

ElectronicLifestyles®

Your Guide to Integrating Technology Solutions in Residential Design & Construction

Spring 2013

CEDIA

CUSTOM
ELECTRONIC
DESIGN &
INSTALLATION
ASSOCIATION

Tech Interiors That Delight & Inspire +

- Client Must-Haves: Drapery, Shading & Lighting Control
- Creating the Perfect Outdoor Entertainment Space

The Crestron Adagio system makes delivering great sound to any of the home's audio zones a cinch. The homeowners can listen to music while cooking or entertaining, via incognito in-ceiling speakers.



Early Adopters Embrace Mobile Control

The owners of this built-for-entertaining home used iPads to control their home ... before it was cool.

BY ARTHUR STEVENS

Today's savvy homeowners want to control everything—from TVs to lights to pool temperature—from their iPhone, Android or iPad, and insist on that functionality.

But just a few years ago, these types of systems were the exception, not the rule. This home, for example, renovated in 2011, was the first in which home technology professional firm Bekins had ever installed such a mobile-inspired system. The owners were heavy iPad users, so it was only natural the company create a system that allowed them to control their entire home from the device, in between reading *The Huffington Post* and playing *Words with Friends*. “The owners didn’t want to see anything, like keypads or volume controls, on the

walls. Nor did they want complicated remotes on every coffee table. They wanted simple control from their iPad,” says Joe Brennan, project manager. “At the time, this was a newer concept.”

To get the job done right, Bekins chose a Crestron Mobile Pro G platform that allows the homeowners to operate their system from their iPad using a Crestron app. From there, they can control all eight zones of distributed audio inside and outside the sprawling, 15,000-square-foot residence via the Crestron Adagio Expander. The system had to be simple enough for just the two of them, but robust enough to host a large group of people. If the couple is entertaining, they can simply touch the Party icon to have any source—including

The home theater was inspired by a chandelier the homeowners acquired on vacation. The proscenium hides the Paradigm speakers behind the screen, and a stage makes room for live performances.



The Builder's Benefits

Drew Tervee of Scott Christopher Homes has worked with home technology professional firm Bekins on at least 15 projects in the last five years. Tervee and other builders at Scott Christopher Homes usually initiate the referral to customers who are all over the map in terms of technology. "The degree of technology—or lack thereof—that a client wants is always based on their own personal experience," says Tervee. "We have some clients who want nothing to do with technology because they had a previous system that confused them and they ended up not using it. The problem is, those older systems are not good indicators of what is technologically possible these days." Other clients, according to Tervee, don't even bring up the technology question. It's usually later, when Tervee takes clients around to some of his completed projects, that homeowners begin to ask questions about home automation and entertainment. Still other clients have seen a high-tech system in a friend's home and want that same functionality in their own abode. It is here where the benefits of promoting home technology take hold. "Buzz and word of mouth from the installed technology can really benefit the builder. For example, if someone goes to the 'Smith' home and sees a friend operate a lighting scene with one button, it facilitates a talk about what we do," says Tervee. Promoting technology in the home also, according to Tervee, drives customer satisfaction because homeowners have a more user-friendly, convenient, safe, and entertaining home. Tervee recommends that builders working on a project with a home technology professional be involved in the process as much as possible. "Builders should take full advantage of the opportunity to sit in on the professional meetings between these industry experts and homeowners," he says. "These meetings are great educational opportunities and allow builders to stay in front of the client."

ing the throwback media-room jukebox—play throughout the home.

While the jukebox is great for entertaining, it isn't the only "wow" feature in the home. The impressive saltwater fish tank, for example, mimics the climate of any designated location in the world. For example, if the water is 80 degrees in Tahiti, the water will be 80 degrees inside the fish tank and automatically adjust in real time. If it is cloudy in Tahiti, the lights will dim in the fish tank; if there's a thunderstorm, the lights will flash on and off.

Meander down the hidden spiral staircase to the basement and you'll find a dedicated theater inspired by a chandelier the homeowners found while on vacation. Residents wanted the feel of a bona fide movie theater, complete with a JVC DLARS60 projector that shines through a Kelmair projector port with optical glass, which eliminates noise and hides the projector. Bekins built the proscenium surrounding the screen using acoustically transparent material that masks the Paradigm speakers. The team also designed a stage area

for live performances.

The Lutron Homeworks system lets homeowners set the theater's mood with one touch. If the lights are on in less-visited parts of the home, residents can turn them off remotely on the iPad. Surveillance cameras allow for a single-button-push view of all of the cameras watching over the property, with a direct DVR feed to each of the seven displays across the residence, along with a secondary hard line to the panic room and "FBI-level" indoor shooting range, which is secured with a bank-safe door and outfitted with closed-circuit TV.

Getting reliable wireless coverage to every area of the home was possibly the biggest technical challenge on the project. "The network is becoming increasingly important. The long, three-story, sprawling design of the home made it hard to get all the network 'bubbles' configured for total coverage and to ensure a strong signal in every part of the home," says Brennan. To overcome this hurdle, Brennan and his team specified and installed a robust business-level Cisco home and guest network with five wireless access points for strong coverage



There are seven video displays throughout the home, including this setup in a living area. Residents can control content on the display from their iPad, thanks to the Crestron Mobile Pro G platform and app.



Audio Distribution



Volume Controls



Satellite Favorites



Satellite Transports

Home Technology Professional:
BEKINS, INC.
 735 Washington Ave.
 Grand Haven, MI 49417
 (616) 842-2743
 www.realcoolstore.com
CEDIA Member Since 1993

Interior Designer:
 Rick Whallon Design, LLC
 Grand Rapids, MI
 (616) 974-9074

Builder:
 Scott Christopher Homes
 Grand Rapids, MI
 (616) 784-4500

In this media room, a jukebox acts as a source to the rest of the home via digital output. If the homeowners want to watch the news, they can do it here in a casual environment or head to the theater for more cinematic viewing.



anywhere in the house. Even if the Internet service provider is experiencing problems, the local area network is always rock-solid. On the off chance there is an issue, Bekins is emailed immediately, and the company's IP techs can log in remotely to make adjustments.

These early-adopter homeowners got a robust home entertainment and automation system that can be operated from their iPhones and iPads on a reliable home network. Bekins has replicated the Crestron control system in many homes since, relying on it as their go-to specification. "We wouldn't change a thing," says Brennan, and more importantly, the homeowners echo this sentiment. ■

■ equipment Contact the CEDIA member for a complete equipment list.

Sonance VP85R In-Ceiling Speakers, VP85RVW In-Ceiling Subwoofers; **Paradigm** Titan Monitor Front Speakers, CC390 Center Speaker, ADP390 Surround Speakers, DSP3200 Subwoofers, Mini Monitor Bookshelf Speakers, DSP3100B Subwoofer, Millenia 20 On-Wall Speaker, AMS100RX Outdoor Speaker, A800 Amplifier; **Sony** KDL60NX720, KDL46NX720, KDL40EX720, KDL40EX40B, & KDL55EX500 LCDs, BDPS580 & BDPS1700ES Blu-Rays; **Chief** RPA281 Projector Mount, LSMU Fixed Mount, MWVRUB Arm Mount; **IC Realtime** EL1000 All Weather Camera, ICR150 Indoor/Outdoor Camera, ICRSMOKE Covert Camera, DVRMAX8 8-Channel DVR; **CE Labs** AV400 Distribution Amplifier; **Crestron** AES Adagio Entertainment System, CEN-IDOCV iPod Dock, Mobile Pro G iPad App; **Panamax** M4315-PRO Controllable Power; **Kelmar** 16X16PHWOG Projector Port; **JVC** DLARS60 Projector; **Da-Lite** 37712JKP Screen; **JVC** PKAG1B 3D Glasses; **Jaymar** 59622 Theater Chairs; **Quest Acoustics** Panels; **Lutron** GRXIA6AMN GRAFIK Eye; **Anthem** MRX700 Receiver; **Cuddle Bags** 4RNDBLACK Cuddle Bag; **Middle Atlantic** ERK-4425 Rack; **Cables To Go** C18437051 48 Port Patch; **Tributaries** PWRC-T100 Power; **Lutron** ST-NB-NONE Keypad, HWD-6ND-SW Maestro, HWI-WLB Landing Board, HWI-MI-120 Modular Interface, Roller64 Roller Shade, HR-REP-120 RF Repeater, H8P5-H48-120 Processor, HRT-10S2RL-SW Tabletop Keypad; **Cisco** SIM2048 48 Port Switch, WRVS4400N Wireless Router, WAP4410N WAP; **HP** V1405C 8 Port Gigabit Switch; **Coby** TFTV1525 LCD Monitor; **Panasonic** Phone System