



## Home Theater 2.0

This homeowner upgraded to a next-gen cinema room when his new house was built. *photography by Scott Braman*

### VITAL STATS

#### SYSTEMS DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Allwired Technologies  
Lakewood, NJ  
732-370-1914  
www.allwiredtechnology.com

#### ACOUSTIC DESIGN

Acoustic Smart  
Merrick, NY

Building a home theater is definitely better the second time around. Case in point: Projectors that could do 1080p high-definition resolution weren't available to this New Jersey homeowner when he was watching movies in his previous homes' theater.

But oh, the video options to choose from today! When the homeowner moved, he wanted to build a new, state-of-the-art theater. "He's more into video than audio, and we did the 1080p projector when it was kind of a new thing," says system installer Bob Smith of Allwired Technologies in Lakewood, NJ. "The projector must have changed six times within the course of this project. I can't remember exactly what he had in his old theater, but it was definitely not 1080p, and it was a smaller room with a smaller screen."

What the installer and homeowner finally



Shake, rattle and roll: This theater includes a ButtKicker kit for low-frequency sound that really gives viewers a full-body experience through their seats. If the action gets too intense, they might need to pour a beer and pull up a bar stool to watch the rest of the movie.

Are we in a real movie theater? Apparently the new Harry Potter flick's coming soon, but the ticket taker won't tell me what's playing today. Oh, wait—he's not being rude, he's being a mannequin.



## EQUIPMENT LIST

### DISPLAY

Sony VPL-VW100 1080p LCD projector  
Stewart Filmscreen 123-inch Firehawk screen  
Sony bracket

### AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

Denon DVD-1920  
JVC HRS-5912 VCR  
Monster Power HTS-3500MKII  
Outlaw Audio 990 preamp  
Outlaw Audio 7700 7-channel amplifier  
Scientific Atlanta Explorer 4200HD cable box  
Tiverton game jack  
TiVo with DVD burner  
Xbox 360

### SPEAKERS

Atlantic Technology 4200e LR (2)  
Atlantic Technology 4200e C  
Atlantic Technology 4200e SR (6)  
Sunfire 1,000-watt 12-inch subwoofer (2)

### CONTROL

Crestron PRO2 processor  
Crestron SNPWS75 power supply  
Crestron ST-COM thermostat control  
Crestron ST-1700C touchpanel  
Crestron CNRFGWA RF receiver

### LIGHTING

Lutron 6-zone Grafik Eye (2)  
Lutron GRX-232 interface

### FURNITURE, ACOUSTICS & ACCESSORIES

Active Thermal Management 2+2 system  
BTX motorized track curtain  
ButtKicker LFE kit (2)  
Middle Atlantic AX-s rack system

settled on for this new house's fun and functional home theater was the Sony VPL-VW100 1080p LCD projector. They chose an equally stellar 123-inch Firehawk screen from Stewart Filmscreen to display the images.

The projector works so well that Smith says he even granted the homeowner's request to incorporate a TiVo DVR (he upgraded to the high-definition version, complete with a DVD burner). "I normally don't do TiVo because there's only so much bandwidth, and the other (non-high-def) channels get limited. When they're blown up to a 123-inch screen, you're asking to see problems," Smith says. "But the Sony [model] has a built-in scaler to upconvert the video, so even the low-res stuff looks pretty good."

For audio, the homeowner stuck with the brand he loved from his old theater and had his heart set on again. This time, though, his Atlantic Technology system was upgraded to a THX 9.2 surround-sound thumper that included three pairs of Atlantic's 4200e SR matching dipole surrounds for the wall columns and a couple of Sunfire 1,000-watt 12-inch subwoofers. The old theater's all-in-one receiver also earned a boost to a combination of pre-amp and 7-channel amplifier from Outlaw Audio.

For some extra shake in the sound stage, Allwired added the ButtKicker LFE kit to the

theater's first two rows of seating, ensuring that the sound would not only be heard but truly felt. "It's not too much money to add for a little impact," Smith says.

The seating itself was optimized to eliminate any line-of-sight issues, as theatergoers can choose from four rows, including a back row of bar stools, with each resting atop a 12-inch riser all the way down to the first row and screen area. To accommodate the seating arrangement with top sound from the 9.2 THX system, Smith installed the front sound stage of speakers above the screen instead of below it, hiding the speakers behind woodwork and angling them down toward viewers. That way, there's nothing to inhibit the audio from the risers.

Allwired worked with Acoustic Smart to deliver quality acoustic isolation and help turn what started out as a somewhat square space into more of a rectangular environment. "We wanted to take what he had before and step it up. His other theater room sounded good, but looks-wise, it was not as functional and didn't make a lot of sense," says Acoustic Smart's Rich Charschan. "And his first room he thought was incredible."

It doesn't compare to what Acoustic Smart put together this time, which included installing its Noise Barrier treatment product



If the kids get tired of playing Xbox on the 123-inch screen, they can take a break and bowl a few games or play some pool outside the theater room.

and own line of fabric to go on top of the columns and function like a speaker grille. “He wanted a real traditional fabric, and we had started making our own breathable fabric,” Charschan says. “We took an extensive damask pattern from other designers and figured out a way to take the tight weave out, so if you put a speaker behind it, you don’t lose any of the sound quality.”

Since the home has three children, the theater also includes several special details that make for a family-friendly atmosphere, both practically and aesthetically. The screen opens behind a motorized curtain that is controlled via a Crestron system, which also com-

mands eight zones of Lutron lighting that bring out the ambiance in the ceiling, stage, platforms, bar area and more. The kids can eat pizza at the bar before playing their Xbox 360 on the 123-inch screen, and if that’s not enough for them, there’s always the adjacent bowling lane and pool table.

One thing’s for certain in this homeowner’s basement: There’s no mistaking that you’re about to get a true theater experience when you walk by the illuminated movie poster, around the replica box office and mannequin ticket taker, and under the marquee before taking your seat. Shhhhh—the movie’s about to begin!—AS **EH**