



Crestron DigitalMedia™ at Heart of Luxury Dallas Penthouse

Home entertainment meets energy efficiency

Background

What kind of home does a retired engineer and CEO with a love of sports and entertaining build for himself?

For the owner of this bright, luxury two-story residence on the top floors of a downtown Dallas high-rise, there were two main objectives: install advanced multimedia home entertainment systems throughout the home, and make the dwelling as energy efficient as possible.

“Crestron whole home solutions, including a DigitalMedia backbone, audio/video distribution, and touch screen control

were crucial to making this dream system a reality,” says SoundImage President, Tony Militello.

The Challenge

“The homeowner wanted the best high-end technology, plus energy efficiency,” Militello explains. With multiple large screen TVs including a 103" plasma, several 60" LED displays, AV distribution and audio equipment, this was no small undertaking.

“Each system uses a large amount of electricity, but by centralizing the audio and video distribution and working with the architect and builder on the lighting and HVAC, we were able to balance out the overall energy consumption. The end result was an unusually efficient high-tech home,” adds Militello.



The Solution

Carrollton, Texas-based custom installer, SoundImage installed a Crestron DVPHD multi-window video processor, giving the homeowner and his guests the opportunity to view up to eight HD video sources on the giant 150" projection screen in the media room and 103" plasma in the game room/lounge. With video sources from 12 DIRECTV® satellite receivers, three Blu-ray Disc® players and Apple® TV, this multimedia solution delivers whatever content anyone could possibly want. Watching up to eight games on giant screens throughout the home is only a button press away. Additional big screen TVs and whole house audio bring sports and music to nine more rooms, four patios and five baths.

Delivering a unique viewing experience, each image on the 150" media room screen is about the size of a 36" flat panel display. The homeowner can choose a variety of screen configurations including one image filling nearly half the screen with smaller images along side of it or a quad view with different games in each window. Crestron DVPHD provides the ultimate fantasy football environment.

"We also installed 60" LED displays on each of the upstairs patios for guests to enjoy during outdoor parties," says

Militello. Weatherproof LCD displays were considered, but none were large enough. Instead, SoundImage installed each display under a roofed area on the patio that allows all equipment to be sheltered from inclement weather.

A 16-zone audio distribution system brings music and TV sound to every area of the home, even the master bedroom walk-in closet.

SoundImage installed a surround receiver, amplifiers, loudspeakers and subs in the media room. "This is a beautiful audiophile listening room," says Militello. "The acoustically treated room is the real deal."

Systems at a Glance

Designing the audio and video systems for this residence, Militello says he and his staff decided early on to keep all signals in their native digital formats, switching and routing them without compression for exceptional quality.

"Crestron DigitalMedia was the best product for what we wanted to accomplish," he explains. "It's a finely engineered solution, and it's the only product that meets all of the HDMI® mandates. Crestron was able to deliver exactly what our client needed."

A variety of Crestron in-wall, wireless and handheld touch screens and remotes provides the owner with convenient control of audio, video, heating, air conditioning, lighting, shading, fireplace and outdoor spa from anywhere in the condo. Crestron Mobile Pro® app for Apple® iPad® enables the same whole home control from his iPhone® and iPad from virtually anywhere in the world.

To save energy, daylight harvesting was built into the design, minimizing the need for electric lights. Automated shading helps keep rooms cooler during hot Texas summers. Sun sensors are integrated with lighting dimmers and motorized shades through the Crestron control processors, allowing lighting levels and shades to be adjusted as daylight levels change. Shades automatically lower when sunlight hits a room directly, which in turn cuts back the air conditioning system automatically. Militello says this creates a significant difference in energy usage and utility bills, especially in the summer.

“The homeowner travels frequently so we designed the system to automatically raise and lower the shades even when he’s away,” notes Militello.

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Tony Militello, President, SoundImage

For all control system programming, Militello uses Crestron CAIP, Bernard Morgan of Austin-based ICS+.

The touch screen displays are graphic rich, highly visual and easy to navigate. The blueprint view of the two-floor residence, and only the selections relevant to the areas chosen by the user, are populated.

“It’s very intuitive. Anyone can walk up to the screen and see which zones and sources are being used within the entire unit and can easily change them with a few simple button presses.



The screens also fit nicely with the aesthetics of the home’s interior design,” says Militello.

Benefits

Although this was SoundImage’s first DigitalMedia project, installation and commissioning was hassle-free. “The system was quite easy to deploy,” says Militello.

“DigitalMedia allowed us to be in and out of the residence far more quickly than installing a traditional system, which in turn created a very satisfied client and allowed us to move on to the next job with no worries,” says Militello.

“The homeowner appreciates the state-of-the-art quality of the audio and video experience, and the globalized control of his home. He can entertain friends with the highest-end technology and manage energy consumption whether at home or away as well.”

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