



Michigan Lake Property

Many homeowners come to Control4 because they want a simpler, all-in-one system. For one Michigan homeowner, he wanted an option that replaced both his Lutron lighting control and Audio Access music systems. Inspired Smart Technologies delivered a single, streamlined Control4 installation that combines lighting, audio, and home-wide device control. Adding Control4 to Al Spiess, Jr.'s lakeside home simplified both system operations and programming that enhanced the living experience while helping to reduce energy costs. In addition, Spiess also sought a solution that assisted with the in-home care of an aging parent.

Even when the system was only partially installed (e.g., lighting and audio), Mr. Spiess could already see a difference. When Inspired owner Troy Cuvelier informed him that system installation still had a ways to go, Spiess responded, "Are you kidding? This system is already way easier than what I had before!"



Caring for Loved Ones

The homeowner's elderly father lives in a residence attached to the main house, so Spiess requested that Inspired program a lighted pathway from the master bedroom or kitchen to the father's quarters. Now when his father needs assistance or wanders into the main residence at night, a single button press on multiple keypads lights up a clear path for both Spiess and his father to navigate the hallways.

Home-Wide Control

To improve the automation experience, Inspired integrated multiple three- and six-button custom-labeled keycaps. Inspired also added two 7" touch screens and included television and remote interfaces. This solution did away with using multiple single-button presses to toggle through myriad lights and scenes. Now the client only sees the essential lights and scenes on the keypads, simplifying lighting management throughout the home. Inspired allowed for ongoing manual lighting control (e.g., dimmers), but anyone can easily pull up a specific light in or outside the home via the touch screen or TV interface and make adjustments accordingly.

Spiess also has comparable access to all audio sources, statuses, devices, and rooms. Inspired made controlling radio and TV easy by ensuring that the relevant icons were displayed in the appropriate categories, making it easy to listen or watch favorite channels. Control4 also made it possible to do away with the old five-disc CD changer.

Dinner parties were often interrupted when the five CDs completed their playback. Now the client and his guests can sit back and enjoy his entire music catalog stored on his home's 500 GB hard drive. Control4 allows for instant playback based on artist, album, and even cover art. Prior to any gathering, Spiess can also generate playlists of his music catalog or even stream Rhapsody to any of his 16 audio zones.



Beyond Lighting and Music

Securing the home became an easy-to-add option with the Control4 system and Card Access™ Wireless Relays and Contact Sensors. Inspired added system programming that allows the homeowner to know if someone approached the driveway gate. In addition to guest notification, Inspired also made it possible to open and close the gate from inside the home. Remote system access via phone, both inside and outside the home, was an added benefit. Now Spiess can rest easy at night, knowing he can quickly check his home's

security. This setup also helps anyone visiting the house since Inspired made lighting a part of the system notification. While certain outdoor lights are set to turn on and off daily, Control4 sends a command to brighten the lights already on and turns on additional lights when a vehicle approaches the gate in the evening. After a few minutes, the system returns the lights to their evening program, conserving energy. The process works in reverse when someone leaves the home, issuing the same command to turn on the lights when a vehicle is sensed leaving the home's circular driveway.

When guests join Spiess on his pontoon, a call via his cell triggers the "Lake Effect" lighting scene, which turns on lights accenting the lush beauty and elegant design of this incredible lakefront property. Then, when the last guest has left and Spiess retires for the evening, a single-button keypad next to the nightstand secures the home for the evening. All the lights are turned off or set to their nighttime levels. All 16 music zones and TVs are powered down while the garage door and gate are closed if they happen to be open. Once the home is turned off and secure, an announcement plays wishing Spiess a good night.

Beyond Home Control

After the project was completed, Spiess remarked, "I can't believe how much cooler the mechanical room and equipment closet are. I thought all the heat in those rooms was from the hot water radiant heat piping and the telephone equipment, but all this time it was the [previous] smart lighting system and audio equipment." Much to his surprise, Spiess also noted that his utility bill actually dropped since the change to the Control4 system.

Inspired Smart Technologies took home automation to the next level in the Spiess homewith Control4. Using one system, Spiess can manage audio and lighting that previously required two separate systems, plus additional devices throughout his home—and it does so more efficiently.