

Intelligent Homes

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The Magazine of Fine Architecture, Interior Design and Electronic Integration



Award-winning NJ homes


Incredible home theaters

One-touch smart house



Noble moderne

Architecture by Selldorf Architects
Systems Integration by EDG
Photography by William J. Psolka
Text by Richard Oeters



Hot and cold. White and black. Old and new. Can opposing forces be brought together in harmony under one roof? The new owners of this historic New Jersey mansion decided both historic and modern can live very happily side by side.



Classical design, by definition, stands the test of time. Tastes may change, but the classics continue to contribute to what we deem to be “in-style.”

Adding a modern twist to an aged theme can leave an odd juxtaposition - or worse - create a mixture that rubs everyone the wrong way.

This wonderfully detailed 19th century estate was originally built for a European ex-patriate. In fact, one of the first of the upper classes to emigrate to the States.

LEFT: The front of the estate complete with its Titanic-like chimney structures.

BELOW: The rear garden area showing the kitchen and family room addition.



Noble Moderne



ABOVE: The living room becomes less formal. It is one of several rooms placed at the crossroads between the homes original classical stylings and the new owners modern additions.

BELOW: The dining room blends modern furnishings with a traditional fireplace, molding and ceiling.



History

In the late 1800's, Somerset County's "Mountain Colony" rose to fame as the setting for magnificent country estates built by some of the nation's most prominent families. Rich in history and pastoral beauty, the area remains today among the Northeast's most prestigious enclaves.

Designed by renowned New York Architects Carrere & Hastings, this particular home became known as *Faircourt*. It was built as the country retreat of Henry R. Kunhardt, owner of one of the 19th and early 20th century's largest Trans-Atlantic shipping lines, the Hamburg-American Packet Company. It is rumored that the name *Faircourt* was

adopted when his company won a favorable decision by the United States Supreme Court in the late 1890's. This decision is still cited for legal precedence in business cases.

That wasn't the only good luck for the Kunhardt legacy. His mansion turned out to be very well situated by 21st century standards. This historic area of New Jersey's Somerset County offers fine shops and restaurants, excellent schools, renowned sporting clubs and outstanding equestrian facilities. If that isn't enough, you have Manhattan only an hour away by car or commuter train. For all these reasons, *Faircourt* survived as a landmark in these celebrated Somerset Hills.

Noble Moderne

The Estate

Presiding over thirteen acres of sweeping lawns, *Faircourt* is a very large residence, representative of a wealthy man of commerce.

Comprising 17,000 square feet of living area of which 12,000 is original and 5,000 was recently added - the seventeen room home includes eight family bedrooms, seven full and two half-baths, four staff bedrooms with their own two bathrooms and a four-bay garage. There are nine fireplaces to keep you cozy, a variety of ornate hand carved hardwood moldings and elaborate millwork throughout the interior. The exterior and interior walls feature substantial terracotta block and stone.

The Details

Note the spectacular corner living room. Combining elements of various periods into a harmonious whole, the room starts out Roman and ends Bauhaus. Once again, the details are remarkable. First, the handwork - there's the intricate in-laid hardwood floor, the marble base moldings, the hand-made walnut and gold-edged wall panels, the oversized wall carvings and dental moldings

crowning the walls. An ornate marble fireplace and highly detailed plaster ceiling add to the charm.

The room separates this home from its peers. While some may decorate this room in period styles, the homeowner went with modern 20th century sconces and artwork and a large white sectional sofa with matching rug and table. The effect is transcendent and not easily

columns and pediments, alabaster staircase, delicately gilded ironwork banisters and hand painted ceiling would not be out of place at The Library of Congress.

The Result

The unifying concept throughout the entire renovation – both inside and out – is the blending of classical styles and magnificent handwork with the best of



St. Petersburg meets the Hills of New Jersey. The grand staircase is a marvel of marble, iron, gold, and ceiling artwork befitting a museum.

captured in a photo.

While it is hard to choose just one highlight of the home, we find its entryway grand staircase is among the most sumptuous found in any residence. Its solid marble

modern design.

The overall effect is every detail seems duly considered for a spectacular home that is sure to serve this family's needs for many years to come.

Noble Moderne


The New Wing

At the initial meeting between EDG and the client, it was explained that motorized shades would be needed to cover a 'wall of windows' that spanned the new kitchen's length. The first challenge was finding shades to fit the 40 foot long window space that faced their gardens and new outdoor terraces.

Just one problem. There was an odd sized window in the middle of the wall measuring 10' in length. Since the client wanted to keep a symmetrical aesthetic throughout the new addition, he requested all shades be the same size across the new 'window-wall.'

What to do? By working closely with the general contractor, they were

able to create equidistant mullions across the top. EDG solved the spacing problem by hanging two identical motorized shades, five feet in length, over the window. Thus all eight shades now had the desired symmetrical size of five feet each.

Shades and kitchen lighting are all controlled by touchpanels. 



ABOVE: Simple to operate touchpanels control and automate all home systems. The project won several awards including the Crestron 2006 Integrated Home Award.

Noble Moderne



delicate in removing the old wiring, and proficient in pulling the new. EDG first put together an extensive set of CAD drawings. This documentation needed to be on the money as excessive damage to the nearly 200 year old walls was clearly not an option.

By the time the main house was ready, EDG successfully completed new electronic wiring throughout the house and mounted nine of Crestron's TPS 2000 and TPS4000LW touchpanels throughout the home. Each touchpanel gives full access to music, video, lighting, shades, monitoring and climate both indoors and outside.

The Brains behind the Beauty

Project Description

It's not often one has the opportunity to work in a house full of history. Yet, Electronics Design Group (EDG) of Piscataway New Jersey was called to the task. The estate was built in the 1800's as a retreat for an upper class family. Nearly 200 years later EDG was brought into the renovation and restoration project that was taking place in over two-thirds of the existing structure and an additional 5,000 sq ft of new construction space.

The plans called for turning the historic home into one

with all the most modern conveniences utilizing an extensive Crestron Control system. It was their goal to design an intuitive interface to control all of the subsystems in the home. Preserving the original features like the plaster walls, extensive woodwork, and hardwood floors was paramount to a successful project.

Challenges

The biggest challenge on the project was planning the wiring for the Crestron system. Since preservation was a must, EDG needed to be

ABOVE: The kitchen and family room addition includes 40 linear feet of full length windows.

BELOW: When privacy and relief from the sun are needed, motorized shades are only a button push away.





Gracious living with just the right amount of style. That's what this New Jersey homeowner wanted for their new home. To make sure it had just the right amount of electronic intelligence, EDG was called in to help make the smart decisions.

Simply Elegant

A perfectly tailored suit. A classic two seat roadster. A magnificent flower arrangement. Some things just fit right, feel right and are easy on the eyes.

Grace, taste and simplicity all add up to elegance. That's THE word that best describes this home. No matter where you look, everything fits together perfectly, without calling attention to itself. It just seems so livable.

Architecture by the Lederer and Wright Partnership
Interior Design by Haynes-Roberts, Inc.
Systems Integration by EDG
Photography by William J. Psolka
Text by Ida Collado

EDG won several design awards for this home including 2007 Luxury Home of the Year from the CEA and CEDIA Electronics Lifestyle Award for Best Integrated Home Level III: \$340,000 - \$499,000.



ABOVE: The den is a perfectly restful room complete with abundant natural light and 55 Plasma TV that swivels out from its wood wall perch.

RIGHT: Soothing colors give a dreamlike quality to the master bedroom.

BELOW: The kitchen includes both an informal eating area and an adjacent sitting room with full views of the pool.



Simply Elegant

This award-winning summer home demonstrates how advanced home electronics can be discretely integrated into even the most tasteful of homes. This new home is electronically integrated and features - a whole house distributed audio control system, lighting control system, two media room in the master bedroom and library, a screening room on the lower level, control of 7 heating and air conditioning zones, pool & spa, motorized shades, and total home operation via any secure PC. Because this was new construction, EDG, a NJ-based electronics integration company, coordinated with the architect, general contractor and interior design team to choose all of the products, design and system integration. EDG had the opportunity to proactively plan out how the systems would mesh with the home (equipment locations, cabinetry, rack space, ventilation, etc).

After living in the home for a number of months, the new homeowners rave about the home theater. A few other benefits stand out as being just as important.

A Bright Idea

The home includes a keypad-driven, whole-house lighting

control system. This enables the homeowners to achieve two major wishes; no wall clutter and preset scenes for one button touch entertaining. They also love the astronomical time clock functionality and custom programming which gives their home a unique look at different hours of the evening and into the early morning.

Ease of Use

The touchpanels for the media rooms and screening room are



identical. This allows an intuitive 2-way wireless touchpanel to operate consistently in all the media spaces.

Music Maestro!

The family stores most of their music as mp3 files on

their computers. Their home systems allow them to groom their database then save it to the hard drive on their PC. Then, they can access their music from any of the home's touchpanels. It's actually fun to create playlists for entertaining because they can be enjoyed throughout the home.

Warm, but not too warm

Since the heating and cooling system is part of this smart home, it can be accessed from anywhere in the world. The

ABOVE: The rear of the home exudes simple elegance with its ever changing roof lines, window shapes and tiered decking all adding to the allure. Seaside colors offset the graceful hues of the interior.

clients can keep the home at 75 degrees when away to save energy and set it to a refreshing 68 just before landing for a cool arrival. [H]

Sound Without Compromise

Conventional "wisdom" states that you need big, imposing, grotesque speakers in order to get good sound.

TRIAD

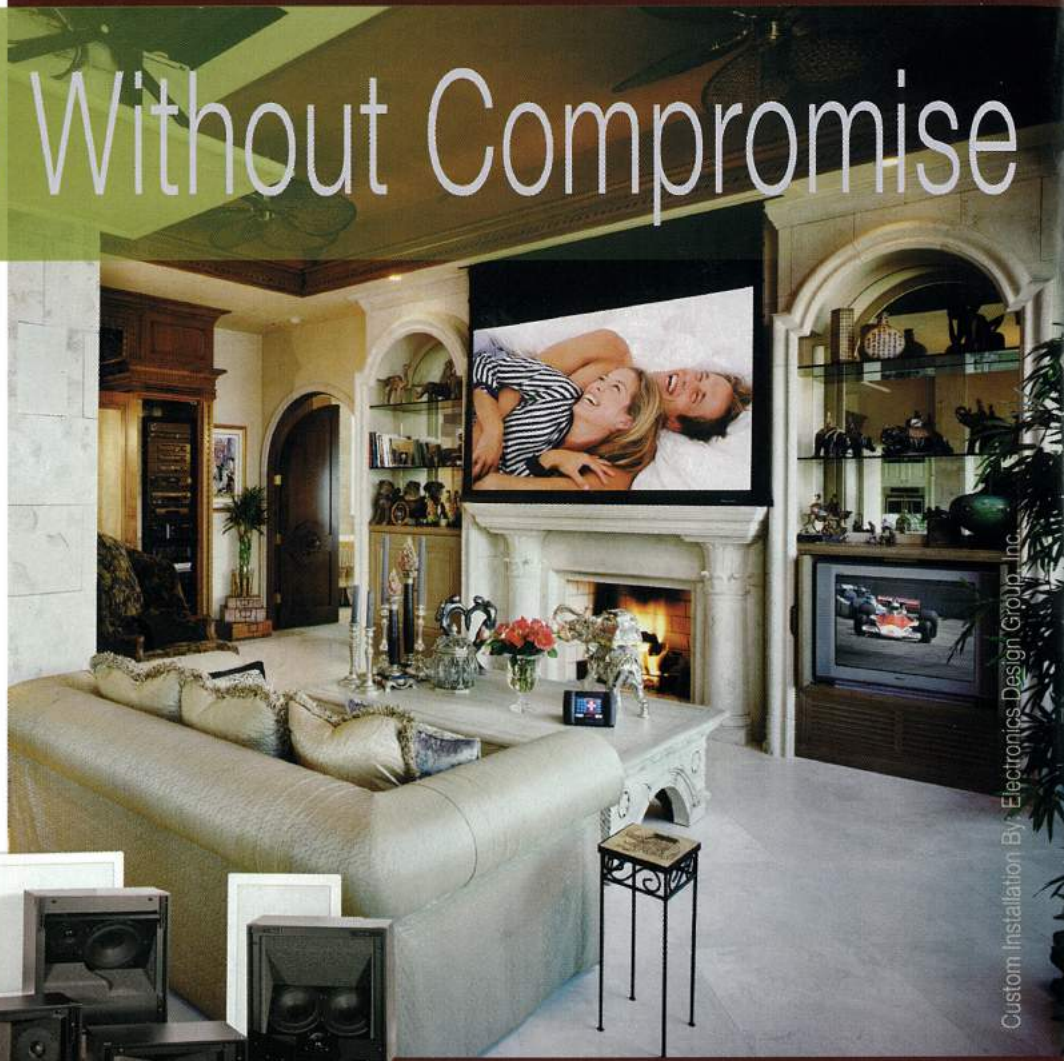
At Triad, we have a better solution...

What if the best sounding speakers...with the sound your upscale clients want...blended seamlessly into the environment, with custom veneer or paint matching at no extra charge?

What if there were multiple versions of the same speaker for use on a stand, on a shelf, built into the wall, on the wall, or the ceiling, or even mounted in a corner, and all versions offered the same performance?

Triad is the leader in high-end custom speaker solutions, with over sixty models made one at a time to order in our modern facility in Portland, Oregon. With Triad, your project can look as good as possible and sound as good as possible...two things you probably thought were mutually exclusive!

We know what you're faced with when integrating speakers into a home. Triad offers unique solutions to help with your custom audio needs.



Custom Installation By: Electronics Design Group, Inc.

"Annual surveys of CEDIA-type AV dealers reveal Triad to be one of the industry's most admired brands, with a reputation for no-BS engineering, predictably excellent sound quality, and unfailingly good value..."

KEITH YATES
Stereophile's Ultimate AV Guide

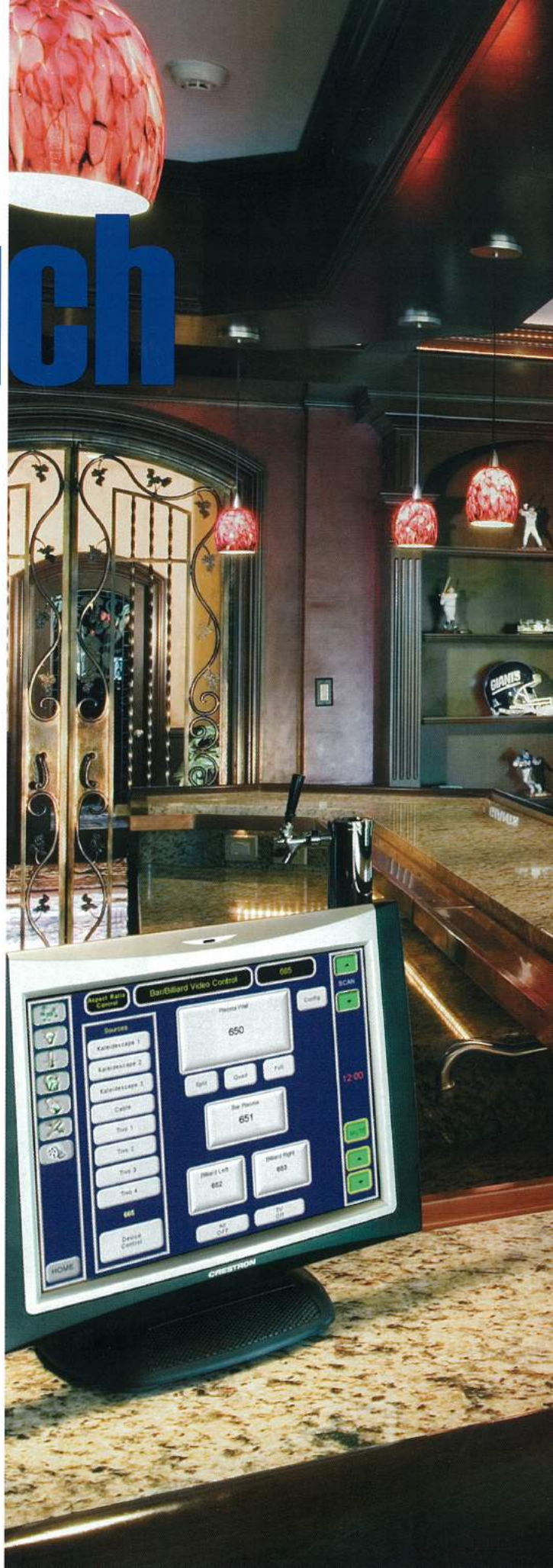
The One-Touch Home

There's a revolution going on in electronic systems that will make your life easier, your entertaining more fun and your home more efficient and secure.

Reported by Samir Patel.

Conveniences. We don't miss them until they are gone. Try watching TV without a remote control, manually opening the garage door instead of by the touch of a button, or living without a microwave oven? Why should you live without these 'essentials' if they are readily available?

Many of our homes are not taking advantage of all the wonderful electronics that are on the market right now. You run around the house turning lights on or off, there are stacks of CDs and DVDs scattered in different rooms, sunlight pours in heating up the house and fading fabrics, artwork and collectables, you have to run to the door to see who's there or to check on the baby...this is not very convenient living! There is a better way.



The One-Touch Home

Total Electric Living

Much like “Cable TV in Every Room!” was a popular slogan on motel signs in the 1970’s, “Total Electric Living” was its 1930’s counterpart. It was an appropriate slogan when modern conveniences meant an electric stove, electric lights, electric garage door, electric doorbell and outlets in every room. But that was a more than seventy years ago!



Did smart home technology start in 1962? See the sidebar on page 31.

Knock – Knock!

The Modern Age is here

Think for a moment about that lowly push button doorbell. In its day, it was a significant advancement. Its pleasant chime was an improvement over an annoying fist to the door. That was then, today you can actually see and speak with

whoever is at your door from any room in your home. A discrete front door camera and microphone send an image to any of your wonderful electronic touchpanels or via a picture-in-picture ‘window’ on any TV. A visitor is ‘sensed’ by your system and the appropriate displays show who is there and allows you to communicate with guests at the door. Welcome to Home Automation!

A home automation system can do much more than merely help you communicate with the door. System communication extends to the nursery where you don’t have to fumble with poorly designed baby monitors. An internet camera connects to your house network and can be accessed by any network TV or PC. Remember your handheld touchpanel that displayed who was at the door? It can also be used to show what the baby is



up to, what’s cooking in the kitchen, or who’s in the swimming pool. Worried about water in your basement? Your automation system puts eyes and ears into rooms and yards. Not only can this all be displayed on your handheld touchpanel, it can be accessed from any PC anywhere in the world. Just log-in to your secure home site.

Entertainment

The remote control went from novelty to necessity when the amount of channels went from 3 to 300. Things got a little complicated when the VCR appeared with its own remote control. Then emerged the cable box, surround sound, DVD, CD Changer, TIVO...well, you get the message. Who wants to deal with 50 tiny buttons on 6 different remote controls! Remember your handheld touchpanel? Once again, it’s back to save the day. This time your touchpanel is the entertainment command center taming all of your home theater gear. It is as simple as touching the “Movie” button. Your entire system turns on in proper sequence and just the right volume. Select the

Color touchscreens work like an ATM and control your home systems with the touch of a button.

The One-Touch Home

TV button on the touchpanel to display the icons for your favorite channels on the touchpanel. Select the icon to play a specific channel. Would you rather listen to music in the den, kitchen, hallway, and back yard? Touch "Music". A diagram of house appears on the screen. Touch the desired area to activate the sound. No loading CD's or DVD's. They are all stored on a central server and available for anyone at any time. Time to turn it off? Hit the "All Off" button that's always available.




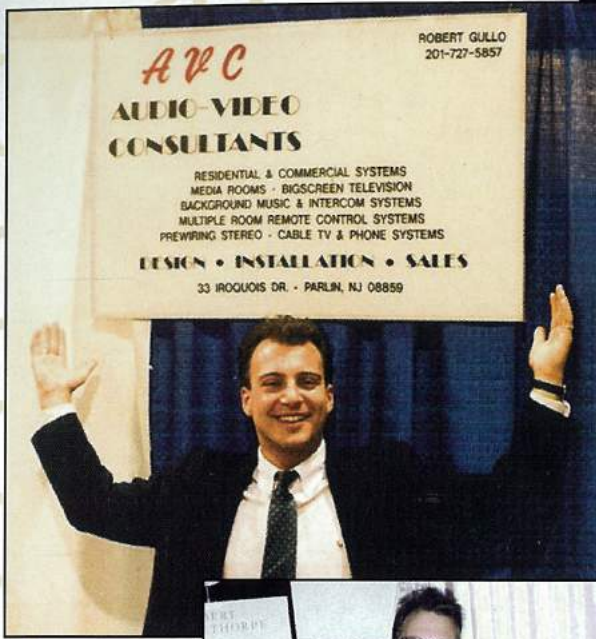
Lighting and Shades

Speaking of on and off, how much time and money do you waste when lights are left on when they should be off and vice versa? Don't you think the expense adds up over the years? Wouldn't it be wonderful if your outside house lights just

turned on and off with sunset and sunrise and your interior lights automatically lit up when you are home or away? How convenient would it be to have the lights turn on or off when you enter or leave a room? It's not only possible, in the age of rising energy costs, it's essential. You'll also feel safer knowing you can press the 'All On' and 'All Off' button from your bedside or PC anywhere in the world.

Climate

Just as lighting can be controlled via your touchpanel, your home's climate can come under its command as well. Monitor the temperature and even the humidity level at all times without having to get up or be home to make even the slightest adjustments. Controlling multiple zones of HVAC from one location is simple and also easy to pre-set temperature set points. Keep your home at a more energy efficient temperature while you're out, and programmed to automatically adjust to more comfortable levels by the time you get home. Use your PDA or PC to control the HVAC remotely, even monitor the wine cellar or greenhouse atrium temperatures. 



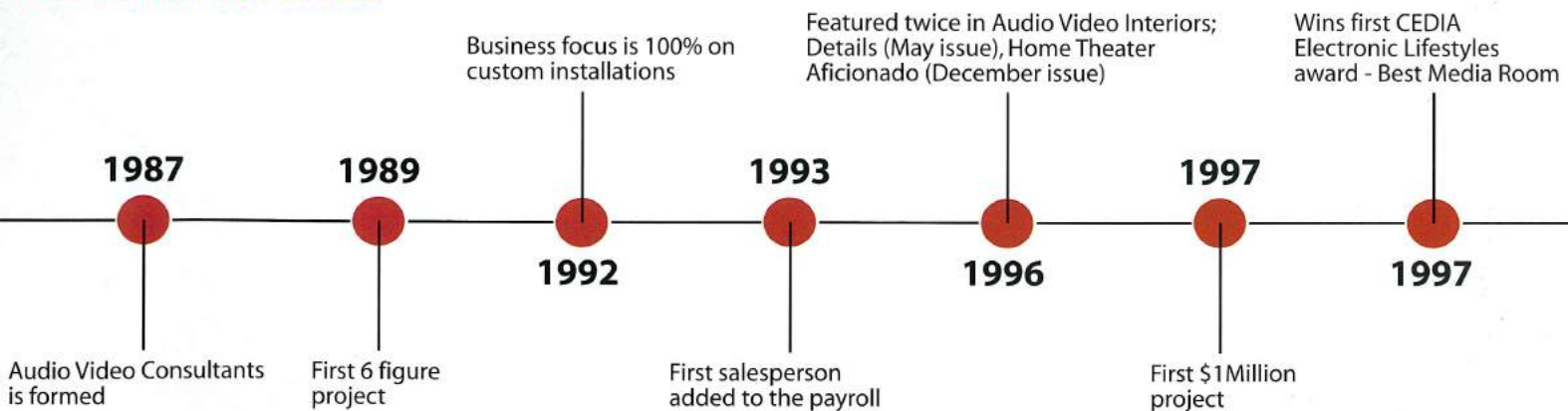
20 Years



Circa 1987: Don't give up the day job! A career in music was not in the cards, so Bob Gullo started Audio Video Consultants (now called EDG) - for sales and installation of better home electronics. This year, EDG marks its 20th anniversary. Things did look different in the 80s.



EDG Milestones





Electronics Design Group of NJ has come a long way in 20 years.

Young

Story by Nick Lehotzky

Bob Gullo, EDG's founder, looks back on the first 20 which has brought EDG from a start-up company to a nationally recognized, award winning firm.

IH: As someone who has been involved in the integration industry since 1987, how has it "evolved"?

BG: Well, I can write a book on that...maybe I should! At first, it was difficult to explain to people what I did for a living. Nobody understood. A big deal 20 years ago was having music in more than one room in a house or hooking up your TV with your stereo. We often had to be creative because products were very primitive and not truly designed for the applications we needed for. Today, the sky's the limit.

IH: How would you finish the following sentences? The largest system EDG ever installed was . . .

BG: . . . for a internet technology entrepreneur, and that was almost 10 years ago, and quite a challenge considering the technology that was available at that time.

IH: The most intricate system EDG ever installed was . . .

BG: . . .not any one project, but hidden installations are intricate and detail intensive.

IH: The most satisfying project was . . .

BG: . . . well, it's actually any project that the client says we did a great job and they love EDG and their system.

IH: How did you get started in this business?

BG: This is all I ever did, and all I know, other than delivering newspapers and a few landscaping jobs. But actually I started as a kid. I had a big interest in stereos and wanted to work in a stereo store and did while in college. A few experiments with wiring up TV's and speakers in bars led to me doing the same in my college apartment - having the main stereo in my bedroom, and auxiliary speakers in the living room hanging from chains in the ceiling. The VCR had "Hi-Fi" with audio outputs to run stereo also, and by tuning the TV channels with the VCR we could have the TV sound play through the speakers. That used to BLOW my friends away.

I used the same Hi-Fi VCR to make extended audio tape mixes for parties. Back then,

Winner of 3 Electronic Lifestyles Awards at CEDIA Expo 03; Best Home Theater, Best Hidden Installation, Best Media Room. First time 3 awards won by 1 firm.

Office expands to 11,000 sq ft

EDG featured in UK magazine, Home Cinema Choice; An American Dream

2000

2001

2003

2004

2004

2005

Featured in the Home News Tribune; Home Movies

CE Pro cover story; Gentle Giants

EDG becomes a provider for AIA CES Program

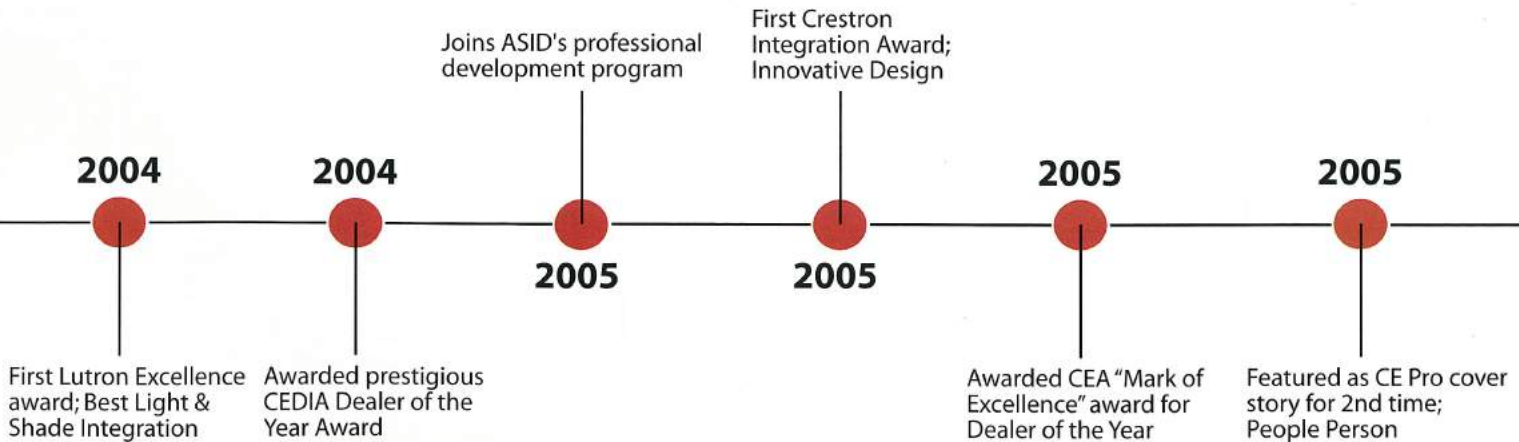
20 Years Young



Circa 2007:
 What a difference a day makes. OK - a little more than a day. Currently ranked in the top 10 businesses of its kind in the US, EDG now works throughout the hemisphere and employs over 50 professionals. EDG has been featured in industry and consumer publications in the US and abroad. Their list of awards includes Dealer of the Year and a record breaking 8 National Awards at the CEDIA Expo in 2006. EDG regularly appears at Home Shows throughout the tri-state area.



continued from page 37
 audio cassette tapes were only 45-60 min a side, and for party you loose the grove if you have to keep changing the tapes. So by connecting the CD player to the VCR, you could make tape mixes. I still have my special 4 hour "Halloween Monster Bash Mix". It's mostly 80's tunes; some Pet Shop Boys, B-52's, Psychedelic Furs, New Order, and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. But after college I had to get a





EDGs newly expanded facility includes meeting rooms, extensive design and engineering suites, and a fully stocked warehouse where equipment is stored as well as put into finished racks and tested.

real job, so I did this work part-time on nights and weekends until I had enough business to quit my job. That only took about a year and half.

IH: What is your background?

BG: I have a degree in management science from Kean University, class of 87. I was sales Trainer with NEC Home Electronics for about two years.

IH: You've grow the business, won awards, graced the cover of magazines, what's left to accomplish?

BG: Lots. We need to continue to evolve and work on improving our business in all aspects. This is a tough business, very service intensive with clients who have high expectations. I still have the "eye of the tiger", and EDG is still my baby. Plus I'm only 42 years old and love working!

IH: What's your vision for EDG?

BG: To reinvent ourselves for the next 20 years. Maybe

Office size doubles to 22,000 sq ft

Winners of 8 National Awards at CEDIA Expo

2006

2006



20 Years Young

some expansion or joint ventures into commercial markets. We already dabble successfully in that space.

IH: Do you have a favorite story about a project or client?

BG: Quite a few. My favorite story happened around 1990. I was in Florida on vacation when a very important client called to meet. I told him I wouldn't be able to see him for a few days, explaining I was in Florida. He put the call on hold. A minute later, he had me on a conference call with "Chappy", his boat Captain. Being naïve and growing up middle class, my vision of a nice boat was something with a bathroom. I told my friends we were going on a boat but everyone was less than excited; it's a boat right? Of course when the fog horn blew and a 110' ship pulled up, that changed the mood. Quite a blast being King for the day. Thanks Jerry, I'll never forget it.

IH: What makes EDG so special?

BG: It's our people, a shared vision to always excel, do the right thing and always try to exceed our clients' expectations.

IH: What does it take to have a successful business?

BG: A lot of drive, faith in yourself, confidence and the ability to learn from your failures.


IH: What business challenges do you face?

BG: Many. Rising health and insurance costs, fuel costs, and "competition" from companies that sell on price, not on quality or service; they have little substance to back up their work. However, it does feed us "rebuild work"; we charge a lot of money to fix botched jobs.

IH: How do you create and maintain good employees?

BG: We always try to treat our people fair, give them a place to learn and opportunities to grow. It's great to see someone advance within the company.

IH: How have you managed to stay ahead of the technology curve?

BG: We're constantly learning, and working closely with our key technology vendors. 



"It's our people, a shared vision to always excel, do the right thing and always try to exceed our clients' expectations."

20 Years Young



Since they opened their doors 20 years ago in 1987, EDG has been a pioneer in the field of custom electronic integration. They have designed, installed, and serviced some of the most sophisticated intelligent homes and home theaters in the country. This has resulted in more than 14 national awards recognizing outstanding performance and execution. In addition, their work has been featured in an assortment of media outlets from lifestyle magazines like Design NJ and Trader Monthly to local newspapers like the Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger to industry related magazines like CE Pro and Electronic House and on cable TV appearing on CNBC's Wake Up Call.