

The home theater is hot.

Supreme Screens

Stylemaker's Screens

Now playing in the Hamptons...

Larry Gagosian

Along with a two-story greenhouse, the art dealer's Toad Hall home has a ten-seat theater.

Barry Sonnenfeld

The director of *Men In Black* and *Get Shorty* had a ten-seat theater in his home that many considered the Hamptons best screening room.

Mickey Schulhof

With a twenty-seat theater in his home, Schulhof has plenty of room for a few friends.

Calvin Klein

Dragon's Head, the home that Klein recently bought from Francesco Galesi has a forty-seat theater. We're sure that Klein will dress it up in his own inimitable style.

Ron Perelman

Perelman's Georgica Pond estate, The Creeks, has a 100-seat theater.

Bryan Bantry

One of the more popular screening rooms in the Hamptons, and the playground for players like Jay-Z and Damon Dash, and other famous folks like Christie Brinkley, Bantry's Goose Creek estate has a 120-seat theater.

Once solely the indulgence of Hollywood studio moguls, producers and hard-driving directors—the private screening room is practically *derigueur* in Hamptons homes these days.

For a truly transporting experience—the sensation of sitting in the Loewe's Paradise while in your own home—serious equipment is required. A few speakers, a decent television and a DVD player does not constitute a home theater. In the Hamptons, home theater is a screening room with plush theater-style seating, a curtain that opens with a touch of the remote just as the lights dim and the film begins. It's everything you'll need for your next private premiere—except for the caviar and champagne.

So what do you need? Basically there are two separate elements that comprise the home theater: the electronic components and the design, décor and seating.

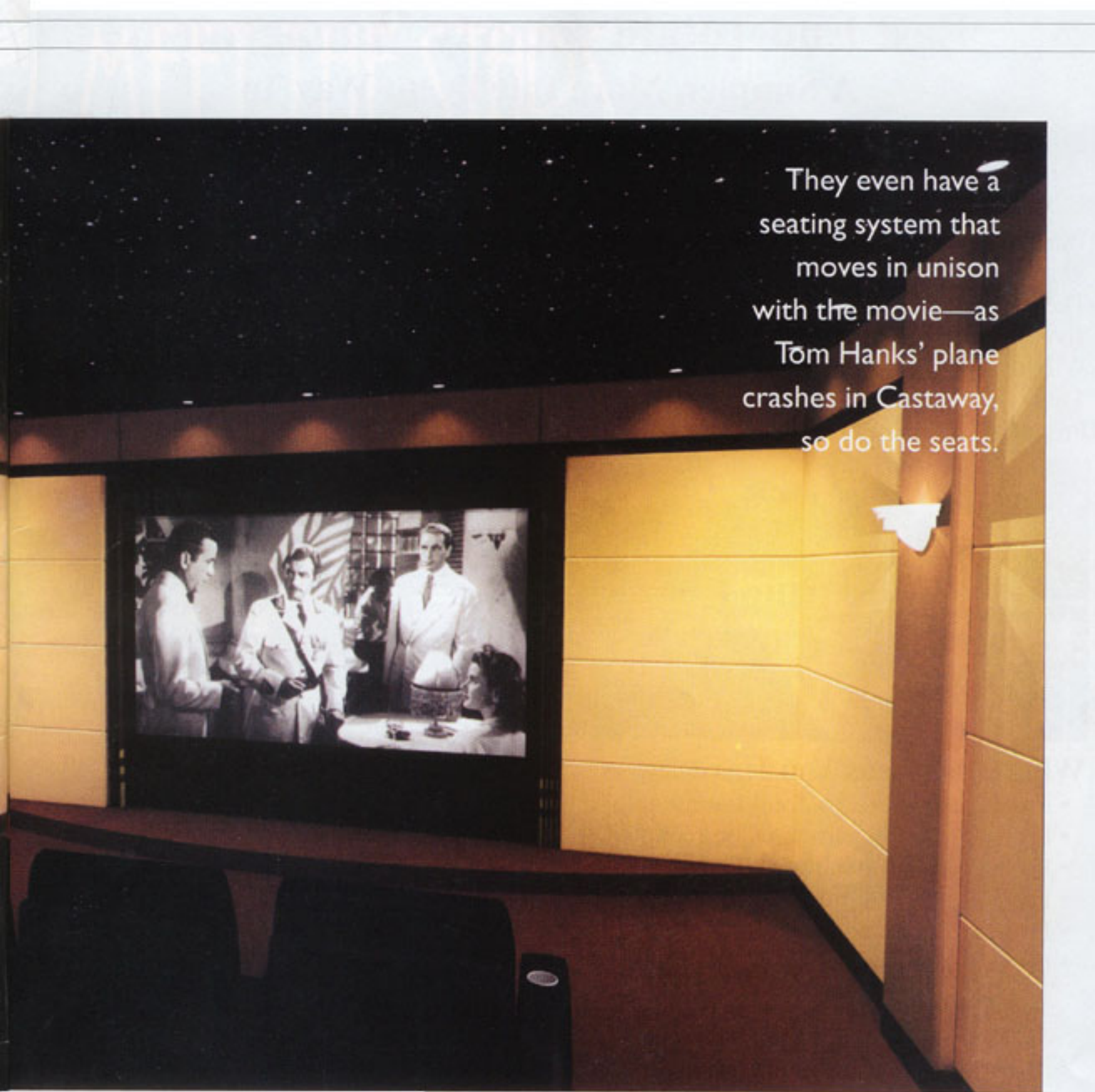
While a number of companies specialize in creating home theaters, discerning Hamptonites most often turn to Bob Charos of Charos Custom Audio/Video in Southampton to handle the electronic side of the equation.

"I was always a stereo kind of guy," says Charos, "and I got into the business over twenty-five years ago when a friend of mine asked me to help him wire Norman Jaffe's house with a stereo system. After that, I started working with architects like Peter Cook and John Gambling to design integrated systems for their clients."



The picture perfect union of technology and design.

Expect a top-of-the-line Charos-designed system to include a few of the following components: a ceiling-mounted Runco DLP VX-1000 video projector (\$16,000), a Stuart Luxus Delux Wide Screen Fixed Wall Screen (\$1,900) on which to project the film, a Denon AVR 5803 Dolby Surround Sound Receiver (\$4,000), a Denon DVD-9000 player (\$3,000), Canton Ergo 1200 Front Speakers (\$2,800),



They even have a seating system that moves in unison with the movie—as Tom Hanks' plane crashes in *Castaway*, so do the seats.

Velodyne HGS-12 Sub-Woofer (\$3,600) and a Crestron ST-1700 Touch Screen remote control (\$6,000). Options abound, and Charos has access to the best equipment available.

Once settled on the components, the design comes next. Richard Charschan of Acousticsmart is the person to talk to about seating options and design. His company has designed

many screening rooms for Hamptons' celebrities and he regularly works with interior designers like Ralph Lauren to achieve the perfect look.

Acousticsmart has options ranging from sleek, modernist looks to more traditional, old-fashioned theater styles ranging in price from \$40,000 to \$200,000. They'll handle everything from the seats and acoustics to the

motorized curtains and popcorn machine. They even have a seating system that moves in unison with the movie—as Tom Hanks' plane crashes in *Castaway*, so do the seats. Or how about a motorized-mannequin ticket taker?

After deciding on the design and components, really the only questions left are: Who are you going to invite over? And, do you want butter on that popcorn? 