


# Family TRADITION



This New York homeowner and his family pass along a love of audio/video with a dedicated theater and sports fan's dream room with help from Sony, Stewart and Elan



A 125-inch Stewart screen takes center stage in the home's theater, displaying crisp images from a Sony LCD projector. Paradigm L/R speakers, an NHT center channel and Velodyne subwoofer deliver the audio. At movie's end, a Philips Pronto remote lifts the lights and closes the draperies.

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The owner of this New York home admits that his hobbies often become obsessions. In his previous home, he carefully tended to two exotic Koi ponds, then moved on to become a fanatic sports memorabilia collector. His passion is now focused on audio/video as evidenced by the installation of an elegant dedicated theater, sports-themed media room, and whole-house audio in his Long Island home.

"I've always been an A/V junkie," the homeowner confesses. In fact, he's been a loyal reader of *Audio Video Interiors* long before his own in-laws' theater was published back in 1998. Now that he's reached his dream of building his own theater, he wanted to carry on the family tradition in AVI. "Now I'm on the playing field. It was time to reach out and be a part of the magazine."

With the help of Harvey Electronics' Mark Mester, this homeowner transformed an existing 15- by 17-foot theater space in his newly purchased home into a state-of-the-art system. "There was a backbone of a theater with no equipment left from the previous owners," Mester recalls. "The room was begging to be used again." Aside from the Irwin seating and some remnants of an IR repeating system, older projector and screen, the space was a clean slate.



With his trusty copies of *Audio Video Interiors* in hand, Mester's client educated himself on what equipment he wanted. "I had to bring this theater into the 21st century," says the homeowner. The project's first phase was to implement a Philips Pronto control, and change the interconnects to Monster Cable with Monster's Reference Power Center and HT200 power line for the new projector.

A Sony LCD projector is paired with a Stewart 125-inch 16x9 fixed screen. Mester initially balked at the size of the screen, but his client insisted, "the

bigger the better." In fact, Mester found that because of where the projector had to be placed, they needed a bigger screen. "The wall is all screen," he notes.

Audio for the space had to measure up to the enormous screen. The homeowner selected Paradigm and NHT for the front L/C/R speakers, with SpeakerCraft surrounds in the back. To give the room plenty of kick, Mester recommended a Velodyne subwoofer. "You really do get sucked in by the sound in this room," claims Mester. "It's very



enveloping and he has all the bass he was missing before."

The sound is further enhanced by the room's furnishings. Irwin seating, plush carpeting and wall fabric combine with thick, velour draperies that the client's wife purchased from The Fabric Mill. When they needed some adjustments made to the existing seating, the homeowner found that the Irwin staff was very helpful. "They sent new springs at no charge," he recalls. Two other companies praised for their customer service are Velodyne and Sony. "When I needed a part for the subwoofer, Velodyne

sent it overnight, and when some dust got inside the projector's lens, Sony cleaned it and paid for the FedEx to return it."

The impressive array of components for the theater is unobtrusively stored in a closet within an adjacent office. A Sony receiver, and Elan preamp controller and six-channel power amplifier are just a few of the powerhouses that reside within a Salamander rack.

When the movie begins, the lights dim and the curtain opens at the touch of the Pronto remote and Lutron GrafikEye. "This room is strictly for



*Got sports? This media room scores big with three Sony televisions and three DirecTV receivers. TV sound is delivered via a six-piece Bose speaker system, while SpeakerCraft and Elan provide music-listening audio.*

movie watching," says the homeowner. The elegant columns and moldings that line the theater walls and the addition of high-hat and rope lighting create an authentic cinematic atmosphere.

When he wants to enjoy television or music, the homeowner retreats to his sports-themed media room. Filled with game-worn NFL jerseys, the room's floor is actually covered in Astroturf from Giants Stadium. He never has to miss a game thanks to three Sony televisions (one 53-inch, and two 27-inch displays). An abundance of sports memorabilia and décor fill the room, as do the components—

including DirecTV receivers from Sony and RCA—with TV sound delivered through the six-piece Bose 12 Series system. For music listening, the Elan Z100 keypad handles four SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers—two in the sports room; two in the adjacent bar. "Sunday is football day," the owner states. "We have a fantasy football league and put on a big party once or twice a year."

The client's children, ages three and five, have more options in terms of entertainment. When not enjoying a video on the family room's Pioneer Elite 46-inch television, they have their own retreat in their upstairs playroom. Mom



has designed an actual castle in their room that was constructed by contractor Gary Muglia. Muglia has also helped with other construction needs in the theater and sports room. When the castle was completed, the kids had the perfect spot to invite friends over to watch movies such as *Toy Story* or *Shrek* on a Mitsubishi 65-inch HD upgradeable television. The homeowner may decide to move this set down to the sports room when more NFL broadcasts are delivered in high-definition. "As soon as the NFL is more widely available in HD, I may never leave the house," he laughs.

As for the rest of the house, Elan distributes audio throughout via SpeakerCraft in-ceiling speakers, but it's the theater that keeps this family coming back for more. Mark Mester explains, "The theater is the most important room in the house." The homeowner agrees, "I'm always talking to Mark about what's next." Future plans include the addition of amplification from Lexicon, Briston or Krell and the upgrade to 7.1 sound. According to Mester,

**Theater**

Sony VPL-VW10HT Projector  
 Stewart Filmscreen 125" 16:9 Luxus Deluxe Screen  
 Sony STR-V555ES A/V Receiver  
 Pioneer Elite DV-47A DVD Player  
 Sony CDPCX400 CD Jukebox  
 Mitsubishi HSU776 S-VHS VCR  
 Monster Cable HTS5000 Reference Power Center  
 Monster HT200 Power Line (For Projector)  
 Elan Z630 Preamp Controller  
 Elan Z660 6-Channel Power Amp  
 Marantz ST6000 Tuner  
 Philips Pronto TSU2000 Universal Remote  
 Paradigm Monitor 90 Speakers  
 NHT Supercenter Center Channel Speaker  
 SpeakerCraft 8.8 Mt Series Rear Surround Speakers  
 Velodyne HGS-12 Subwoofer  
 Makita Automated Drap System  
 Salamander 70" Equipment Rack  
 Monster Cables  
 Xantech IR Repeating System & Relay Module  
 Lutron Grafik Eye Lighting Controller  
 Irwin Seating (9)

**Sports Media Room**

Sony KP-53V90 53" Television  
 Sony KV-27V42 27" Television  
 Sony KV-27S42 27" Television  
 Sony SAT-A50 DirecTV Receivers (2)  
 RCA DirecTV Receiver  
 Bose Lifestyle 12 Series li System  
 Elan Z100 Keypad  
 SpeakerCraft 8.5 CRS Series In-Ceiling Speakers

**Family Room**

Pioneer Elite PRO-71 46" Television  
 Toshiba SD-2008 DVD Player  
 Panasonic PV-4521 VCR  
 Luxman R-106 Receiver & K-105 Cassette Deck  
 Sony CDP-CX255 CD Jukebox  
 SpeakerCraft 8.5 CRS Series In-Ceiling Speakers (4)  
 SpeakerCraft VC Series Volume Control

**Castle Playroom**

Mitsubishi WS-65857 Platinum Plus HD Upgradeable Television  
 Mitsubishi HD-400 HD/DirecTV Receiver  
 JVC XV-SA75GD DVD Player  
 Luxman L-400 Integrated Amplifier  
 Luxman T-240 Stereo Tuner  
 Sony CDP-C800 Five CD Changer  
 Denon D-660 Dual Cassette Deck  
 Minolta Mv-160S S-VHS VCR  
 Paradigm 5SE Speakers

**Master Bedroom**

Sony KV-27XBR45 27" Television  
 Pioneer Elite DV-37A DVD Player  
 Sony SAT60 TiVo/DirecTV Receiver  
 Sony SLV-679HF Stereo VCR  
 Marantz RC-3200 Universal Remote Control

**Dining Room/Living Room**

SpeakerCraft 8.5 CRS Series In-Ceiling Speakers (2)  
 SpeakerCraft VC Series Volume Control

**Exercise Room**

Panasonic CT-2064A 20" Television  
 RCA VR531 VCR  
 Niles Audio CM800HD In-Ceiling Speakers  
 Elan Z100 Keypad



*The playroom is the children's castle with a Mitsubishi 65-inch HD upgradeable television and components from Luxman, Sony and Denon. Paradigm speakers lead the kids and their friends in sing-alongs.*

the future for DLP-technology in this space is wide open, and his client is pondering a plasma in the master bedroom. But this homeowner says he'll break with tradition and keep his "obsession" from getting out of hand. "I'll sit tight for the time being. I think I'll let my wife decide."

For this family, a new tradition is to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. ♦

