

Nouveau West

A homeowner mixes modern tech with a traditional mountain decor to create an extraordinary living space.

by Lisa Montgomery, photography by Brian Griffin

A 62-inch Mitsubishi DLP TV gives this uniquely designed space a modern twist. A suite of audio/video components are stored in the custom cabinetry; however, a video distribution system gives the homeowner access to a media server and other equipment stored in an equipment rack in the basement.



A specially constructed mount suspends a 42-inch NEC plasma TV from the ceiling. The set can be rotated manually to face multiple vantage points. At right, a 17-inch LCD TV mounted behind a two-way mirror in the master bath magically appears whenever it's powered up. Both TVs, as well as the lights, gas fireplace and music system are controllable from either a Control4 handheld remote or wall-mounted touchpanel.

In Park City, UT, outdoorsy, lodge-style mountain homes are a dime a dozen. The style, defined by heavy timbers, milled logs and stone hearths, has become synonymous with the area, says custom home systems installer Craig Stulce of Safe & Sound Systems. "It's hard to find something really original here." But there's at least one area

homeowner who was eager to break out of the region's design rut. "For my new home, I wanted to give some of those rugged, cowboys-and-Indians features a contemporary spin by adding modern elements like glass and metal to the design."

Electronic systems were also a big part of the contemporary twist. With

guidance from Stulce and his team of designers, the trendsetting homeowner created a living space that can be managed completely through the handheld remote controls and in-wall touchpanels peppered throughout the residence. The lights, thermostats, audio and video components, and multiple flat-panel TVs are all under the command of a Control4 home control system, which has had a huge impact





A dedicated home theater features a 110-inch Da-Lite screen, Seleo video projector and a 7.4 surround-sound system. The room isn't just about watching movies, however. The homeowner can jump on one of the machines at the front of the room and work out with an interactive biking or rowing video.

on the homeowner's lifestyle. "[The system] has completely changed the way I listen to music and watch TV," he says. "And it has added a new level of convenience and given my home an incredible wow factor—not to mention better resale value."

Sizzlin' Spaces

The expansive master suite plays host to some of the home's most sensational displays of technology. Here, a 42-inch NEC plasma TV rotates on a custom-designed pole suspended from the ceiling near the foot of the bed. With just a gentle push, the set can be swiveled to face the sitting area, the bed or anywhere in between. Each main viewing area has its own set of built-in speakers that can be activated independently, depending on where the homeowner chooses to sit. When he'd like to watch movies in bed, for example, he presses a few buttons on a Control4 remote to activate the Integra 5.1 surround-sound system in the sleeping area. If he'd rather take in a show from the couch in the sitting area, he can tell the system to play the movie's audio through that area's pair of SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers.

The adjoining master bathroom is just as entertaining. A movie that's playing on the bedroom plasma can be fed to the loo's two Sony LCD TVs, one of which stays hidden behind a two-way mirror.

Only when the set is powered on does it become visible through the glass. If the homeowner prefers, he can pick a different program for each display, like ESPN for the bedroom plasma and the Weather Channel for the set mounted by the whirlpool tub. The speakers are just as versatile. When they're not dispensing audio from the suite's TVs, they can be used to deliver music to the space, be it a single song that plays over every unit—including the surround-sound speakers over the tub and OWI waterproof speakers in the shower—or something different for each listening area.

No matter where the audio or video enters the room, thousands of entertainment options are available to the owner, thanks to a sophisticated system that distributes music and movies from a DVD/CD player and VCR in a nearby closet as well as from a Sony 400-disc DVD changer and Control4 media server based in an equipment rack in the basement. The Control4 system displays the owner's extensive entertainment library on the screen of the master suite TVs and allows him to navigate the onscreen menu via buttons on a Control4 remote or wall-mounted touchpanel.

In the Mood

As the music or movie cues up, the owner can set the perfect mood. But rather than fuss with multiple wall switches to get the setting for the lights just right, the homeowner needs only to touch one button to dim the lights and activate the gas fireplace. Safe & Sound programmed several lighting scenes for the area, and they can all be activated through a Control4 remote or a touchpanel. "Some scenes were designed to showcase the room's architecture while others were created purely for convenience," Stulce explains. One of the homeowner's favorites happens to be a simple ALL ON command that activates every light in the bedroom and adjoining bathroom. "It makes the whole suite feel instantly welcoming," the homeowner says.

BREAKING IT DOWN

SPIN CYCLE

Several specialty TV mounts were used to attach flat-panel TVs to the walls. The OM-CL from OmniMount, for example, enables the homeowner to store his home office's 23-inch Sony LCD TV flat against the wall, then pull it out and rotate it for a better view.

BUSINESS SENSE

A Panasonic phone system lets the homeowner answer the front door intercom and unlock the door from any telephone handset. These features are particularly helpful when he's busy working in his home office.

SHOWER POWER

The shower gets a dose of music, thanks to two waterproof speakers from OWI. The units were installed flush with the stall's tiled walls.

MUSIC MARVEL

Nearly every room has access to a huge collection of music stored on a Control4 media server. The 80-GB unit can digitally store as many as 1,000 CDs and organize the music by artist, genre and other categories.



Although you can't see it, a Control4 audio/video distribution system feeds music and video to the speakers and TVs in every room of the house, including this cozy retreat. Being able to watch and listen to any source from any area is one of the homeowner's favorite features. "[The system] has completely changed the way I listen to music and watch TV," he says.

Most of the master suite's lighting scenes are engaged by pressing a button; however, Safe & Sound set up a few that happen automatically. At the homeowner's preferred wake-up time, for instance, the Control4 system gently raises the lights, softly plays a favorite piece of music, sets the TVs to the correct news channel, and adjusts the thermostats.

Scene Stealers

Scenes like these occur in every area of the house at all times of the day. When the homeowner opens the garage door at night, for example, the Control4 system instantly illuminates a pathway to the entryway, down the hallway and into the kitchen. Another popular scene sets up the home theater, by lowering the lights and activating all the necessary equipment including a Seleo video projector and Integra 7.4 THX surround-sound receiver.

Aside from the master bedroom, the dedicated basement-based theater is the homeowner's favorite spot to sink into the plot of a movie. As in the master suite, hundreds of video choices are available through the Sony mega DVD changer, local DVD player, VCR and high-def satellite receiver. The Control4 system presents the choices on an eye-popping 110-inch Da-Lite screen, which is accompanied by a 7.4 surround-sound system including five Triad in-wall speakers, two SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers and four in-wall Triad subwoofers.

Not one to sit in one spot for very long, the homeowner incorporated an exercise area

into the theater. Situated between the seats and screen, a rowing machine and stationary bike allow the homeowner to work up a sweat while watching an interactive exercise video on the big screen. "The videos actually put you in the middle of a race against other bikers or on a skiff rowing against another team," explains the homeowner. Although the videos are engaging, he says they're no substitute for old-fashioned willpower.

Completely Covered

Together, the TVs in the bedroom, bath and theater account for nearly 200 inches of movie-viewing real estate. But that's just brushing the surface of this home's viewing capacity. "One thing I wanted to be able to do in this house was to watch any movie I wanted from any room," he says.

Safe & Sound granted his wish by installing an assortment of good-size flat-panel TVs in the great room, home office, kitchen, hearth room and the kids' bedrooms. While hardly a room is without a TV, the displays never overpower the home's unique style the homeowner calls "Nouveau West." Every set was attached to some type of mount that precluded the need for large, bulky pieces of furniture. Instead, the TVs skim the walls, becoming a natural element of a room's architecture and design. And the best part is they all have access to any and all video component on the property, including four color surveillance cameras.

A Different Tone

Plasma TVs, metal swivel mounts and home control touchpanels have given this mountain-style home the touch of modernity it needed to stand out from its rugged, rough-hewn neighbors, while affording the owner the conveniences and comforts of living with some of the smartest home technologies available. The Control4 system succinctly manages every electronic feature of the home, giving the owner more time to soak in the distinctive elegance of Nouveau West. **EH**

EQUIPMENT LIST

CONTROL

Control4 media server and automation controller
Control4 home theater and automation controller
Control4 10.5-inch wireless touchscreen
Control4 4-inch mini touchscreens (9)
Control4 handheld remotes (8)
Control4 dimmers and switches
Control4 keypads (2)

AUDIO/VIDEO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Control4 audio matrix switch
Control4 multichannel amplifier
Knox 16 x 16 video-routing switcher

DISPLAYS

Seleo Domino30 video projector
Da-Lite 110-inch Cinema Contour screen
Mitsubishi 62-inch DLP HDTV
NEC 50-inch plasma TV
NEC 42-inch plasma TV
Sony 32-inch LCD TV
Sony 23-inch LCD TVs (2)
Sony 20-inch CRT TV
Sony 17-inch LCD TVs (2)
Sony 15-inch LCD TVs (2)

AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

Integra DTR4.5 5.1 surround-sound receivers (3)
Integra DVD/CD/MP3/CD-R/CD-RW players (3)
Integra DTR7.4 THX audio/video receiver
Integra DPS6.5 progressive-scan DVD player
Integra CDC3.4 6-disc CD changer
Sony DVPCX777ES 400-disc DVD changer
Sony SLV-D360P DVD/VCR players (2)
Mitsubishi hi-fi VCRs (4)
Monster home theater power centers (5)
Monster Cable power centers (2)
Active Thermal Management cooling/venting systems (2)
Tripp Lite TE600 UPS

SPEAKERS

SpeakerCraft CRS8 TWO in-ceiling speakers (18)
SpeakerCraft AIM8 TWO in-ceiling speakers (4)
SpeakerCraft WS740 indoor/outdoor speakers
SpeakerCraft SPC-8.1 DT dual-tweeter in-ceiling speakers
Atlantic Technology in-ceiling speakers (4)
Klipsch two-way center-channel speaker
Klipsch 6.5-inch two-way bookshelf speaker
Klipsch 10-inch subwoofers (2)
Triad Bronze/4 in-wall surround speakers
Triad Bronze/4 in-wall front speakers
Triad Bronze/6 in-wall subwoofer
Triad Bronze/4 subwoofer
OWI in-wall shower speaker

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Panasonic multiline/multitextension telephone system
Panasonic KXT30865 door station
Panasonic doorphone/door opener
Holovision intercom faceplate

RACKS AND MOUNTS

Omnimount TV mounts
Chief TV and projector mounts
Vantage Point TV mount
Middle Atlantic equipment racks
Axsys equipment racks

ELECTRONICS DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

Safe & Sound Systems
Draper, UT
www.safeandsoundsystems.net