

From the Editors of Electronic House

# BEST



# Electronic Homes



## Over 30 Amazing Homes

Home Theaters, Media Rooms, Family Rooms,  
Outdoor Spaces, Master Suites and more

Get Ready to be Inspired!

*equipment lists included*



## Willing to Compromise

Limited on square footage, the owners of this NYC high-rise use the kitchen as their home's central electronics hub. *photography by William Psolka*

Not many people are willing to give up cabinet space in a kitchen for a TV, let alone two floor-to-ceiling racks of audio and video equipment, processors and controllers. For the owners of this high-rise apartment, however, it was a sacrifice they were willing to make. "As the central spot of the apartment, it really was the best place for the gear," says Scott Jordan of Electronics Design Group (EDG) in Piscataway, NJ. "From this hub we were able to route wiring easily to every room while the residence was being gutted."

The design overhaul included the addition of motorized shading, a motorized TV lift, invisible temperature sensors, and in-ceiling speakers, as well as a Crestron system that would give the family control over everything in this room and through-

out the entire apartment—from either a touchpanel built into the wall or a portable unit meant to rest on the counter.

One of the most beneficial and unique electronic elements of the space is the Lutron Sivoia shading system. "The windows face west, so when the sun sets, the light that comes in is extremely intense," says Jordan. "The shades were necessary to prevent the upholstery from fading and the room from becoming too warm." Unlike ordinary shades, however, the five that adorn the west-facing windows in this room roll up and down automatically. Per instructions programmed into the Crestron system by EDG, the shades descend gradually three hours before sunset. As the shades lower, certain lights brighten, depending on which

### VITAL STATS

**SYSTEMS DESIGN  
& INSTALLATION**  
Electronics Design Group  
Piscataway, NJ  
[www.edgonline.com](http://www.edgonline.com)

**BUILDER**  
Zen Contracting  
Brooklyn, NY

**ARCHITECT**  
Steven Kratchman  
New York, NY



To maximize every square inch of their kitchen, the homeowners stowed a 32-inch Sharp LCD TV inside one of their cabinets. Pressing a button on a Crestron touchpanel engages a motorized platform that lifts the set out of its hiding place. The Lutron Sivoia shades are also motorized, and another touchpanel tap allows the owners to select from preset lighting scenes depending on the current room condition.

scene the family has engaged on the Crestron touchpanel. A dining scene, for example, dims the task lights in the kitchen and brightens the fixtures around the dining table. The kitchen's Crestron thermostat gets into the act, too, although it's hidden away along with the rest of

the apartment's thermostats inside a laundry room. A quarter-size disc mounted to the wall surface monitors fluctuations in the kitchen temperature and reports the conditions to the thermostats. "The sensors are completely inconspicuous, which helped the family maintain a clean aesthetic in the space," says Jordan.

A Sharp 32-inch LCD TV that pops up from the inside of a kitchen cabinet also keeps clutter under control. Touching a button on the Crestron touchpanel labeled dvd or cable engages the motorized lift. From there, the family can feast on video provided by the kitchen's well-stocked electronics rack, adjust the volume, shut the shades, and dim the lights quickly and conveniently.—*LM EH*

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### DISPLAY

Sharp LC32GP1U 32-inch LCD TV

### SPEAKERS

SpeakerCraft AIM speakers

### AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

Rotel TR-1085 FM tuner

Sirius SC-H1 tuner

Integra CDC-3.4 CD changer

Crestron CEN-IDOC iPod dock

SpeakerCraft BB1265-R multichannel amplifier

### CONTROL, LIGHTING AND HVAC

Crestron CP2E control processor

Crestron TPS2000L touchpanels (2)

Crestron ML600 remote

Crestron TPMC8X touchpanel

Lutron Series 8 lighting system

Lutron Sivoia shading system

Crestron CHV-TSTATW thermostats (7)

Crestron CHV-RTS temperature sensors (7)

### ACCESSORIES

Crestron CNXPAD8A audio matrix switcher

AudioAuthority AVX-661 video matrix switcher

Middle Atlantic AXS-SYS equipment racks (2)



## Reeling in Fish and Fun

Relaxation comes in many forms in this spacious lower-level entertainment area.

*photography by William Psolka*

### VITAL STATS

#### SYSTEMS DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Electronics Design Group  
Piscataway, NJ  
[www.edgonline.com](http://www.edgonline.com)

#### ARCHITECT

Robert Adler & Associates  
West Long Branch, NJ

#### BUILDER

Navesink Estate Homes  
Union Beach, NJ

How do you define fun? Does a night curled up on the couch in front of a big-screen TV tickle your fancy? Perhaps conversing with friends over a couple of cocktails is your idea of an enjoyable evening. When you're ready to let loose, though, great music and an awesome dance floor is a combination that's hard to beat. This 2,000-square-foot space caters to all of the above and more, giving its owners a venue for all types of entertainment.

Because it's such a multipurpose space, lighting was a very important element of the design,

says Joe McNeill of Electronics Design Group (EDG) in Piscataway, NJ. "We programmed the Lutron Homeworks Interactive control system to produce a variety of lighting scenes for activities like dining, entertaining and dancing." One of the most elaborate scenes, though, has to be party. Touching that button on a wireless Crestron touchpanel triggers a sequence that transforms a portion of the room into a full-fledged disco. Sirens sound off as a series of hidden disco lights begins to warm up. After 120 seconds, a hatch in the ceiling opens and



a motorized platform descends into the room to reveal rigging for an array of gel spotlights, effects projectors, disco balls, and a professional JBL speaker system. “The disco lights come on at full crazy mode and a preselected disco song plays through the sound system,” says McNeill.

After the fantastic entrée, the owners can use the Crestron touchpanel to select a new song from the hard drive of a ReQuest audio server, XM or Sirius satellite radio tuner or an iPod that’s been placed on the Crestron docking station at the bar. For extra effect, EDG rigged a system that enables the lights to flash along with the beat of the music. There’s even a fog machine controllable through the Crestron touchpanel. EDG installed the fogger inside the base of the bar to keep the dance area free of equipment. While the Crestron control system makes it easy for the homeowners to run the show, there’s always the option to bring in a professional disc jockey for special events. The space is ready for it, having been outfitted by EDG with special wall jacks for the professional equipment.

If and when guests are able to pull themselves off the dance floor, they can sit back with a movie provided by a 60-inch LG high-def LCD TV at the

**Opposite:** Which to choose? If gazing at the 15,000-gallon fish tank doesn’t float your boat, you can watch two ball games at once at the bar or press a button to transform the area into a disco. A motorized hatch in the ceiling reveals rigging with all the necessary lights and speakers.

**Above:** The bar area features a pair of 26-inch LG high-def TVs. The owners can use a portable Crestron touchpanel to choose a different program to play on each set. Several SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers were installed throughout the 2,000-square-foot space to ensure that everyone can hear the audio.

far end of the room, catch a couple of ball games on the two 26-inch LG units at the bar, head to the seven-seat theater just past the French doors or simply relax and soak in the room’s most eye-catching element, a 15,000-gallon saltwater aquarium loaded with flounder, stingrays, lobster, bluefish and other types of Atlantic Coast aquatic life that the owner reeled in himself. The Crestron system helps protect the indigenous fish by alerting the homeowner of changes in water temperature. It’s just one more way the homeowners make this multipurpose entertainment space come alive.—*LM EH*

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### DISPLAYS

LG 60PY3D 60-inch plasma TV  
LG 26LCD 26-inch LCD TVs (2)

### SPEAKERS

JBL MRX512M PA speakers (2)  
SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers

### AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

Crestron CEN-IPOD docking station  
Denon DN-S1000 tabletop CD players (2)  
Denon DN-X100 DJ mixer  
Crown XTI 4000 amplifier

### CONTROL

Crestron CNXRMCLV room interface  
Crestron TPMC-8X wireless touchpanel  
Elation Show Designer 1 DMX lighting controller  
Elation DP-DMX20L DMX dimmer pack

### ACCESSORIES

Leviton Quickport wallplate  
Linksys WAP-54GX WiFi access point