from the rest of the

### POSSIBLE USES FOR A BONUS ROOM

- Computer Room
- Den
- Exercise Room
- Hobby Room
- Library
- Media Room
- Music Room
- Nursery
- Playroom
- Study/Office

Go to [www.homeplans.com/rdr/bonus](http://www.homeplans.com/rdr/bonus) to view more homes with extra rooms.



*A bonus room with an entrance that's separate from the main part of the home offers extra privacy and keeps noise at bay.*

house. If you think you might use your bonus room as a home office or media room, plan for enough electrical outlets. A vaulted ceiling creates a cozy feel, which would be great for a guest room. Adding extra windows can brighten the room with natural light for an uplifting atmosphere.

No matter how you choose to use your bonus room, either now or in the future, remember that it's an extra room for you to do as you please. If you want to use it simply as storage, do so. It's the one room in the home that is completely void of any designated purpose, so let your imagination run wild! 🏠

*NOTE: Photos may reflect modifications of the original design. Please refer to the floor plans and/or the drawn elevations for actual blueprint details.*