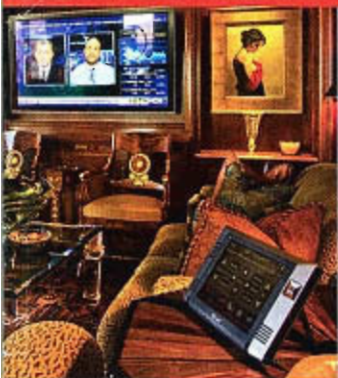


Five Home Theater Plans Included



The Ultimate Planning Guide

from the editors of *Electronic House*



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

from how to build your budget and working with a pro
to choosing the right home systems, A/V gear and much more.

Everyone's Invited

photography by William Psolka

Family movie night isn't what it used to be. Then again, neither is home theater. This grand room was planned for and created during the home's construction, as the homeowners wanted a place for their children and grandchildren to gather for family time, food and fun. The room has 10 theater chairs and four bar chairs in the rear, so everyone can indulge in movie night. "They wanted a theater room that could comfortably seat 10 people and not feel claustrophobic, and we were able to get 4-foot aisles on each side of the seats," says Joe McNeill of Piscataway, NJ-based A/V installation company Electronics Design Group (www.edgonline.com).

McNeill took the homeowners to other residences in which EDG had installed theaters so they could better envision and articulate what to include in their own room. "I'll take people to other homes similar in scope and size, and I had done that with them," says McNeill. "They saw one room where the screen was enormous—like 160 inches—and said they didn't need something that big."

EDG installed a 123-inch Stewart Filmscreen Luxus model and placed front speakers to the left, right and below, with the center channel's midrange and tweeter angled upward for unimpeded sound to each row of seats. Because most video would be high-definition sports or satellite programming, the owners chose a traditional 16:9 aspect ratio screen rather than the increasingly popular 2.35:1 Cinemascope version. When they do watch a 2.35







film, they can use the Crestron STX-1700C touch-panel to activate the screen's horizontal velvet masking material that covers the resulting black bars.

EDG worked with Robert So on the millwork and layout of the 28-by-20-foot room and with Wendy Eigen on the interior design. Not wanting to disrupt So's ornate ceiling, McNeill installed a

Digital Projection International Titan DLP projector that peeks out of a rear soffit to handle the long distance to the screen.

High-performance B&W Nautilus in-wall speakers serve as front channels, and three pairs of B&W Signature 7 NT in-wall models line the side and rear walls. One B&W subwoofer in the front wall and another in the rear provide booming bass. The speakers are mated to Krell processing and amplification, similar to a setup that wowed the homeowners in another EDG theater. Some electronics, such as a DVD player and gaming console, are hidden within the bar, but most comprise one of four racks in a separate equipment room.

Acoustiblok soundproofing material was applied to the walls, ceiling, doors, Sheetrock and outlets so no sound would escape, especially to the kitchen and sunroom above. Independent heating and cooling for the room, plus quiet ductwork, also limits noise leakage. Crestron keypads at the entrance and in the room control several groups of lights, and when a movie begins, the lights slowly fade for dramatic effect. And if someone drives up to the home's front gate and hits the call box, a 20-inch image from the surveillance camera pops up on the screen to notify the homeowners. Now, that's what we call picture-in-picture.

