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BEING FOR THE BENEFIT OF MR. ALTERMAN

Reviews of cars like the Mulsanne inevitably include a comparison between the interior and an English drawing room or library. But, since our drawing rooms are either the less-posh American style or riddled with bullet holes from being used as quick-drawing rooms, we thought we'd see how much it would cost to upgrade Alterman's 14 x 17-foot office to Mulsanne spec. The idea was to recreate the car's interior as faithfully as possible but on the scale of Eddie's lair.

We contacted Lauren Coburn, a Chicago-based interior decorator familiar with this caliber of craftsmanship but whose customers usually have some means of paying that doesn't depend on expense-report sleight of hand. She was nice enough not to toss out our sketch of Eddie's floor plan and went to work. It looks like we'll be putting in a lot of overtime.

• Leather: \$30,000

- Trimming leather into panels for walls and ceiling: **\$75,000**
- Leather-wrapped motorized blinds: **\$35,000**
- Polished burl-walnut crown molding, baseboard, and door and window trim: **\$220,000**
- Wall-to-wall Wilton wool carpeting: **\$7925**
- Custom-designed lighting: **\$40,000**
- Desk, bookcases, and filing cabinets matching the Mulsanne's \$2265 veneered fold-down tables: **\$100,000**
- Naim audio system to match the Mulsanne's \$7415 thumper: **\$175,000**

TOTAL: \$682,925

(And we haven't even addressed the organ-pull light switches, billet floor vents, and knurled door handles.)

This room would be infinitely better-suited to entertaining, eating, sleeping, weeklong binges, and pretty much anything that goes on in a house. But, for more than double the cost of the car seen here, it won't go 187 mph. It probably wouldn't even go fast enough to catch any air over the speed bumps in our parking lot. And if a light bulb burns out, you can't just drop it at the dealer and wait for a bill.

Advantage: Mulsanne. —JG

