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A Beautiful Room:

Inside a special new design

An EDGy Installation

How Electronics Design Group created an award-nominated design, with help from Control4, Pakedge, Lutron, Sonance and more.



Photo: William Psolka, Psolka-photo.com

This installation, conducted by HTSA member Electronics Design Group (EDG), has been submitted for several industry awards, including CEDIA's Best Media Room and Best Integrated Home (whole house), as well as the Lutron Awards. Here's how they designed it:

The clients wanted a clean, modern minimalist home that used technology to increase energy-efficiency and privacy via an integration system, lighting & shade control.

Our scope of work was to integrate and deliver: multi-room audio, surround sound, lighting, shades, HVAC, security system monitoring, local TV systems and outdoor audio. All these subsystems are driven by Control4 with a Pakedge Enterprise network as the backbone for all systems to communicate with each other. The entire system is designed to operate from Android devices and Control4 touch screens.

The clients were moving from an NYC apartment that had Lutron lighting control so having a similar experience was one of their first requirements. Given the clients' proclivity for electronics, they wanted to take advantage of technology and control systems to minimize the clutter of conventional devices (switches, touch panels, volume controls, visible speakers, etc). We accomplished this by choosing Control4 & Lutron and utilizing their apps. The only touch panel is in the kitchen which serves as the home's hub to take advantage of Control4's video intercom at the front door.

The house was a semi-retrofit so running the wiring infrastructure became difficult. We overcame these challenges and still delivered the project as promised. Early in the project, the clients decided against

running wire for shades then changed their minds after the opportunity to wire had expired, therefore, we chose to use Lutron's new Sivoia QS Triathlon Battery Powered Shades. This change limited their options and became a challenge in terms of aesthetics and not being able to provide coverage for a very large front window.

We believe this project was an accomplishment because we delivered the project as promised, despite the challenges of an indecisive client and stylistic limitations. Having all systems seamlessly work together gave the clients a convenient and relaxed living space. We enabled future enhancements to the clients' systems with software that allows them to create their own lighting scenes and music playlists. The clients also wanted a button on the Lutron keypad to not only turn off the lights but also turn off the MRA system.

We delivered most of today's technologies into one easy to use system without cluttering walls with multiple devices to operate. Our system design and installation exceeded the clients' expectations. By using integration systems for A/V, lighting & shades we were able to help the client maintain the intended design of a clean, minimalist and modern style by eliminating wall clutter through the use of keypads. Hidden, in-ceiling speakers were used in the public spaces of the home.

As for the media room specifically, the clients have a very open floor plan and wanted an area to watch movies but not have the equipment interfere with the clean contemporary design. They also wanted a full 7.1 surround sound system and only wanted to see the TV with all other components hidden.

We used Stealth Acoustics hidden speakers for side and rear channel speakers, a custom made Leon LCR bar that matches the exact width and finish of the 60" Panasonic TV and a Leon subwoofer hidden away in their built in cabinetry. All of this equipment is driven by an Integra surround sound receiver managed by Control4.

Sonance's ability to change from round to square grills after installation helped to install ceiling speakers in rooms where they were visible to match the lighting. Special attention during the installation of the shades was critical since they were exposed and we had various lined up & sat out very visibly. Any sort of deviation in alignment was exaggerated because of the clean simple lines of the space. For this design, we were required/expected to pay attention to minute details throughout all phases of the project because any mistake would easily stand out much more than in other styles of homes.

In all, we were able to give the client a hidden installation that matched the clean modern design they were looking for. We did not sacrifice any performance or convenience by properly selecting the right equipment for the job. •