

FROM THE MAKERS OF
WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION

THE BEST IN DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT

FULL-SIZE CINEMA THRILLS FOR JUST £999

PROJECTOR BEST BUYS

IT'S TIME TO GET A REALLY BIG SCREEN

WIN!
YAMAHA'S
SURROUND
MARVEL
PAGE 64

PLUS!

U-RAY QUALITY
FROM YOUR DVDs
PHILIPS'S MAGICAL
FLAGSHIP PLAYER

**OUR TOP 10
UPGRADES**
TAKE YOUR SYSTEM
TO THE NEXT LEVEL



haymarket
£3.95
0.5
MAY 2005
9 771743 23600

SPEAKERS P16

**PHILIPS ENTERS
THE ARENAS**

name the best
surround package
this side of £1200



SCREENS P58

**GO-ANYWHERE
FLATSCREENS**

Smart LCD TVs for your
study, your kitchen,
your bedroom...



**THE WORLD'S BEST
HOME CINEMA GEAR**
ALL YOU NEED TO BUY THE BEST

Cutting-edge HOMES

New-build houses are perfect for bespoke custom installation as they allow the owners to design their own cinema system from the ground up. The set-up D&T Electronics built for Jack Martin and his family is the social hub of their home

A CINEMA FOR ANY OCCASION

'With most people, the last thing they want to know is how it all works'

WHEN JACK MARTIN decided to buy a new home in Cheshire, he found that it wasn't quite finished. This was deliberate: thanks to the developer, Jack could oversee the last stages of the building process, and so prepare for a home cinema system. This suited him since it meant he could tailor a set-up that met his family's precise needs.

But he soon discovered that the house was already equipped with a large amount of cabling, making it perfect for a custom install. After a quick investigation, Jack found out that one of the nearby houses was already finished, complete with an installation by the company responsible for the cabling, D&T Electronics, and the owner recommended them to Jack.

Mark Helliard of D&T says the developer's approach created the ideal result. "We got in early and designed all the cabling. So it was natural for Jack to want more from us. We worked a lot with him, so he and his family could put their fingerprints on the house."

Jack himself says that, while cost was an issue, the opportunity to create his perfect cinema system was too good to miss. "I wanted music throughout the house," he says. "We also wanted plasma screens in most of the rooms, and D&T introduced us to the Crestron controllers."

Interestingly, Mark and Jack agree that the home cinema system itself was not the

driving force behind the project, but Jack says it has enhanced their entertainment no end. "What happens now is that we get to enjoy everything on a bigger scale," he says. "With music DVDs, it's like a full concert now when we have friends round."

Making new friends

In fact, the social benefits of an installation like this are, for Jack, a big plus: "Every member of the family has friends round to enjoy it," he says. "That group involvement is what we wanted. Whether it's racing on TV, or a concert or film on DVD, the superb picture and sound quality makes it perfect to enjoy with friends."

Certainly the complete system – a smart, discreet and high-end home cinema set-up in the main room, flatscreen TVs all over the house, Crestron control panels and even a plasma screen in the pool room – is very impressive. D&T partnered a SIM2 300Plus projector with a raft of Meridian electronics and a Sony DVPNS905VS DVD player in the main room. An Imerge Soundserver feeds music to any room in the house at the simple touch of a button.

The Crestron controllers, according to Mark, are really the centrepiece of the system. "The controllers are totally bespoke: the interface is entirely down to the client. It has to be simple, a one-button push for whatever they want to do."



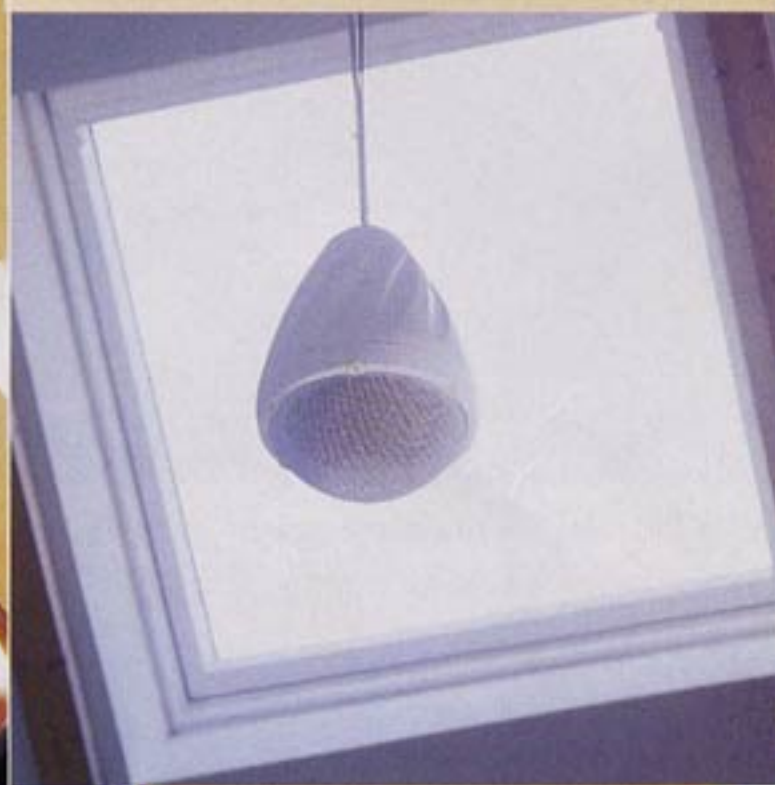
SIM2's projector gives a cinema-like experience at home



Poolside Panasonic plasma makes swimming more fun

Photography Tim Imrie

The Sound Tube speakers hang from the pool ceiling



Meridian and Sony electronics drive the main AV system



The way Mark achieved this was to give Jack and his family a basic interface to begin with, and then let them live with it for a while before improving it to their specific demands. "We gave the client the starting point and said to them, 'Put a wishlist together', and that's what they did."

The pool room/gym created a specific set of issues for D&T. Jack wanted a big plasma TV to watch while using the running machine, but of course the large amount of moisture in the room was a problem. So Mark and his colleagues simply built the plasma into one wall with a glass covering, sealing the screen into its own moisture-free environment.

Mark says the most important thing is not to make the client feel they're being swamped by technology. "With most people, the last thing they want to know about is how it all works," he says. "They just want to use it. They want to have fun, without having to be concerned with all the background. That's our job – to make sure it all works for them, simply and enjoyably."

cost of AV equipment £20,000

screens/projector

Stewart 84in projection screen
Panasonic TH42PWD6 42in plasma
Sony KDE-P42MRX1 42in plasma
SIM2 300Plus hi-def video projector

DVD players

Sony DVPNS905VS
Sony DVPNS905VB

speakers

2 Meridian DSP5500 digital loudspeakers
Meridian DSP5500C digital loudspeaker
Meridian D1500 digital subwoofer
2 Meridian DSP33 digital surround loudspeakers
Meridian 568.2mm digital surround processor
2 Sound Tube RS55i

video recorders

2 Sony SLVSE830

receivers

Sky digital satellite receiver
Panasonic digibox

miscellaneous

Systemline multiroom audio
Imerge Soundsserver
CDPCX355 300-disc changer
Tuner

control systems £9500

2 Crestron CP2 central processors
Crestron STX-1700C wireless touchpanel
Crestron CT1000 wall-mount controller
Crestron STRFGWX1 RF gateway

system integration £3500

total install £35,000

contact

D&T Electronics, Unit 5,
Woodfield House, Woodfield Road,
Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4ED
0870 4445929
www.dandt.co.uk