

MAY 2008

WORKSHOP WONDERLAND

By Christian Clarke

Photography by the author

The only things missing from The Creative Workshop's annual Holiday Open House on December 14 were elves, snow and a hand-painted sign reading "North Pole." This classic restoration shop is based in a rustic, 70-year-old granary in Dania, Florida. Festive lights and eggnog helped put visitors in the holiday spirit, while some stunning classic cars gave them ideas for their wish lists.

Greeting guests at the door was a dove gray 1951 Connaught L3/SR, a class winner at the Watkins Glen Grand Prix. Just past the selection of cigars and liqueurs at the front office, the full beauty of The Creative Workshop's space became apparent. The glory years of classic cars fit perfectly in place with the rustic texture of the building. Shop owner Jason Wenig has managed to keep the anachronistic feel and patina of this space, complete with wooden floors and high-beam ceilings.

Despite the environs, the cars on display were anything but barn finds. Wenig managed to lure a few of the workshop's more illustrious graduates back home for display. These included a Motto-bodied 1953 MG TD Sport Special campaigned at Sebring and a 1954 Stanguellini 750 Sport Internazionale originally owned by Briggs Cunningham. It's not just a den for extremely rare European show cars, however: The floor was also occupied by iconic American works in progress, from T-birds and Mustangs to an especially striking 1955 Mercury Montclair Sun Valley with a green-tint Plexiglas roof.

The books, leather club chairs and ephemera of a bygone era coalesced with classic cars to create nothing less than a dream factory for the holidays. For more information, visit thecreativeworkshop.com.



The Creative Workshop's holiday party provided a mix of food, friends and beautiful car restorations. The shop resides in a historic granary.