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Checkin' Off The

WISH LISTS

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J D Audio and Video Design in Fort Lee, New Jersey, has a rich history and a dynamic present. More than 30 years ago Dimitri Karlis opened his electronics sales and repair shop. Today, his son Gabriel directs his own company to take advantage of the ever-expanding desire for custom A/V installations.

While Gabriel Karlis deserves some bragging rights from a list of high-profile clients such as Jason Sehorn, Mo Vaughn, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey and Chris Rock, he and Robert Donnoli, the firm's director of operations, put equal energy into every project, including this one recently completed in New Jersey.

"On the first walk-through of the house, the discussion was about where to put TV sets," Karlis recalls. "Because she's the audiophile and he's the videophile, I asked him to come to our showroom to preview A/V products and check out sizes and quality. Once he saw what was available in the full-scale home theater we have installed in our store, this project definitely grew."

The evolution finally spanned the whole house. There is a music system for her: "When we first turned it on she said, 'The house is alive.'" Major video systems were created for him in the home theater, master bedroom and family room. Closed circuit TV and a Panasonic telephone system were added to guarantee security and easy communication.

"The first room we got into was the family room," Karlis recalls. "He saw a plasma screen above the fireplace. I recommended a 57-inch Sony rear-projection television. My father was one of the first Sony Trinitron dealers in the United States and we still think the company offers outstanding quality."

The couple's interior designer, Stephen Thompson from Interior Design Force in New York City, cast a deciding vote. "He didn't want any A/V gear to be visible," Karlis says. "He designed a beautiful wall unit for the Sony TV and other Sony components such as a DVD player, VCR and surround sound receiver. He even found space for three Monitor Audio Bronze speakers."

A Velodyne SPL800 subwoofer, considered by Karlis the most powerful 8-inch sub available, is positioned behind the couch. Also back there is a bank of windows facing the television. "Usually we would have to put up draperies to prevent washing out the TV picture but luckily a deep overhang prevents the sun from ever bothering it. Also there's an elaborate garden outside and the homeowners wanted to keep that view."

**Don't stereotype this
New Jersey couple.
She wanted great audio;
he loves video.
Be grateful what you wish for.**



Billiards, anyone? Theater guests can enjoy a game of pool and not miss a minute of the action on the 110-inch Stewart screen. Video is delivered via a Sony LCD projector, with audio handled by Sonance inwall and in-ceiling speakers.



Home Theater

Sony VPLW12HT LCD projector
 Sony PSS-500 ceiling bracket
 Stewart 110" fixed screen
 Sony DVPNS715 progressive scan DVD player
 Sony SLV-N80 VCR
 Sony STRDA4ES amplifier
 Philips TSU6000 color touchscreen remote control
 Middle Atlantic rack
 Sonance Cinema.5.LCR inwall THX speakers (3)
 Sonance Cinema.5.SURR inwall THX surround speakers (2)
 Velodyne SPL1000 10" subwoofer
 RCA DRD 430 satellite receiver
 Straight Wire video wire
 Crestron CT-1000 color touchscreen
 Sonance Symphony 623TR in-ceiling speakers (2)

Family Room A/V System

Sony KDP57XBR2 57" HDTV projection television
 Sony STR-DA1ES surround sound receiver
 Sony DVPNS715 progressive scan DVD player
 Sony SLVN77 VCR
 Philips TSU6000 color touchscreen remote control
 Xantech IR repeater system
 Monitor Audio bronze 1 bookshelf speaker (2)
 Monitor Audio bronze center speaker
 Sonance Symphony 623TR in-ceiling speakers (2)
 Velodyne SPL800 8" subwoofer
 RCA DRD 430 satellite receiver

Master Bedroom

Fujitsu PDS-5002 50" plasma monitor
 Fujitsu P42WB12 wall bracket
 Sony STRDE485 stereo receiver
 Sony SLVN55 VCR
 Sony DVPNS715 progressive scan DVD player
 Philips TSU6000 color touchscreen remote control
 Xantech IR repeater system
 Sonance 634T inwall speakers (2)
 Straight Wire video cable
 RCA DRD430 satellite receiver

Whole House Equipment

Crestron CNMSX-AV control processor
 Crestron CNX-PAD8 audio switcher
 Niles SI 1230 amplifier
 Niles SI 1260 amplifier
 Sony CDPXA70ES 5-disc CD
 Sony STS-E200 tuner
 Future Smart Pro 8 distribution panel
 Middle Atlantic rack
 RCA DRD 430 satellite receiver

Kitchen/Dining

Crestron CT-1000 color touchscreen
 Sonance Symphony 623TR in-ceiling speakers (4)
 Sonance VC60R volume control

Study/Bar

Crestron CT-1000 color touchscreen
 Sonance Symphony 623TR in-ceiling speakers (4)
 Sonance VC60R volume control
 Sharp LC15B2UA 15" LCD television

Master Bath

Crestron CT-1000 color touchscreen
 Sonance Symphony 623TR in-ceiling speakers (2)
 Sharp LC15B2UA 15" LCD television





A Sharp 15-inch LCD television serves up entertainment above the bar, while Sonance speakers were painted to match the wood ceiling.

While Karlis and his crew wired the entire residence for cable, they also added RCA DRD430 satellite receivers to the family room and two other primary video venues as well. "Because he is so into his video I wanted to be certain he'd have it even if one of the sources was lost due to inclement weather. I also included a Future Smart Pro 8 distribution panel to handle not only satellite and cable distribution but computer networking and the Panasonic phone system," he says.

Each major A/V room relies on a Philips TSU6000 color touchscreen remote programmed from JD Audio and Video's own computers. "The Philips is really easy to use, something that he was adamant about. Here's an interesting change that I'm seeing. Women are more technically oriented than they were years ago when they didn't want to know anything about it. Now I have men who say, 'Teach my wife how to use the theater and she can teach me.'"

The home theater, a generous space 25-feet wide by 30-feet deep with a 9-foot ceiling, is located in the basement. "No windows was a definite advantage for us," Karlis says. "The homeowner's idea was to have a 60-inch plasma screen in the theater but I told him that I didn't think a unit that size would cut it in a room this big. Once again I asked him to come to our showroom. In order to help our clients visualize their own rooms, I designed, installed and furnished a home theater, a den with three TVs and a Great Room with projection TV right in the showroom. I have more rooms on the drawing board for the future because we know it helps people if they can view their options in a complete room setting. When this client saw what the 110-inch Stewart screen and high-output Sony LCD projector could do—for about the same price as that plasma—he wanted them."



The cozy family room is the perfect place to gather for a great movie on the Sony 57-inch HDTV. Monitor bookshelf and center speakers surround the screen within the wooden cabinetry. It's easy to relax with the Philips touchscreen at work.



Rounding out the components are a Sony DVPNS715 DVD player, SLV-N80 VCR and STR-DA4ES amplifier in a built-in Middle Atlantic rack to the left of the screen. "We used that spot because there is a closet behind the rack so we can easily service the equipment."

Sonance Cinema 5 speakers were chosen for a number of reasons. "They are THX certified, they can handle the power and they offer quality. Plus they're compact and easy to hide—a must for this client. We put them behind the wainscoting and painted them to blend in. Two Sonance Symphony speakers are mounted in the ceiling and the Velodyne SPL 1000 10-inch subwoofer is located at the front left corner of the room."

In addition to the Philips remote there is a Crestron CT-1000 touchscreen to access the whole-house music system. "This is a multi-purpose theater," Karlis explains. "That's another change I'm seeing. These days theaters are designed to be places to send the children to entertain themselves for a few hours and—like the one here—have plenty of room for other special purposes such as a game room with a pool table."

The impact of the theater is enhanced, as is every room in the house, by the contribution of interior designer Stephen Thompson who was responsible for the furnishings, fixtures, colors and more. "I describe the feeling I wanted as comfort with drama," he says. "In the home theater I used leather and velvet for seating. In the family room I specified a super-thick shag carpet and painted the walls a chili-pepper color to give a glow or a heart to this space in the center of the house. In the master bedroom I didn't try to hide the TV. It is in a niche in the custom paneling. I will say that flat screens make life a lot easier for designers."

Gabriel Karlis continues the discussion. "The client wanted the largest screen possible for the master bedroom. The challenge was that the walls have either windows or the fireplace. We went with a plasma monitor; the Fujitsu PDS-5002 50-inch, which I think, has the best quality picture for plasma. It is above an extra-deep mantel that Stephen designed to divert heat away from the screen when the fireplace is in use."

Several shelves in the closet hold a Sony stereo receiver, VCR and DVD player. "The client decided that he had enough surround sound in his theater and family room so we used only a pair of Sonance in-wall speakers here."

One more space deserves a closer look at Karlis' problem-solving solutions. "The bar is defined by Stephen's magnificent wooden bar and coffered ceiling. Our challenge was to incorporate a TV and speakers without taking anything away from his design. We fit a 15-inch Sharp LCD television above the bar and instructed painters on how to match two Sonance Symphony speakers to the wood in the ceiling."

About 150 feet from the house is an entertainment site of special importance. The cabana/pool area is the setting for plenty of summer fun and it wouldn't be complete without its own sound of music. A Crestron CT-1000 color screen puts the outdoor music system at a touch. "He insisted that the sound be as good as possible so we used a Niles 12-channel amplifier to give him 60 more watts of power out there," notes Karlis.

The client himself remembers going in to this project thinking he'd have the house wired for audio, put a few TVs in different rooms and maybe install a big-screen TV in the basement. Luckily for him, he met the crew at JD Audio and Video who gave him what he really wanted. ♦

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In the master bedroom, a Fujitsu 50-inch plasma display is shielded from the fireplace heat by an extra large mantle, while two Sonance inwall speakers are placed just under the vaulted ceilings.



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JD Audio and Video Design, Inc. is a family owned and operated full service Custom Audio/Video design firm located in the heart of Bergen County New Jersey and proudly serving the Tri-state area for more than 30 years. We carry the finest equipment from only the top manufacturers to ensure quality, reliability and ease of use. We employ a highly trained staff for that professional personal service you deserve in every step of the design and installation process.

We offer a variety of services to make your home more complete including design, engineering and custom installation of home theater systems, multi-room audio systems, outdoor audio systems, home security systems, telephone systems, and home automation systems, as well as, a full in-house repair and service center.