

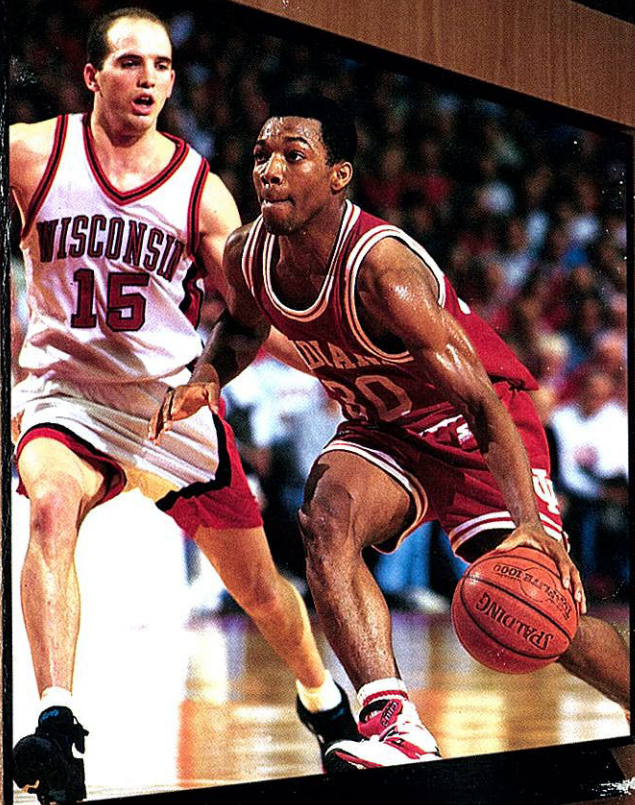
AUDIO VIDEO INTERIORS

THE HOME THEATER AUTHORITY

MARCH 1998

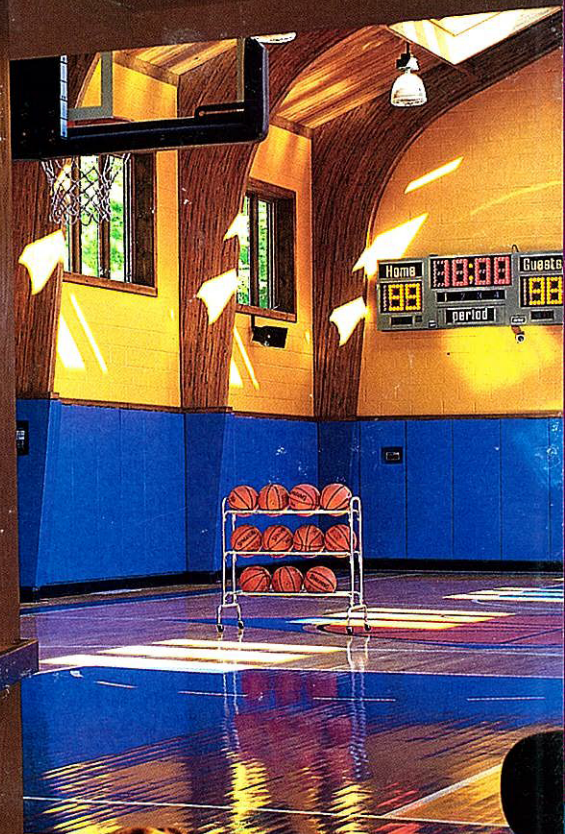
March Madness Home Theater Style

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CASTLE ON THE HUDSON

This recently renovated Tudor is a home-theater haven with equipment from JBL, Atlantic Technology and AudioEase

Sitting majestically atop a small hill at the end of a 600-foot-long private road, a castle awaits. This walled fortress-like Tudor home features hand-cut stone walls which are 18-inches thick (and are now properly insulated and sound-proofed). Sprouting from different angles of the castle are two turrets with octagon-shaped rooms (one with an elevator), and a parapet with its own skylight located over the arched front entrance. Knights and their ladies must pass through this covered entryway which serves as a portal to another time. Topping this grand structure is a 50-year-old slate roof with special thermapane windows covered with leaded glass. Recently renovated, this magnificent Tudor, which is steeped in over 120 years of history, can be found in Englewood, New Jersey near the Hudson River. This unique home has undergone two renovations in recent years, the first of which restored the exterior to its present glory. Surprisingly, the same family lived in this splendid Tudor for 100 years before the house was taken down and removed to its present location.

This castle's keep is now a regal depository that features a plethora of new consumer electronics added during the second renovation. In fact, much of the interior was renovated. While being a bastion to home theater with four separate viewing areas, this walled "Castle on the Hudson" now also features a full-blown, regulation-sized basketball court, which fulfills the current homeowner's other passion. Think of it as the blending of two pleasures, home theater and basketball. You'd be hard-pressed to find a better enclave to enjoy the NCAA's



STORY BY
DENNIS P. BARKER
A/V DESIGN AND
INSTALLATION BY
ELECTRONICS DESIGN
GROUP
INTERIOR DESIGN BY
SINGER INTERIOR
DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE BY
FREYER COLLABORATIVE
ARCHITECTS
AND
STERN-RING
ARCHITECTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
PHILLIP ENNIS



A motorized Inca lift raises a 15-inch Sony monitor out of the office desk (above) when its time to get down to business. A 27-inch Mitsubishi television assures that its not all work and no play here.

home, featuring a 60-inch Sony data-grade rear-projection TV/SVGA monitor. With multiscan capability, it can receive many types of signals from NTSC to HDTV pushing brightness levels up to more than 500 footlamberts, and resolution to 640 x 480 pixels. It is housed in custom cabinetry made of fir (designed by Alan Metcalfe) with a natural stain. This striking cabinet also includes built-in speaker enclosures and several shelves for curios and components behind glass doors.

Source components include a Mitsubishi S-VHS VCR, a Mitsubishi laserdisc player, a Sony 8mm VCR and a Sony DSS system. Power

for the system is pumped from Kenwood's THX-certified 6-channel amplifier (rated at 120 watts per channel) and its companion Dolby Pro Logic processor/controller (which is also THX-certified). Sound for the front- and center-channel speakers comes from JBL's HT-1Fs that each feature 5-inch woofers. For the rear channel, Atlantic Technology's 254.1 dipole surround speakers are in place; each uses four 3.5-inch woofers for excellent rear response. To round out the THX-certified speaker package, two JBL HT-1S subwoofers have been included to provide spectacular bass from 12-inch drivers. Hidden in the coffee table, there is an Extron breakout box for the attachment of a PC. The homeowner likes to surf the internet, or do his computing on a 60-inch monitor.

Ann Singer, of Singer Interior Design, comments on the decor of the family room: "we wanted to make comfy seating so we chose a large sectional sofa with individual chairs that once pushed together to form the sectional. There is also window box seating off to the left-hand side of the room. Everything in the room is tied together with the natural fir cabinetry and wainscoting. Downstairs we tied three colors together—cinnamon, mustard gold, and blue—throughout the house."

Also on the first floor, you'll find the media surround room that was installed by the previous owner, and created by Parker Coates of PS Designs. "Even though this system is 8-9 years

Castle

On The Hudson



old, it still holds up today," notes Coates. It conceals a Mitsubishi VS-2022 front projector within a coffee table. Its signals are displayed on a Draper Artisan 78-inch motorized screen that drops from the far wall. This was the original home-theater system for this home and it utilizes some older surround equipment from NEC in the form of a surround processor, A/V switcher, and mono blocks for the front three speakers. To send power to the rear speakers, a Hafler power amplifier was selected. New additions include source components such as a Sony DSS receiver and a Mitsubishi S-VHS VCR.

Here is another example in which architectural in-wall Sonance speakers have been put to

good use. For the front left, front right, and center speakers, Coates used the 3-way D5000 model that includes both 8-inch and 2.5-inch drivers. For the rear channel, Coates used the Sonance S3R speakers with 6.5-inch woofers. A Sonance in-wall powered subwoofer (125 watts) is also included that features an 8-inch woofer. In this room, interior decorator Singer also made the

seating informal by using an overstuffed couch with a floral print of red and mustard gold. On the second floor, the master bedroom suite also includes a television system worthy of the lord of the manor. Within a white custom cabinet (designed by Oren McDermid Design) that features raised panels and pocket doors, a Mitsubishi 45-inch rear-projection TV has been custom-fitted. The cabinetry also includes shelves for knicknacks and curios, which blends into the window seat on the right side of the room. Source components like a Mitsubishi S-VHS VCR, and a Sony DSS system are placed beneath the TV. In the master bath, there is also a 13-inch Mitsubishi TV/VCR combo so that you can enjoy videos in the bath.

All in all, this is a castle fit for the lord and lady of the manor. It is also a castle devoted to basketball and to home theater with its own royal "court" and not one theater system, but four. An unlikely combination...maybe. Or, maybe, the best of both worlds. ♦

The master bedroom is centered around a 45-inch Mitsubishi rear-projection television (left). Touchpanels (below) for the home's Lutron HomeWorks lighting control system and 11-zone AudioEase Monaco audio distribution system are found throughout. Pioneer CSL-100 outdoor speakers add both sound and light to the great outdoors (bottom).





One of four home-theater systems in this 20th century castle, the family/playroom (above) boasts a 60-inch Sony rear-projection television, JBL L/C/R speakers and subwoofers and Atlantic Technology dipoles for surround effects. Source and power equipment consists of Kenwood's THX-certified KC-X1 processor/controller and KM-X1 6-channel amp, a Mitsubishi HS-U760 S-VHS VCR, and a MDP-500 laserdisc player and EV-C100 8mm VCR from Sony (opposite).

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"March Madness" basketball games.

Overseeing the entire interior design of the home was Ann Singer of Singer Interior Design. She notes, "the homeowners wanted a combination of traditional and contemporary styles, I think that we accomplished that. The overall renovation took about 18 months to complete. A large amount of time was spent on the basketball court. The interior took us about 11 months to pull together. My philosophy regarding design is that it's basically a collaborative effort between the architects, designers, custom cabinetry makers and the homeowners. On this job, everybody put his or her two cents into the design. I think that it came off really well."

Bob Gullo, the A/V designer for the project, comments, "Initially the homeowner called us to upgrade the lighting system. It was a serious retrofit of the entire wiring. We decided to use Lutron's HomeWorks system. As well, the homeowner wanted easy-to-use keypads in each room. The home theaters were just an

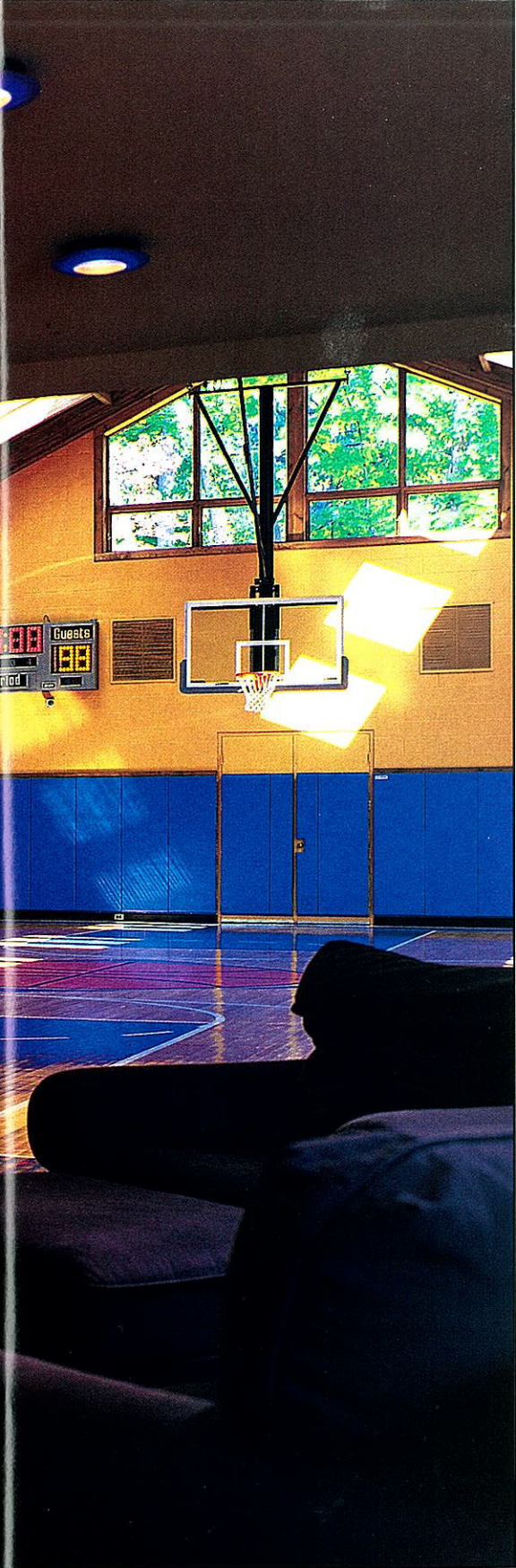




The sports sitting area (above) puts viewers courtside, both literally and figuratively. During breaks in the live action, a Mitsubishi 70-inch rear-projection television, HTS-100 A/V receiver and HS-U760 S-VHS VCR team up with JBL's Control 5 L/C/R speakers, 8305 rear speakers and a PS60 subwoofer to provide an outstanding venue for NBA and NCAA hoops action.

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evolutionary process beginning with the lighting. We started by upgrading the music system in the house with the AudioEase Monaco system. It has 11 different zones. From this point, it just seemed natural to start adding projection TV in different rooms. While the homeowner is not a serious movie buff, he's very much into computing and is also a sports buff. Being a sports buff led to the basketball court."

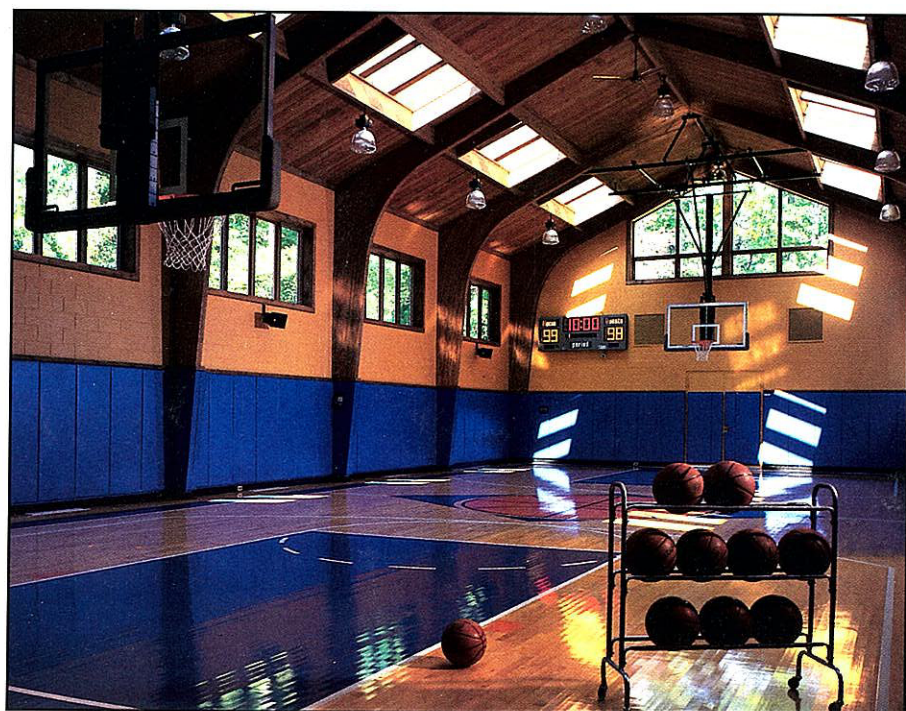
If you want to enjoy home theater, you have your choice of four grottos: the main family/playroom, the sports sitting area (off the basketball court), the older media surround room, and the master bedroom. Also at work is a multiroom AudioEase Monaco audio system that pipes music throughout the home. To power the sound, there are nine separate 100 wpc amplifiers driving signals from a Philips AM/FM tuner, Sony 10-disc CD changers and dual-cassette decks. To conceal the speakers, Gullo utilized KEF architectural speakers throughout the home that blend into the walls and ceiling so that they would be heard, but not seen. Many of the components are concealed in the library and other rooms.

In many areas of the house, such as the library, office, exercise room, and basketball court, top-of-the-line Mitsubishi televisions are employed. The Mitsubishi TVs are tied to Mitsubishi S-VHS VCRs, which allows the use of Mitsubishi's Active A/V Network so that all TVs and VCRs can communicate with each other. In the kitchen and exercise room, Mitsubishi 20-inch TVs are used; and in the office and basketball court, Gullo used 27-inch models.

Sony Digital Satellite System (DSS) receivers are placed in most living areas. The DSS signal is modulated throughout the house with a Channel Master Ultra-Band Modulator and an ATV Quad Splitter. Recently, Gullo added Hughes Direct PC as well. Gullo comments, "it was a collaborative effort between me and the homeowner regarding equipment. The homeowner has very specific ideas, and we fulfilled them. He had the last word on the components. The homeowner also wanted to make the system very easy to use.

Castle

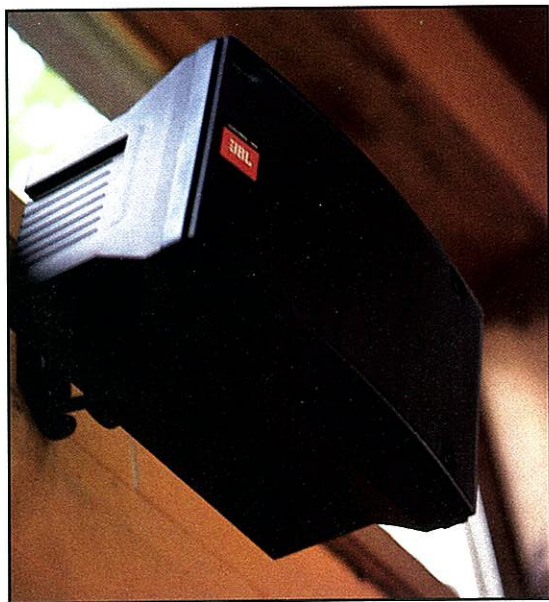
On The Hudson



That's why we chose the AMX LCD touch-pad screen remotes. They also have embedded macro codes so that one button turns on everything. In this way, anyone can operate the system. It's that intuitive. You can control lights, video security cameras, a TV, or audio equipment with the touch of a button."

The basketball court has its own JBL wall-mounted speakers (six in all) and a Peerless TV wall-mounted 27-inch Mitsubishi to monitor the floor action. According to Gullo, "the sound on the court is just tremendous. The homeowner just loves it."

Just off the basketball court, the sports sitting area features a Mitsubishi home-theater system. At the center of the system is Mitsubishi's VS-7083 70-inch rear-projection TV built into a customized cabinet. With overstuffed chairs directly across from



the set, this cozy area with its own wet bar makes it a great place to watch NBA or NCAA court action. Next to the rear-projection TV there's built-in shelving that holds a Mitsubishi S-VHS VCR, a Mitsubishi amplifier/surround processor, and a Sony DSS satellite receiver. A JBL speaker package is placed throughout the room. This particular sitting area makes for a great place to "hang out" with the guys or gals to catch all of the court-side action—both on the screen and next door in the regulation-sized court. It even features numerous sports memorabilia including an original Magic Johnson jersey.

The first floor of this 18-room home also features two more complete home theaters. The family room/playroom area of the house might be considered the main viewing area of the

The spectacular private basketball court (opposite) sounds as good as it looks with six wall-mounted JBL speakers (left). A 27-inch Mitsubishi television mounted on a Peerless wall bracket offers live court action and instant replays. If pounding the hardwood doesn't tire you out, an A/V equipped exercise room awaits nearby (above).

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The original home theater, now dubbed the media surround room, offers a Mitsubishi VS-2022 video projector (right) firing onto a 78-inch Draper screen which descends from a ceiling soffit (opposite). A PLD-910 processor, AVX-910 A/V switcher and three mono-block amplifiers from NEC round out this room's lineup along with a Hafler amplifier and a 6-speaker surround array from Sonance.



A/V designer and installation by Bob Gullo, Electronics Design Group, 222 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ 08817; (732) 819-0500; e-mail: EDG222@aol.com. • Interior Architecture by Warren Freyer, Freyer Collaborative Architects, 37 East 18th Street, New York, NY 10003; (212) 598-0900. • Exterior architecture by Lawrence Stern, AIA Stern-Ring Architect, 22 Old Short Hills Road, Livingston, NJ 06896; (973) 994-9397. • Custom cabinetry by Alan Metcalfe, 6901 Henley Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119; (215) 849-5962; and Warren Oren, Oren McDermid Design, 2 Highland Street, Port Chester, NY 10573; (914) 937-8042. • Interior design by Ann Singer, Singer Interior Design, 28 LeFurgy Avenue, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706; (914) 478-0428. • Renovation Builder/Custom Cabinetry by Parker Coates, PS DESIGNS, 20 Gallows Hill, Redding, CT 06896; (203) 938-0567.



MULTIROOM AUDIO SYSTEM

AudioEase Monaco control center and computer (11 zones)
 AudioEase AC100 amplifiers (9)
 AudioEase touchpanels (11)
 AudioEase handheld remotes (4)
 AudioEase IR repeater system
 NAD 906 power amplifier
 Sony CDP-CX90ES 10-disc CD changer (2)
 Sony TC-WA8ES dual-cassette deck
 Philips AM/FM tuner
 KEF CR-160Q architectural speakers (8)
 KEF K-160 bookshelf speakers (8)
 KEF CR-200 Architectural speakers (8)
 JBL Control 8 speakers (basketball court) (6)
 Pioneer CSL-100 garden light outdoor speakers (4)
 Sonance volume controls (5)
 ADA A/C controller line-level switches (7)
 Xantech IR component 'flashing' system

FAMILY/PLAYROOM MEDIA SYSTEM

Sony RVP-6010Q 60-inch data-grade rear-projection TV
 Sony DSC-1023 line-doubler
 Mitsubishi HS-U760 S-VHS VCR
 Mitsubishi M-V6027 laserdisc player
 Sony SAT-B1 DSS satellite receiver

Hughes Direct PC
 Sony EKC-100 8mm VCR
 Kenwood KC-X1 THX surround processor/controller
 Kenwood KM-X1 THX 6-channel amplifier
 Extron RGB-109+ breakout box
 JBL HT-1F THX speakers L/C/R (3)
 JBL HT-1S powered subwoofers (2)
 Atlantic Technology 254.1 dipole surround speakers (2)
 AMX Accent 2 integrated controller
 AMX TK-SK SoftKey handheld controller

SITTING AREA (OFF BASKETBALL COURT)

Mitsubishi VS-7083 70-inch rear-projection TV
 Mitsubishi HS-U760 S-VHS VCR
 Mitsubishi HTS-100 amplifier/surround processor
 Sony SAT-B1 DSS satellite receiver
 JBL Control 5 L/C/R speakers (3)
 JBL 8305 rear-channel speakers (2)
 JBL PS60 powered subwoofer
 AMX TK-SK SoftKey handheld controller

MEDIA SURROUND & VIDEO PROJECTION SYSTEM

Mitsubishi VS-2022 video projector

Mitsubishi HS-U760 S-VHS VCR
 Sony SAT-B1 DSS satellite receiver
 Draper Artisan 78-inch diagonal motorized screen
 NEC PLD-910 surround processor
 NEC AVX-910 audio/video switcher
 NEC mono block power amplifiers (3)
 Hafler power amplifier
 Sonance D5000 L/C/R Architectural speakers (3)
 Sonance S3R rear-channel speakers (2)
 Sonance DL1000 powered subwoofer
 AMX TK-SK SoftKey handheld controller

MASTER BEDROOM

Mitsubishi VS-4571 45-inch rear-projection TV
 Mitsubishi HS-U760 S-VHS VCR
 Sony SAT-B1 DSS satellite receiver
 ADA TV/speaker amplifier relay
 AMX TK-SK SoftKey handheld controller

OFFICE

Mitsubishi CS-27407 27-inch TV
 Sony 15-inch computer monitor
 Inca motorized lift system (brings computer monitor out of desk)

OTHER TVs

Mitsubishi CS-13201 13-inch TV/VCR

combo (master bath)
 Mitsubishi CS-20102 20-inch TVs (kitchen and exercise room) (2)
 Mitsubishi CS-27407 27-inch TV (basketball court)
 Peerless TV wall-mount systems (3)

TELEPHONE/INTERCOM SYSTEM

Panasonic KXTD 1232 digital telephone/intercom system
 Panasonic KXT-7230 digital phones (4)
 Panasonic KXT-7220 speakerphones (16)
 Panasonic KXT-30860D doorphone adapter (2)
 Panasonic KXT-30865 doorphones (2)

LIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM

Lutron HomeWorks lighting control system
 Lutron Grafik Eyes (5)
 Lutron 5-button master keypads (3)
 Lutron 10-button master keypads (5)
 Lutron 15-button master keypads

VIDEO SECURITY & MODULATION SYSTEM

Sanyo VDC-9212 video cameras (5)
 Ultrak CH460/8 mini camera (1)
 Channel Plus D1VUB-ST modulator
 ATV QSP-860 quad splitter