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Your Guide to Integrating Technology Solutions in Residential Design & Construction

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Wedding Bells & Whistles

Promises made – and kept – in a project with strict timelines

By Lillian Basile

InnerSpace Electronics is no stranger to fulfilling tall orders like the one it was presented with by the high-profile New Canaan, Conn., architectural firm Wadia Associates. InnerSpace was brought into a new 18,500-square-foot home by Wadia to equip it with 22 audio zones, 11 video zones, lighting, security, HVAC, pool and spa control – and to provide multiple-point remote access to everything.

While projects of this scale are second nature to the Port Chester, N.Y. firm, this time, there was an inviolable “date certain” set in stone for its completion that made close collaboration with Wadia Associates as well as the electrician, security contractor, gate control company and other contractors an imperative.

“The client planned to host a wedding with more than 350 guests immediately after moving into the house. This created some time constraints and extra pressure to get everything completed in time for the big event,” says Barry Reiner, InnerSpace president.

What kept the project’s stages flowing at a regular pace, he explains, was the fact that Wadia was the home’s architect, designer and general contractor. “This was very helpful, because all of the project coordination and construction is managed by one group. The projects are very well organized.”

The control solution selected was a Crestron system that allows the client to manage all of the integrated home control functions quickly and easily with the touch of a button. The centerpiece in the home’s core room, the family room, is a 65-inch Samsung plasma TV, fed content by an Integra surround-sound receiver and a Samsung Blu-ray player; rounding out the setup are Bowers and Wilkins flush-mount speakers.

A/V system components were installed in the



Far left: The airy conservatory posed special challenges in stealthing A/V gear.

Left: Speakers and switches in the den are hidden in creative ways.

kitchen, dining room, living room conservatory, master bedroom, office, exercise room and billiards room – each outfitted with Bowers and Wilkins speakers and Samsung TVs ranging from 22 inches to 55 inches. The client also chose to include audio/video elements in the game room, garden hall, master bathroom, dressing room, kids’ bedrooms, powder room and laundry room. What’s more, the audio system extended to the porch, terrace and pool house, integrating almost every aspect of the residence. And stealth was an important element in the design scheme, particularly in all formal spaces, where speakers were hidden in creative ways.

The project also included HVAC integration with

**Dinyar Wadia, Principal,
Wadia Associates**



Electronic Lifestyles®: You have collaborated in the past with InnerSpace on various occasions, going back to 1997. What makes them so easy to work with?

Dinyar Wadia: They are a very good audio/video company. For years, we had worked with a local integrator in Bedford, N.Y. Then one day, he decided to retire. I said, "Let's have lunch." I put the phone down, and then a couple of seconds later, Andrea [Reiner] at InnerSpace called. It was providence!

EL: What was the biggest challenge for you in this project? How did you overcome it—and what were you proudest of in the end result?

Wadia: The challenge with a house is always knowing how to locate it on the property to maximize light and views so that when our clients drive up, no matter what size home it is, it will feel like they've come home, and so that when their guests or friends drive up, they get a good feeling, too.

It's always been easy like that to work with InnerSpace, especially Barry [Reiner]. He's very talented. The best thing for us to have been proud of was that there were no irate calls from the client! We've collaborated several times, and no one has ever called and complained.

EL: Are you getting more involved in collaborations with integrators — and what are the benefits to you and your clients that come from such close collaboration?

Wadia: Recently, Barry had worked on an apartment for us in New York City. I would love to work with them again. Sometimes clients have their own people that they want to use for IT, or that they favor because they have some emotional tie to them. But I tell them that a great audio/video person is someone about whom you never get an irate callback. I favor recommending only one. If the client asks, "Why only one?" I say, "It's very simple. Because he's the best."

a dozen Crestron thermostats and remote temperature sensors, Lutron lighting-control system integration, security control system integration and security camera system integration with 24 cameras. A Panasonic phone intercom system and an Apple Extreme network were also woven into the design.

To top it all off, there were some special things on the homeowner's wish list that presented unique challenges to InnerSpace. "For example, our client requested that every time the doorbell rang, all of the touch panels

in the house would switch to the camera screens and display the front-door camera," Reiner says. Achieving this involved advanced programming and special components to interface with the telephone system and door phone camera. The clients also wanted to automatically trigger HVAC functions to gain energy efficiency, so InnerSpace set up a way for them to schedule weekday, weekend, or vacation mode HVAC temperature control at the press of a button.

"The scope of the project required considerable expertise, resourcefulness and patience," says Reiner. But the result is a textbook example of a large-scale, full-featured integrated control system project. "The client can control all integrated systems on any of the touch screens in the house as well as via outside sources using remote access. The user interface is logical and well-conceived, creating the perfect complement to the home's indoor and outdoor living spaces."

And the clients and their integrated home lived happily ever after.

Barry and Andrea Reiner



A Crestron touch screen is all that's needed to work the Samsung TV and the center channel below it.



The master bathroom sports one of the 11 TVs installed throughout the home.



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MUSIC SERVER



LIGHTING



CLIMATE



SECURITY

Crestron panels present simple ways for the owners to select what they wish to control.

equipment Contact the CEDIA ESC for a complete equipment list.

Crestron PRO2 Control System Processor (2); CNX-PAD8A Audio matrix switcher (3); CEN-IDOCV-PWE Provides an interface for iPad with 2 way communication; Linksys SD2008 8-Port Ethernet switch (3); Furman F1500-UPS Uninterruptible power supply; AudioControl Architect 600SE 16-Channel high current amplifier (4); Audio Request F2.V5 Hard-drive music and video server with 2-zone output; Bowers and Wilkins (B&W) CVM-800 2-way flush mounted speaker systems (10); Pixel Pro 500 XM/Sirius exterior high-gain antenna; Perfect 10 SLSF-F HDTV DSS 24; Zinwell MS 6x8 WB 8-way multi-switch (2); Sonance VC60S Slide-area volume control with speaker cutoff (4); Peerless SAL-730P/740P Smartmount articulating arm, Flush-mounted mono speaker (4); Samsung PN63C7000 63" Television, BD-C6500/BD-P1600 Blu-ray DVD player (6); Chief PDR-U Dual swing arm wall mount for large flat panel; Integra DTR 40.1 Audio/video 7.2 surround sound receiver; DirecTV HR23 Combination high-definition satellite receiver with built-in DVR (2); Middle Atlantic Slim 5-29 Pre-assembled 29-space rack enclosure (3); Panasonic KX-TDA100 Hybrid IP PBX telephone system - 5 slot card cage; Panamax MOD-AT8110 Telephone system power protection module for eight analog phone lines; Channel Vision IUQ252P Intercom unit with black metal (3); Apple Airport Extreme Wi-Fi base stations with dual band wireless (8); Leviton Quickport 2-port flush-mount plates for modular system termination (30); OnQ EN-2850 28" Television; Antronix ARA 115 AC Cable TV amplifier for house-wide cable TV distribution (2); URC MX-900 Wireless custom programmed remote (9); Key Digital KD-CSW 4x1/ 2x1 Component video switcher capable of handling four video source inputs (2); Niles Audio Remote Control Repeater (14); Monitor Audio Center Channel 2-way center channel speaker system; Rel R-305 10" subwoofer; Triad In Wall Bronze/4 Sub In-wall powered subwoofer; Rockustics Rocky Too Weather-resistant outdoor speaker system (12)