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# hollywood at home

In big-ticket houses, home theaters are becoming standard fare

BY PURNELL T. CROPPER

**With more new homes getting** supersized, the desire to create specific spaces for entertainment is on the rise. Dedicated home theaters, where guests can enjoy the silver-screen experience anytime, have more bells and whistles than ever. Motorized shades, multiple rows of reclining seats, soundproofing, and theater-quality lighting and com-

ponents are just the beginning. With professional help, homeowners can create a space as elegant or lavish as they wish, with some people spending more than \$100,000. Here is a sampling of companies, all certified by the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association, that can build a complete home theater, from elec-

tronics and physical architecture to furnishings and accessories.

**1. Electronics Design Group, Inc.**  
Piscataway, 732.650.9800, [edgonline.com](http://edgonline.com)  
Serving the tristate area since 1987, EDG provides home theater design and installation, systems integration, multi-room audio and video, and more. The

## TIPS AND TRENDS

- If you want multirow seating, remember that ceiling height might dictate the maximum number of rows you can have in the room, since the rows will be elevated on risers.
- Remote-control lighting allows you to modify the mood of the room from your seat.
- A wireless touch panel remote can simplify

- your home theater by bringing multiple audio-video components under your control with a graphic display.
- Indirect cove lights accent a room's architectural features and provide effective perimeter lighting.
  - Columns are good for more than decoration. They can hide speakers, and they can enhance acoustics (hard surfaces diffuse sound).
  - Fiber-optic star ceilings are a growing trend in

- ambient lighting.
- Adding a stage to a home theater provides a great place for kids to perform karaoke and train for *American Idol*.
  - Consider a rear-projection screen if you have an open basement with other entertainment features, such as a bar, a billiards table, or a bowling alley; otherwise, competing light from those areas might affect picture quality.

company operates out of a 22,000-square-foot facility with a movie theater and several demo rooms showing off various lighting, audio, and video features. EDG installs front-projection systems with screens ranging in size from six to 20 feet diagonally.

### 2. JD Audio and Video Design, Inc.

Fort Lee, 201.461.7475, [jdavdesign.com](http://jdavdesign.com)

Founded in 1969, JD gained acclaim after installing a home theater for the man who opened the first McDonald's in Moscow. The family-owned and -operated business has grown into an award-winning custom audio-video firm, offering home theater and multiroom audio design and installation, along with home automation.

### 3. Home Theaters By Design

Chester, 908.879.0879


[hometheatersbydesign.com](http://hometheatersbydesign.com)

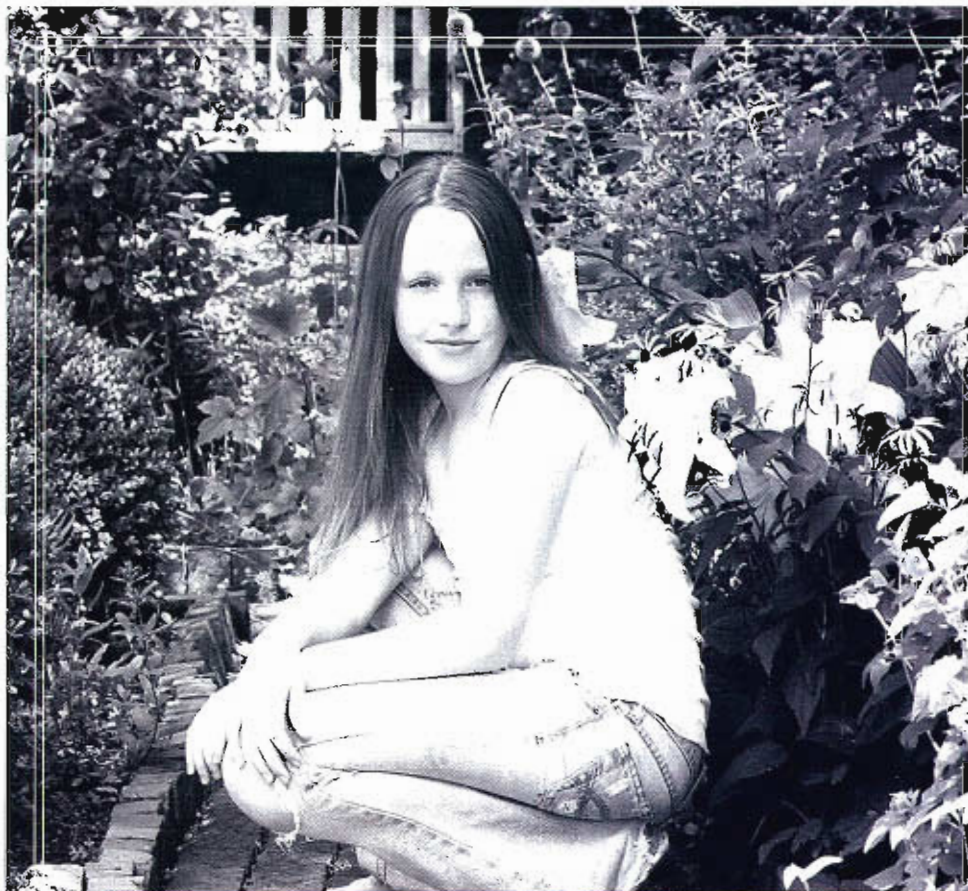
Formed in 2003, Theaters By Design won a CEDIA award for "Best Media Room" in 2004 for one of its first projects. Specializing in private theater design and installation, the company has in-house craftsmen who provide construction services. Lucasfilms and THX certified technicians calibrate the theater systems.

### 4. Sound View Electronics

Ridgewood, 201.444.4782

[soundviewelectronics.com](http://soundviewelectronics.com)

For more than 14 years SVE has used its expertise in computers and entertainment equipment to design and install state-of-the-art home theaters. As a dealer for JDL Synthesis audio systems, SVE provides components you might find at a multiplex or performing arts center. Begin your plans with an in-home consultation or an appointment at the designer showroom and retail store. 



*Sharon Monaghan Donovan*  
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