



Home's 'Smart' Systems Simplified for Everyone, Including the Kids

This home's a good example of a custom electronics pro at work. Large home, working parents, three children, basic subsystems to integrate, and easy operation required for everyone. Illinois-based CE pro Architectural Audio & Video pulled it off without a hitch, and the benefits of home technology have been great for this happy family.

"The homeowners of this project are both working professionals with three young children, which made their needs very easy to explain. They wanted a system that was simple, automated, and highly reliable," says AAV's Matt Koppin. "The system needed to include the integration of the lighting, audio/video, thermostats, cameras, and security. Lastly, a simple interface for the children to access their DVD collections easily without having to touch the DVDs every time."



Koppin's team seamlessly integrated everything through automation manufacturer Control4, helping put together a centralized system from scratch, he says. The Control4 products allowed for automated lighting control, 16 zones of distributed audio/video, automated thermostats, as well as the ability to interface with network cameras, and security all integrated into a single interface.

All of those features and systems can be controlled through the Control4 interface, which is accessible to view and navigate on TVs, Control4 touch screens and even Apple iPhones. "This interface is extremely easy to navigate, and allowed for custom buttons which were added for simplified operation by the children, grandparents, and even the babysitter," says Koppin.

Along with a media room that features a 110-inch projection screen, there are plenty of other A/V goodies throughout the home. The family room TV is hidden by a Vutec ArtScreen, for example, and every room has access to sources including Rhapsody, Apple TV, three Cable HD DVRs, 400 Disc DVD changer, Blu-ray player, iPod, 500GB music server, and AM/FM/XM tuner.

"The system has made our home a true 'smart' home," the homeowner says. "We love the automation and the ability to access all of our systems from each room in the house. It's become a focal point for not only entertaining but everyday living. The ability to simply add on and customize the system is a major bonus."

And the major bonus for Architectural Audio & Video? The success of this project gets shown off to this family's friends, who of course now want systems in their own homes.

-Story written by Arlen Schweiger, Managing Editor for Electronic House Magazine

