

Access all areas



Anton van Beek marvels at the myriad AV options inside one London residence

A stunning, high-tech London townhouse is now at the cutting edge of smarthome technology, thanks to the work of award-winning home automation company, Custom Controls, and in particular to the installation of Crestron's new DigitalMedia solution. This allows any analogue or digital video source – including Sky+HD, ArabSat, AppleTV, a Kaleidescape DVD server and even CCTV of the whole house – to be distributed to any room in the property over inexpensive Cat5e cables.

A combination of wired and wireless touchpanels throughout the property provides easy control over

the home and all AV sources (a one-touch button activates a TV in the specific room and routes the Sky+HD receiver to it). And as the owner is a real globetrotter, the company also embedded weather feeds and local times for his various home locations onto the touchpanel home page. The installers even wrote and programmed an iPhone app, enabling the client to control AV sources from anywhere in the world.

Bowers in the basement

The property basement has a dedicated home cinema room that uses the DigitalMedia system to call

up films from the DVD server and HDTV content to a 50in Panasonic Pro Series plasma. While the property was already wired with in-ceiling speakers long before Custom Controls started its upgrade, something more substantial was needed for this specific space. So the company turned to industry favourites Bowers & Wilkins for a solution, and with the integration of two pre-existing in-ceiling speakers to the setup they were able to deliver a dynamic 7.1-channel audio system to go with the hi-def visuals. Amplification comes from a Denon AVR, and lighting is all managed by a Lutron system ●



This smarthome is all about style and sophistication



Room essentials

A Wombling free...

Installer Custom Controls made use of existing in-ceiling speakers when it set up the viewing room's 7.1 system

B Bigscreen beauty

This TH-50PF10 Panasonic plasma is a 50in model – big enough to deliver a good cinema performance if you don't want to use a projector

C You talking to me?

The owner's favourite film quotes line the cinema wall

D Touch and go

The house features a variety of wired and wireless Crestron touch controllers. This is one is sited next to what at first glance looks like a high-end kit rack – but it's actually just an oven...

E Life's good

All four bedrooms in the house feature a wall-mounted 32in LG TV

→ Kit Checklist

Equipment Room

Crestron: CP2E 2 Series control processor with Ethernet

Crestron: AAE audio expander to eight rooms

Crestron: DM16x16 16-way digital media matrix with plug-in cards

Crestron: SPW300 300W power supply

Crestron: HREL8 8-way relay for heating control

Dell: 24-port network switch

Custom Controls: Racking
Kaleidescape: KServer Mini DVD and CD server

Sky: 8x Sky+HD receivers

ArabSat: ArabSat PVR receiver

Apple: AppleTV

Home Cinema (basement)

Crestron: TPS-6X 6in radio remote control

Crestron: DM-RMC-100 room receiver/controller module

Panasonic: TH-50PF10 Professional Series 50in full HD plasma monitor

Denon: AVR-2089 7.1-channel AV receiver

Bowers & Wilkins: 2x 703 3-way floorstanders

Bowers & Wilkins: 2x DS7 on-wall surround speakers

Bowers & Wilkins: HTM7 2-way centre speaker

Bowers & Wilkins: ASW750 1000W subwoofer

All 4 Bedrooms

Crestron: DM-RMC-100 room receiver/controller module

Crestron: TPS-6L 6in wall-mounted touchpanel

LG: 32LH4000 32in LCD TV

Study (ground floor)

Crestron: DM-RMC-100 room receiver/controller module

Crestron: TPS-6L 6in wall-mounted touchpanel

LG: 26HL3000 26in LCD TV

Custom Controls: TV mounting bracket

Lounge (2nd floor)

Crestron: TPS-6X 6in radio remote control

Crestron: DM-RMC-100 room receiver/controller module

LG: 47LH4000 47in LCD TV

Custom Controls: TV mounting bracket

Kitchen (2nd floor)

Crestron: TPS-6L 6in wall-mounted touchpanel

Mezzanine (3rd floor)

Crestron: TPS-6X 6in radio remote control

Crestron: DM-RMC-100 room receiver/controller module

LG: 47LH4000 47in LCD TV

Custom Controls: TV mounting bracket