

Stealth Home Theater

A basement game room offers more than meets the eye.



The notion of a dedicated theater in the home is still relatively new, though the white sheet draped on a far wall and the Super 8 projector have largely given way to the media room, dominated by a monolithic big-screen television. Yet the possibilities for incorporating a quality theater into houses large and small are endless. And just because a house is large doesn't necessarily require a dedicated room of Hearstian proportions.

When Signals Audio/Video, Inc. set out to create a theater in a rambling suburban home, for example, the owner's two stipulations were: 1) that the theater deliver world-class performance; and 2) that the theater's presence not interfere with the massive basement's alternate identity as a recreation room, complete with billiards table and ample wet bar.

If he was daunted by the challenge, Signals president Todd DeAngelis certainly never shows it. "Our company's overall philosophy is that our number-one priority is customer service and satisfaction. The answer is always 'yes.' Anything can be done."

DeAngelis settled the first requirement with the choice of a Runco 980 Ultra projector in combination with the Harman Citation 7.0 THX processor. "[Our client] was somewhat educated from reading magazines like yours," says DeAngelis. "It was very important to him to have a system that was upgradeable, that would handle future technologies. Runco immediately came to mind."

With respect to processing, upgrades also took priority. "We were very much into the Citation line," explains DeAngelis, "and it was basically a no-brainer for us to go with the Citation system. The steering logic within the unit is just fantastic. At the time, Dolby Digital wasn't available, but we knew that there were going to be add-ons available for the unit, so that was very important to us. The Runco and Citation together were a win-win."

DeAngelis' screen selection played a part in fulfilling the clients' second requirement. "We wanted to keep everything hidden. That's why we opted for a Stewart electric screen that dropped out of the ceiling. There's a





A key requirement of the clients' was to keep the theater out of sight until the credits roll. Toward this end, the Stewart Film screen descends from the ceiling, and a custom cabinet (top right) houses the system hardware.

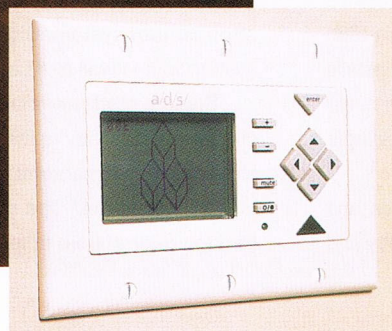


beautiful painting on the wall, and when you press a button, the screen lowers in front of the painting. The equipment is all hidden in the cabinetry. All you will see really is the Crestron panel sitting there on a table."

Other concealed entertainments include PlayStation and Nintendo systems, searchable through the Crestron menus. Video games can also be accessed through either of the bar's two televisions.

"It's a very warm, a very traditional type of design," DeAngelis observes of the room. The stealthy integration of the media system allows the owner to have friends over to watch a movie in style, then, at a touch of the Crestron panel, make way for a game of billiards or cocktail at the bar.

Stealth has its privileges. ■



EQUIPMENT LIST

- **Runco IDP-980 Ultra DTV projector**
- **Faroudja VP-400 line quadrupler**
- **Harman Citation 7.0 THX processor**
- **Harman Citation 7.1 amp**
- **Harman Citation 5.1 amp**
- **M&K MX-5000 THX subwoofer**
- **Triad Gold LCR THX speakers (pair)**
- **Triad Gold THX Center speaker**
- **Triad THX Dipolar speakers**
- **Pioneer Elite DVL-90 laser/DVD combi player**
- **Sony SLV-R1000 Super VHS VCR**
- **Sony SAT-B2 DSS receiver**
- **Crestron CT-3000 control system**



Signal Audio/Video, specializing in "turnkey" design and installation, is driven by an intense desire to make their customers happy, each and every time.

About the Installer

Signals Audio/Video, Inc. was established in 1993 by Todd DeAngelis. In 1994, Todd partnered with Lyco Duong, and in 1996, the firm was incorporated. The staff includes six employees.

Each staff member has extensive experience in various aspects of custom audio/video work. Todd and Richard Schaffer, the firm's vice president, have had extensive past experience in A/V retail management, sales, and system design. Lyco and installer Clem Miranda started in retail installation departments, where both acquired years of experience, before eventually moving on to custom work. Jay Smithline has been in the Custom/Studio business for over 20 years and has fabricated studios and award-winning custom speakers for years.

Signals Audio/Video handles an entire range of custom installations, from new construction to retrofitting existing rooms. Their largest installation to date consists of a "whole-house," low-voltage, structured prewire with an extensive system design and equipment installation. The project carried a total price of \$250,000. Their smallest projects usually consist of DSS installs and smaller home theater systems in the \$3,000 range. The firm never turns away business—even if it's a new customer who needs a simple service call to troubleshoot a system.

In addition to whole-house structured wiring, system-design, sales, and installation, Signals Audio/Video's services comprise custom cabinetry and

speaker fabrication, as well. Other areas of expertise include multizone audio/video, screening rooms and home theater, CCTV systems, telephone systems. The firm specializes in full "turnkey" design and installation working on a one-on-one basis with clients; however, they also work with builders and designers, acting as the "middlemen" to see a project to completion.

Eighty percent of Signals Audio/Video's business is located in West Los Angeles and the greater Los Angeles area, as far north as Santa Barbara, California and as far south as San Diego. In some cases, they will take on projects in clients' out-of-state homes. They have worked, for example, on homes in Idaho and Wyoming.

Signals provides a showroom that clients can visit to experience demos of the equipment they're considering. The showroom is located within our general office space and consists of a 20-foot by 30-foot room equipped with a Runco IDP980 projector with line doubler, JBL Synthesis 3 digital audio system, laserdisc, DVD, VHS, and DSS with a Creston control system. Signals also displays a small "House" music system with in-wall and ceiling speakers installed.

Signals staff members pride themselves on the fact that their clients say that they're the easiest of all the contractors to work with, since the "most important aspect of [their] work is the elevated level of customer service." The majority of their customers come to them through referral from other clients.

CONTACT

Signals Audio/Video, Inc.
6733 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
#205
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 645-9855
(310) 645-9955 Fax