

## **CE FEATURE**

## AWARD-WINNING INSTALLATIONS



A HOME THEATER is as much an expression of a homeowner's personal tastes as the clothes he or she chooses to wear whether it's a beautiful space with designconscious technology or a room where performance takes precedence over aesthetics. The owner of this theater wanted the full cinematic experience, but had a firm budget (albeit a generous one, falling within this level's \$75,000 to \$150,000 bounds) so the team at Electronics Design Group (EDG), of Piscataway, N.J., had to be very concise with their initial designs for the 22 x 13 x 10-foot space. Ongoing changes (and their associated costs) were simply not an option.

To accomplish the goal of blowing away friends and family when the speakers fire up, David Devanna, EDG systems designer, chose commercial-grade Klipsch Theater Series speakers along with Klipsch Dual 18-inch subwoofers driven by four 700-watt professional-quality Crown Audio amplifiers. "For the same price as a high-end residential audiophile system, I can install these pro cinema commercialgrade speakers and amps to create audio that will knock anyone's socks off," says Devanna. "The only difference is, we put them in a residential basement theater instead of a movie theater, so the homeowners' performance expectations were not only met, but far exceeded."

But with big power comes a big footprint. The Klipsch speakers are not small or easily camouflaged. "We didn't try to hide them. You can see the speakers clearly above and below the screen, and it looks great," says Devanna. To keep costs under control, EDG chose residential processing and video switching from an Integra 7.2-channel THX network A/V processor, which allows the family to enjoy the latest surround-sound processing formats and seamless integration with a Savant control system. Compared to a commercial processor, which would have been expensive and more difficult to integrate into a home environment, a residential receiver made more sense.

The Savant system allows the homeowners to operate the A/V equipment and Lutron lighting control system via iPads, iPhones and a Savant iTouch handheld remote. For example, with the swipe of a finger on a mobile device, the lights fade and the family can watch their favorite films in sparkling quality. A darkened room certainly helps maintain the crispness and brightness of the images provided by an Epson projector and 125-inch, 2.35:1 Elite Screens fixed frame screen. As the home theater gear warms up, on cue from the Savant app on a smartphone or tablet, the homeowners can choose what they want to watch on the carefully calibrated projection system with ease, whether it's the Samsung Blu-ray player, cable TV or Apple TV.

"The finished theater really did achieve the objective of movie theater-sound quality and effects, and the design is classic,"



In the case of this theater, the installers at EDG kept the big commercial-grade Klipsch loudspeakers and subwoofers out in the open. However, they managed not to detract from the 125-inch 2.35:1 Elite Screens fixed frame screen.

## **Equipment Highlights**

Screen: Elite Screens
Projector: Epson
Speakers & Subwoofers: Klipsch
Amplifiers, Processors & Receivers:
Crown Audio, Integra
Blu-ray Player: Samsung
Control: Savant
Lighting Control: Lutron
Multiroom A/V: Savant
Racks: Middle Atlantic

says Devanna. "Considering the preset budget, we had to dig a bit deeper to properly specify the equipment used while being sensitive to budget. But in the end, the homeowner was extremely happy with all aspects of the space, from performance, to aesthetics, to value." —Krissy Rushing

Photography by William Psolka Systems

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