

# Intelligent Design

A high-end spec house is high-tech to the core.

IT'S NOT YOUR EVERYDAY PROJECT: a \$10 million home, built on spec in the upscale community of Saddle River, N.J. Among the embellishments to this French country manor—a six-car garage, an indoor basketball court, and a stone and stucco exterior—is a state-of-the-art automation system in each of the home's 19 rooms.

The builders at Pinnacle Custom in Chatham, N.J., have fully embraced 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology: Many of its customers can review the progress of their home construction via a Web site, where they can also

select bathroom fixtures or paint colors.

But this new Pinnacle home is even more ambitious in its embrace of high-tech accoutrements. "Technologically, it will be unique," says Pinnacle president Michael Cantor.

Structured cable will provide the muscle for the system, a combination of copper, coax, fiber, and Cat-5e to connect the rooms with each other and with the appliances. The central computer server for all functions will run the Microsoft Windows XP operating system, and it will be tied to a

Crestron system to control lighting, security, and entertainment. Plasma flat panels will hang over each fireplace in the house.

Pinnacle is partnering with Fort Lee, N.J.-based JD Audio and Video Design, a member of CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association).

Details of this technologically hip house include:

- Feeds from the security cameras (infrared so that they can "see" at night) can be played on any monitor in the house.

**DIGITAL DIGS:** This spec house in Saddle River, N.J., will offer an automation system in all the home's rooms and a home theater with seating for 10.

- The lighting system will remember "moods" throughout the house and can be programmed to shift light from room to room when the house is not occupied.
- The theater in the basement, with seating for 10, is soundproofed. The centerpiece will be a Sony Cienza front projector aimed at a 123-inch widescreen. **DH**

