

3D TV: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

# ELECTRONIC HOUSE

January/February 2010

SMART | GREEN | SAFE | FUN

# GAME ON!

Football and Hockey Havens

**PLASMA FOR PLASMA**

How One Sports Fan  
Finances his Addiction

**CHEAP TRICKS**

Home Automation  
and Speakers

**EQUIPMENT**

- Displays: Samsung, Panasonic
- Loudspeakers: Niles Audio
- Electronics: Marantz
- Control: RTI
- Cables: Tributaries
- Rack: Middle Atlantic
- Power: Panamax
- Satellite: DirecTV
- Gaming: PlayStation 3



**A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

It may not seem hip today, but 15 years ago, this media room was the biggity bomb. Commissioned by Ed Desser, then the president of NBA Television, the entertainment center features 18 tube TVs and a 108-inch projection screen.

"I bought a bunch of 19-inch TVs and stacked them on top of each other and thought it would be really interesting to see what — at the time — was on all three networks," says Desser today. "I liked it enough so I added some more. And I thought, if having six monitors on is good, well then, 19 has to be better."

So Desser enlisted Electronics Design Group of Piscataway, N.J. EDG founder and president Bob Gullo recalls, "We worked with a cabinet maker, drawing sketches with pencils." Today, EDG's "sketches" are lifelike renderings.

The "control system" for the Desser media room was AMX, but there was nothing in the way of matrix switching, and of course, it was well before the days of DVRs. No instant replays here.

Each TV had its own satellite receiver. "It was more set up to be turned on and off," Desser says. "The channels weren't changed. Literally, it was push a button and have everything come on ... like channel surfing with your eyes."

Somehow, Gullo recalls that the centerpiece was a Draper screen with a Sony VPH 1041 projector, flanked by JBL 4412 speakers — "awesome speakers," Gullo says.

The little TVs didn't get audio.

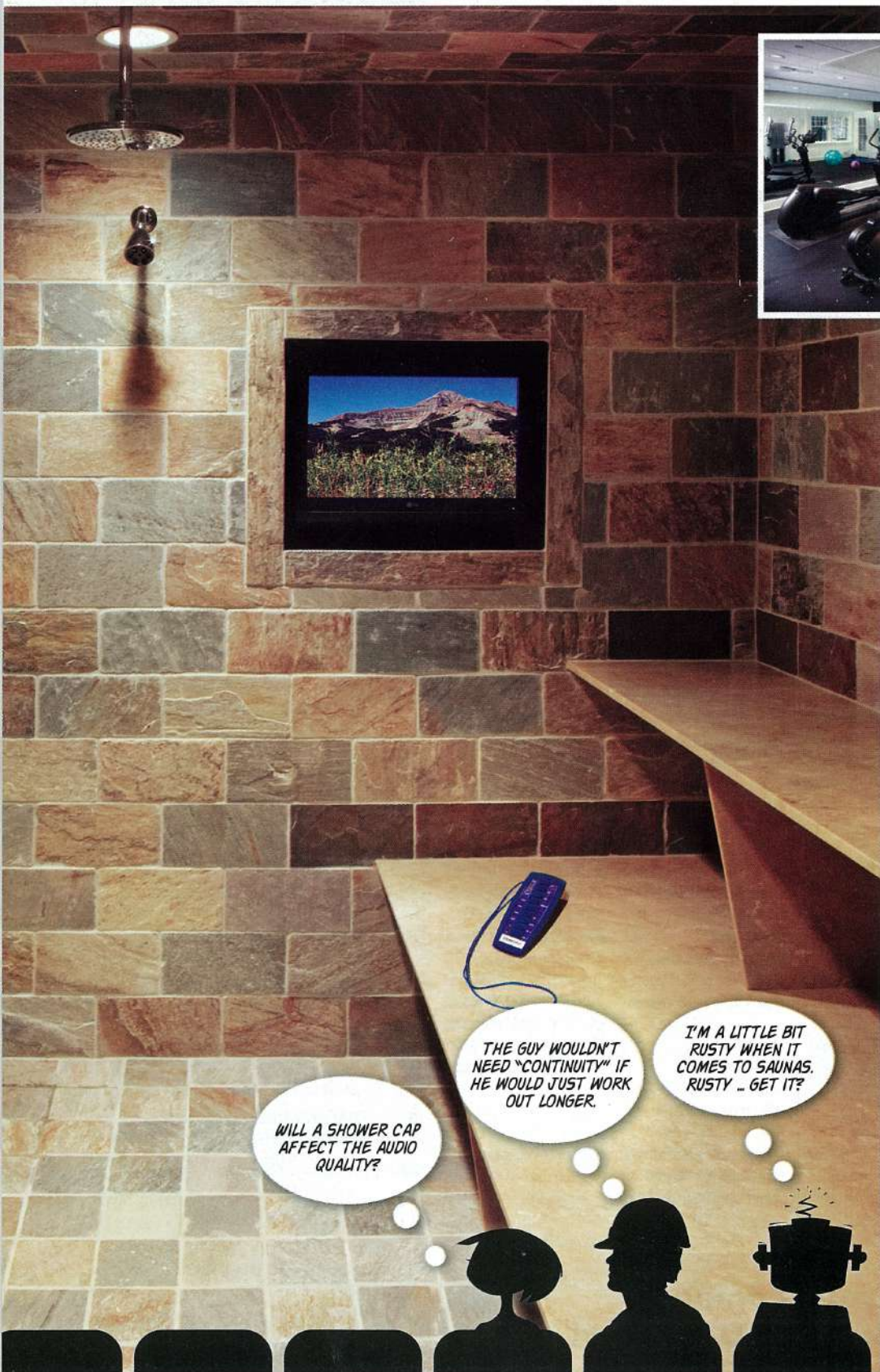
It's not so much that Desser was a sports fanatic. Sports programming was a job (and he's still at it today).

Sharing space with the media room was a home office, surrounded with glass so Desser could watch the sports action while working on the, um, IBM Selectric?

As for his current home, Desser has one big TV and that's about it.

Recalling the days of his happenin' media room, he says his family didn't quite know what to make of him. Loony or cool? "Probably a little of each," Desser says. —*Julie Jacobson*

# PARTING SHOTS



## { THIS ROOM IS HOT! }

Don't you just hate it when you're enjoying a workout in the home gym, watching the big game on TV, and then your workout ends while the result is still in doubt?

That's not a problem for one Connecticut homeowner. He has a TV-equipped sauna right off the gym.

"The homeowner wanted to be able to use the workout room—there's a couple of TVs there—and if he wants to jump into the sauna, he can continue to watch anything from the gym," says Bob Gullo, president of Piscataway, N.J.-based Electronics Design Group (EDG), which installed the home's technology. "There's full continuity. It makes sense."

The 27-inch Sharp TV is actually located in a room outside the sauna, protected by a piece of optical glass. The glass doesn't fog up because ventilation occurs behind it.

"The glass is kind of a barrier between the sauna and the rest of the world," says EDG vice president Ed Condiracci.

Sonance Extreme weatherproof speakers grace the sauna's ceiling. Gullo tells clients to expect three to five years of life for well-worn speakers, "but frankly they typically last much longer," he says. "Just keep them out of the direct line of any water."

No such precaution is required for the waterproof WPR ("Whipper") remote from Crestron, the controller for the sauna. The "remote on a rope" is rugged enough to withstand the warmest, wettest of environments. And, says the company, the device is "easy to grip and won't slip from moist hands."

WILLIAM PSOLKA

WILL A SHOWER CAP AFFECT THE AUDIO QUALITY?

THE GUY WOULDN'T NEED "CONTINUITY" IF HE WOULD JUST WORK OUT LONGER.

I'M A LITTLE BIT RUSTY WHEN IT COMES TO SAUNAS. RUSTY ... GET IT?