

HOME OF THE MONTH

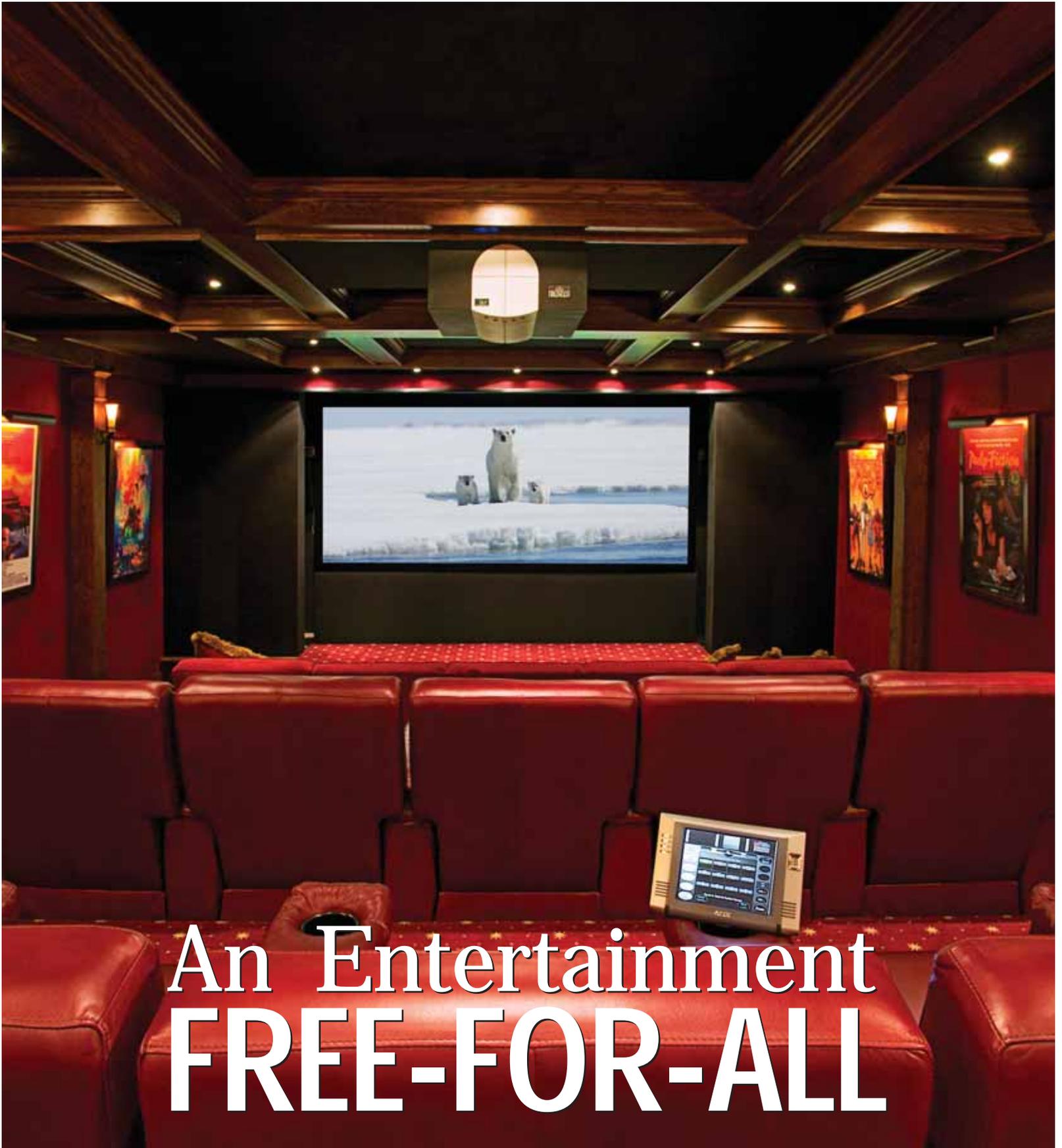


A dedicated 15-seat theater serves as the ultimate A/V wonderland for the homeowners and their three children. A wireless AMX touchpanel displays movies available on their Kaleidescape media server, cues up the Runco 1080p projector and Parasound surround-sound system, and dims the Lutron RadioRA controlled light fixtures.

Capacious media servers, simple software and intuitive touchpanels create an amazing entertainment network for a family of four.

by Lisa Montgomery, photography by Jeff Allen

What's the best way to unwind after a long, hard week? For the owners of this 12,000-square-foot Nantucket, MA, vacation home, nothing soothes away stress better than kicking back with a few relaxing tunes. A favorite choice on a Friday night after a tough commute might be songs from jazz vocalist Diana Krall. On a lazy Sunday afternoon, the preferred medley might be something completely different, like a compilation of R&B classics from Earth, Wind & Fire.



An Entertainment **FREE-FOR-ALL**



His-and-hers office spaces offer plenty of flexibility for the family. The lady of the house can summon a piece of music to her workspace from an AMX touchpanel, while her husband uses his own touchpanel to call up a favorites page that lists his top cable and satellite TV stations. A simple touch puts the chosen station onto the 60-inch NEC plasma TV. A trio of Bohlender-Graebener Radia speakers were mounted horizontally to complement the lines of the cabinet.





Working out can be a more pleasurable experience when there's music and video to keep you company. In this well-appointed home gym, the owners opted for a 60-inch NEC plasma TV and left, center, and right-channel Bohlender-Graebener speakers. A few seconds at the wall-mounted AMX touchpanel near the entrance jump-starts the A/V gear.

The family's impressive library of 500 or more CDs runs the gamut, giving Mom, Dad and their three kids plenty of variety when it comes to their listening pleasure. Throw in hundreds of satellite and cable TV music stations, an XM Radio tuner, Sirius Radio tuner, two AM/FM tuners and two AudioRequest music servers, and the options are virtually limitless. It's a good thing the AMX touchpanels, AutoPatch switchers and CineTouch software are there to keep things straight. The technology trio streamlines the process of hunting for music to just a few button presses. Using one of several AMX touchpanels positioned throughout the main house, guest house and outdoor entertainment areas, the family can access music that's been categorized alphabetically by album title, genre or artist. For a visual reminder, the system displays the cover art of each album.

The CineTouch software also allowed Michael Alpert and his team of designers at Nantucket Media Systems to create a favorites category for each member of the family. "Right now, we just have a 'his favorites' and a 'hers favorites,' because our kids are too young to use the system," relate the homeowners. But that'll all change in a couple of years. "Our 6-year-old has already figured out how to play music in her room," the owners say. When it's time to add a favorites playlist for the kids, all it'll take is a few button presses at an AMX touchpanel. "[The ability to make changes] is one of best things about this system," says the man of the house. "The CineTouch software makes it a piece of cake to tweak our music system as we see fit."

The homeowners can not only choose precisely what they want to hear from any of the home's 22 AMX touchpanels, but they can also direct the music to specific areas of the house. The residence is divided into 32 distinct listening zones, including several outdoor areas. Using any touchpanel, a user can tell the song exactly where to go. For example, if the lady of the house is in the master bedroom, she can play a song in that room only or add in the master bath,

BREAKING IT DOWN

SPARE THE EXPENSE

Software from CineTouch gives the owners of our featured home the ability to create their own playlists on the fly. All programming can be done by pressing buttons on a wall-mounted touchpanel. "Plus, it was really affordable, compared to other software solutions," says the homeowner. "It proves that you don't need something that requires weeks of expensive custom programming to be able to control high-end audio and video equipment."

TIE ONE ON

Ribbon speakers have been a favorite of audiophiles for decades. The owner of this Nantucket home requested Bohlender-Graebener Radia ribbon speakers for his main listening areas, including the living room, gym and theater. Even the in-ceiling speakers contain ribbon tweeters.

BRAWN FOR THE LAWN

The backyard, pool and tennis court get a dose of bass, courtesy of weatherproof speakers and subwoofers from Terra Loudspeakers. The green-colored units are planted partially in the ground to blend in beautifully with the landscape.



Flat-panel TVs, built-in speakers, home control touchpanels and handheld remotes pamper the homeowners with relaxing music and imagery in the master bathroom (top left and right) and a dedicated massage room. A 32-inch Sharp LCD TV hangs on the wall by the tub, while a 26 incher resides in the massage lounge.



or she can tell the system to send the tune to every speaker on the property. Having such an extreme level of flexibility does make for some lighthearted musical jousting, the owners admit. "We can be in the kitchen and tell the system to play music in the guest house to wake up my friends in the morning. Of course, [guests] can always retaliate and do the same thing to us the next morning." No matter. The occasional early-morning wake-up calls are a small price to pay for a system that provides everyone with easy access to music from anywhere to anywhere, the homeowners agree.

The owners can even take their well-organized CD library with them on the road. "I can upload the music to my iPod or sync the server remotely over the Internet to our AudioRequest server at our primary residence in Boston," the man of the house explains. The syncing capability means the owners need only rip a CD once to have it available to them on servers located in two homes.



The family often convenes in the kitchen, making it a good spot for a portable AMX touchpanel. From there, the owners can select a song or TV program from a variety of A/V components that are stored in an equipment closet elsewhere in the house. The touchpanel lets them direct the music and video to any area of the house, like to the den (pictured below), or play it right there on the kitchen's in-ceiling speakers and Sharp 26-inch LCD TV. The den features a 65-inch Runco plasma TV, Artison speakers attached to the display, Bohlender-Graebener in-ceiling speakers and a James Loudspeaker subwoofer stowed at the bottom of the cabinet.

EQUIPMENT LIST

ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

AMX NI-4100 NetLinx system
 AutoPatch Optima 20x20 component matrix switcher
 AutoPatch Mudula 32x32 audio matrix switcher
 AutoPatch PrecisiT 8x8 A/V matrix switcher
 Gefen RS-232 extenders (25)
 Gefen CompAV extenders (15)
 Audio Design Associates PTM-1260 amplifiers (6)
 Audio Design Associates PTM-8150 amplifiers (3)
 Audio Design Associates TuneSuite system
 ReQuest F4.800 music servers (2)
 DirecTV high-def satellite receivers with DVR (4)
 DirecTV high-def satellite receivers (2)
 Comcast high-def cable box
 Apple TV media server
 Kaleidescape K-Server 1500 movie server
 Kaleidescape K-Player 500 movie player

CONTROLS

AMX MVP-8400 wireless touchpanels (9)
 AMX NXT-CV7 tabletop touchpanels (6)
 AMX NXD-CV5 in-wall touchpanels (6)
 AMX NXT-CV tabletop touchpanel

DISPLAYS

NEC 42-inch plasma TV with Artison speakers
 NEC 50-inch plasma TVs with Artison speakers (2)
 NEC 60-inch plasma TVs (2)
 Runco 65-inch plasma TV with Artison speakers
 Sharp 42-inch LCD TV
 Sharp 32-inch LCD TVs (3)
 Sharp 26-inch LCD TVs (7)

SURROUND SOUND AND SPEAKERS

Marantz SR-7600 audio/video receivers (5)
 Marantz DV-7001 DVD players (5)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia PD6C ceiling speakers
 (20 pairs)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia PD8C in-wall speakers
 (2 pairs)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia Architectural R-500
 speakers (1 pair)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia Architectural R-500i
 speakers (1 pair)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia R-200 speaker
 Triad Silver left, center, right bookshelf speakers
 (3 pairs)
 James Loudspeaker PP-1000 PowerPipe subwoofers (5)
 James Loudspeaker in-wall subwoofers (3)
 Sonance in-ceiling Ellipse speakers (5)
 Sonance XTR all-weather in-ceiling speakers (1 pair)
 Terra Loudspeakers outdoor speakers (10 pairs)
 Terra Loudspeakers outdoor subwoofers (3)

HOME THEATER

Runco VX22 video projector
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia R-600 speakers (3)
 Bohlender-Graebener Radia R-32i speakers (6)
 Parasound Halo Surround Controller
 Parasound Halo amplifier
 Lutron Electronic RadioRA lighting control system

SYSTEM DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

Nantucket Media Systems
 Nantucket, MA
www.nantucketmediasystems.com



Must-See TV

The AMX touchpanels also display all the family's video options. The family picks what they want to watch and where they want to watch it, and bingo: The AMX/AutoPatch video distribution system delivers. There's a lot of video to choose from, but the layout of the touchpanels makes it easy for anyone to find a specific program or movie. Each family member's FAVORITES button calls up a list of his or her top cable TV and satellite stations. The kids' favorites page might include the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon, while Mom's favorites page lists a more serious fare of stations, including CNN. There are four satellite receivers—one for each family member—so four different programs can play at the same time on different TVs. Plus, each family member can record programs on his or her own DVR, and those programs can be accessed from anywhere in the house. For example, Dad can use an AMX touchpanel to

view a list of programs that have been recorded on his DVR, chose one, and tell it to play on any of the home's 17 flat-panel TVs. Meanwhile, Mom can pick out something from her recordings to watch elsewhere. If the entire family wants to watch something together, they can do that, too, perhaps selecting a slideshow of family vacation photos that has been stored on their Apple TV server, or a DVD that's been ripped to the hard drive of their Kaleidescape video server.

While the home is brimming with big TVs, including a 65-inch Runco plasma TV, two 60-inch and two 50-inch NEC plasma TVs, as well as several surround-sound setups, the family's favorite spot to gather for a show is the dedicated 15-seat home theater, where the movies come to life on a huge video screen. An AMX touchpanel—this one a wireless version—runs the show, directing the Runco 1080p VX22 video projector and Parasound sound system to rev



up the instant the family presses the **MOVIE** button. The **MOVIE** command also signals the Lutron RadioRA system to dim the lights. Because the owners' movies are on a hard drive, there's no need to manually load a disc into a player. In fact, they never need to leave the couch to get a movie going. The Kaleidescape server displays their choices on the AMX panel, the family touches the DVD cover, and the movie pops onto the screen. Unlike a typical DVD player that requires a few minutes to read the disc, the Kaleidescape server is able to cue up the movie instantly.

Duplicate Efforts

The family has lived with its versatile entertainment network for just a few months, but already Mom, Dad and the kids know they want something similar for their 125-year-old home in Boston. Given the age of their city home, however, it may be impossible to route the necessary cabling to as many locations as was possible in the Nantucket abode. But that's perfectly fine with this family. "We'll use the same touchpanels, the same servers and the same software. We'll just design them on a smaller scale," says the homeowner. With the programming already perfected once by Alpert and his team, the owners' second system should be a cinch for him to set up and for the family to master. Two vastly different homes governed by two identical systems will create a cross-city network of boundless entertainment options for this movie- and music-loving family. **EH**

There are plenty of comfy spots in which to watch TV in this Nantucket residence. One of the kids' favorite areas, pictured on the opposite page, features a 42-inch NEC plasma TV. Other components, including a Marantz audio/video receiver and DVD player, are tucked behind the louvered doors of the cabinet. When Mom and Dad are ready to call it a night, they can retire to the luxury of their master suite, pictured above, where two flat-panel TVs—a 42 inch that rises out of a custom cabinet and a 50 inch planted on the wall—can serve up movies stored remotely on a Kaleidescape media server. A wireless AMX touchpanel displays their movie choices by genre, actor and other categories, making it quick and easy to find the perfect flick.

