

SPECIAL ISSUE 40 WINNING HOMES

ELECTRONICHOUSE

FAST TRACK TO THE CONNECTED LIFESTYLE

MAY 2008

BEST HOMES OF THE YEAR



GOLD ■ SILVER ■ BRONZE

Home Theater, Family Room
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VITAL STATS

SYSTEMS DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Advanced Home Theater Systems
Plano, TX
972-516-1849
www.advancedhometheater.com

A Really Wild One

The prized room in this large Dallas residence is full of trophies from the homeowner's many safari trips. *photography by Graham Hobart*

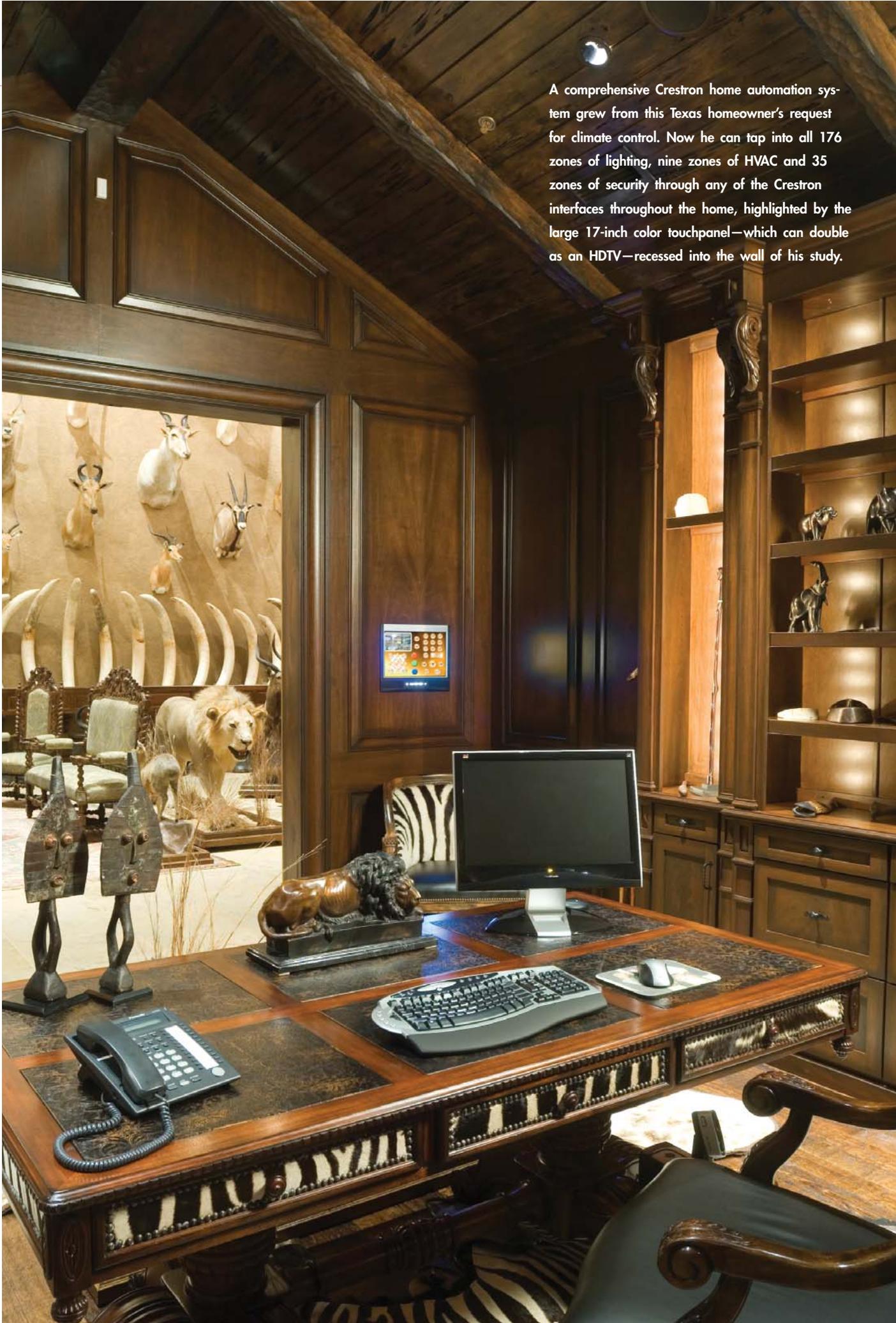
There are game rooms, and then there are some wild game rooms. The showcase room in this home is another story: It's dedicated to wild game.

The owner of this 12,000-square-foot Dallas home has been going on safari trips to Africa more than once a year for nearly a decade, and when he had his sprawling residence constructed, he wanted to highlight a trophy room. It was also the impetus for bringing an elec-

tronic systems installation company on board, since the owner needed proper humidity control for the roughly 2,000-square-foot space and wished to enhance the room through lighting.

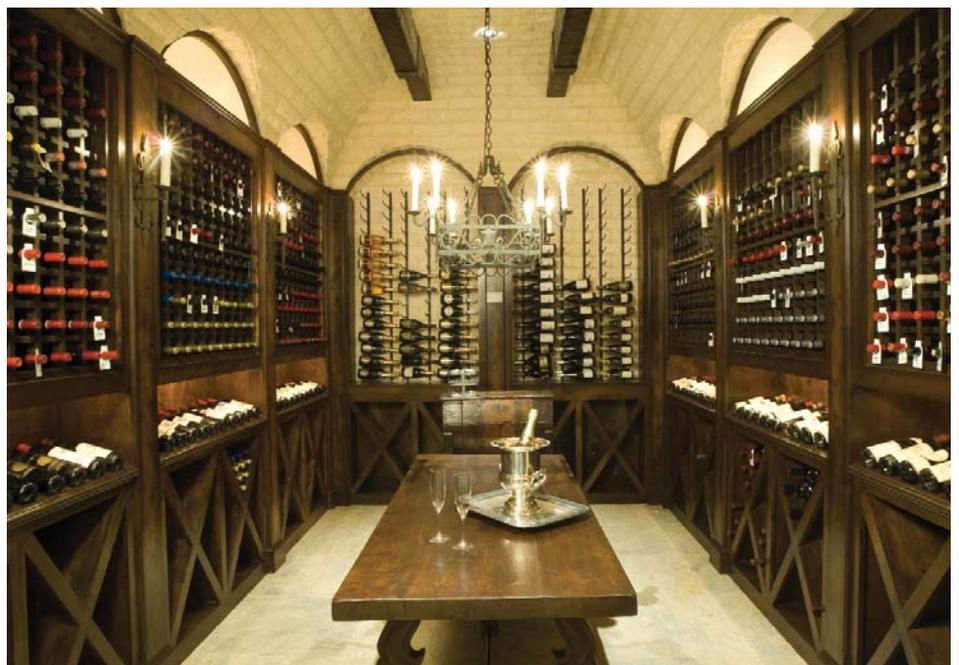
"That was the real reason for doing the automation," says Rick Smith of Plano, TX-based Advanced Home Theater Systems, a Crestron dealer. "He's got everything in there from full-size lions to wild boar, from little to big. He needed real-time control of the HVAC

A comprehensive Crestron home automation system grew from this Texas homeowner's request for climate control. Now he can tap into all 176 zones of lighting, nine zones of HVAC and 35 zones of security through any of the Crestron interfaces throughout the home, highlighted by the large 17-inch color touchpanel—which can double as an HDTV—recessed into the wall of his study.





Several products from Runco serve up the high-definition video riches, topped by the VX-2000d CW 1080p DLP projector in the media room (above). Its CineWide lens can fill the 116-inch Stewart Filmscreen Electromask screen with content filmed in a superwide 2.35:1 aspect ratio for an immersive cinema experience, aided by the James Loudspeaker 7.1-channel surround-sound setup. If the owner wants to fill a glass of wine for his guests during dinner and a movie, he can take comfort in knowing that all the vintages in his wine cellar age perfectly, thanks to the Crestron humidity control—and he can show the cellar off with mood lighting also controlled by the Crestron system.





and humidifiers to maintain the humidity around 45 percent to keep the trophies from aging, and he really wanted to have finite control of the lighting.”

At night, the homeowner can press a button on one of the home’s 39 Crestron control interfaces—35 wall mounted, four portable—and everything turns off except selected mood lighting, such as sconces in the wild game room and study, which are dimmed to 25 percent. Another lighting scene for the trophies sets low lighting and highlights, creating shadows on the animals as though they were on an African landscape under the moonlight.

“He was more interested in the darker scenes to accentuate the shadows and make a more realistic, imposing look,” says Smith, “because if you encounter one of these crit-

ters in the nighttime, you might see a shadow before seeing the actual animal.”

The wild game room is a special stop on house tours, but the rest of the home is quite a prize, too. Ten Runco plasmas and a Samsung LCD are mounted throughout, and Monitor Audio Gold IW in-wall speakers handle most of the 16 audio zones. A notable exception is the media room, which rocks with a full 7.1-channel James Loudspeaker surround system and Halcro processing and amplification. The video features a Runco VX-2000d CW DLP projector that offers 1080p resolution and fills the CinemaScope 2.35:1 aspect ratio screen, a 116-incher from Stewart Filmscreen.

In the homeowner’s master bedroom, there’s a 65-inch Runco 1080p plasma. It marked a step up from the 60-inch TV origi-

Electronics installation firm Advanced Home Theater Systems was able to send the 1080p video signal via HDMI cable a distance of 150 feet from the Runco scaler/controller in the equipment room to the 65-inch plasma TV in the master bedroom by using HDMI Cat5 Extreme and RS-232 Cat5 extender products from Gefen.

EQUIPMENT LIST

CONTROL

Creston PAC2 professional automation processor
Creston TPS4L 3.8-inch color wall-mount touchpanels (2)
Creston TPS-2000 5-inch iSys color in-wall touchpanels (12)
Creston TPS-3100 6-inch iSys color in-wall touchpanels (2)
Creston TPS-17L 17-inch iSys color in-wall touchpanel
Creston TPMC8x 8.4-inch Wi-Fi media touchpanels (2)
Creston CLX Series dimming/switching modules (37)
Creston ML-600 handheld wireless controllers (2)
Creston CNRFGWA-418 MHz wireless receiver
Creston CNX Series 8-button keypads (18)
Creston CHV-TSTAT HVAC thermostats (9)
Creston CHV-RTHS HVAC remote temperature sensors (15)
Creston C2N-SPW300 300-watt power supplies and
Cresnet hubs (2)
Jandy Aqualink RS 7620 serial controller interface

WHOLE-HOUSE A/V COMPONENTS & DISTRIBUTION

Creston C2N-IVDS24X24 video distribution
(touchpanels) switcher
Creston CNX-PVID8X3 video distribution (house TVs) switchers (2)
Creston CNX-PAD8A audio distribution processors (3)
Creston CNAMPX-16X60 16-channel multiroom amps (3)
Monitor Audio Gold IW in-wall speakers (18 pairs)
Boston Acoustics Voyager outdoor speakers (2 pairs)
Rockustics Hillside outdoor speakers (1 pair)
Peerless Industries wall mounts (11)
Runco XP-65DHD 65-inch 1080p PlasmaWall
Runco SP-50 50-inch 720p CinemaWall plasmas (4)
Runco SP-42 42-inch 720p CinemaWall plasmas (5)
Samsung LN-S2351 23-inch LCD
Gefen HDMI CAT5 Extreme
Gefen RS232 CAT5 Extender
DirecTV HR20-250 HD-DVRs (3)
DirecTV H20 HD satellite receiver
Linksys router and WiFi access points (3)
UltraLink Products analog interconnects

MEDIA ROOM

Halcro SSP180 7.1-channel surround processor
Halcro MCA70 7-channel surround amplifier
Runco VX-2000d CW 1080p DLP with CineWide lens
Samsung BDP1000 Blu-ray player
Escient MX-111 DVD-CD management system
Sony 777ES 400-disc changer
DirecTV HR20-250 HD-DVR
Richard Gray's Power Company SubStation 240s (2)
Richard Gray's Power Company 1200S power conditioner
Middle Atlantic custom rack system
Middle Atlantic PD920-NS 20-amp power conditioner
James Loudspeaker Baby Grand Concerto in-wall subs (1 pair)
James Loudspeaker 83-SDX in-wall center
James Loudspeaker 36-SDX in-wall surrounds (1 pair)
James Loudspeaker 36-SDX in-wall surrounds (1 pair)
James Loudspeaker 62-SDX in-ceiling rear speakers (1 pair)
James Loudspeaker Model 6 subwoofer amp
Stewart Filmscreen EMSN116SST13WMX Electromask
116-inch CinemaScope Screen
Analysis Plus speaker cable and analog and digital Interconnects

SECURITY & COMMUNICATIONS

Panasonic KX-TA824 digital phone system
Panasonic KX-7736 speaker phones (6)
Holovision ORB gate entry system
Speco HT-INTB2 DC3112 hires color/night vision cameras (9)
Everfocus EDSR900F 9-channel LAN enabled DVR with 320 GB
GE NetworkX NX8e security system



nally planned, which was bumped when Runco introduced the larger model during construction. It also posed a challenge for Smith's team, because the TV's scaler and controller piece were in the equipment room—150 feet away from the plasma and, at the time, less than ideal for sending the 1080p signal and RS-232 serial control commands. Eventually it worked out, and now the owner has no trouble receiving distributed HD content from the comfort of his bed.

When his African safari guides visit, they book their stay in the homeowner's four-star upstairs guest quarters, which includes a full kitchen, dining room, living

The prized room in this Texas residence is devoted to the homeowner's many game trophies taken during African safari trips throughout the last 10 years. Scenes programmed into a Crestron automation system allow him to showcase the room by lighting it several ways, including a night mode that can make visitors feel like they're under African skies. The room maintains a 45 percent humidity level to keep the trophies in pristine condition.

room and two bedrooms. Each bedroom has a 42-inch plasma, while a 50-inch Runco on an articulating bracket lets guest view the set from the dining or living areas. Let the high-definition safari begin. —AS EH