

# VIEWS OR VIDEOS?

In this London apartment,  
deciding which visuals to  
take in can be a conundrum

Project installation by Justin Wilkerson,  
The Media Rooms Limited, London, England.



Ah, decisions, decisions: Which voluptuous view to choose? The sprawling Thames river, or the riveting action flick on the wide-screen television, powered by a motor custom-designed to angle and tilt at your command in order to give you the best possible viewing angle.

This is the dilemma facing visitors to this gorgeous residence, nestled in the sleek Montevetro building on the Chelsea embankment of the Thames river in London, England. It's a luxurious 2-bedroom unit with all the comforts of a plush pad: High-end built-in bar, walk-in closets, fancy bathroom. But the stunning centerpiece—the focal point of the flat—is the large, lovely living room. Enter this space and you're channeling little lad Charlie, stepping into the great glass elevator with Mr. Willy Wonka himself. Two floor-to-ceiling walls of glass provide an unencumbered panorama over the river and the city beyond. Natural light pours into the space, and in the waning hours of day, the light of dusk coats the modern décor in an almost otherworldly golden glow.

That experience alone makes this property special. But this apartment isn't just pretty to look at—or to look out from—it's got its hidden genius, too.

The apartment's owner, a globe-hopping businessman, originally had his Control4® system installed to automate the basics: Lighting, heat and AC. But then, when the owner, an American expat,

Easy as one, two, theatre! Automatic blinds, linked to the living room settings via Control4, lower with the press of a button, transforming the living room into a screening room right before your very eyes.



expressed interest in expanding the system to include audio and video, things got interesting.

"That's where Control4 really works, and ties in very nicely with what was already there," notes Justin Wilkerson, whose company, The Media Rooms Limited, installed the system. The apartment now sports a hearty bundle of viewing and listening options: Audio zones throughout the house, an iPod docking facility, 3 cable TV boxes, and Apple TV. And when it comes to movie watching, this system will pamper you like no other. Take your eyes off that killer living room view for a second (if you can), and have a seat.

The vista-laden living room can transform into a stylish cinema without moving a muscle, just pushing one button. (Okay, one forearm muscle working the finger.) The blinds are linked to a movie setting through Control4. "Just hit one button," explains Justin, "and everything fires up: The lights go down, the night blinds come down, and everything's right for that perfect movie moment."

And, just to make things even more comfortable, you can adjust the angle of the television from any Control4® device. The only hard part is watching the vista out the windows disappear as the blinds go down. But fear not, film buff, you can resume the river view with one button when your movie ends.

This automation system reaches far beyond the movie-magic living room, however. Both bedrooms feature automated lights, blinds, televisions, and audio zones. The ever-traveling owner especially loves the remote-access features; wherever in the world he may be, he can monitor the security cameras, and adjust lights and blinds so it looks like he's there,

PHOTOS: HOWARD BARTROP





Film fans can adjust the angle of the television remotely. Or pause the movie and lift the blinds to catch a sunset over the Thames, all without leaving your seat.

even when he's not. It also comes in handy when, for instance, the housecleaners need some extra light to do their job.

Installer Justin is certainly sold on Control4. "It just hits the spot every time," he says. "Its simplicity in use, its reliability, and its proven track record in the field. I predominately use Control4 for all my projects."

And is the homeowner happy?

"He absolutely loves the system," says Justin, who notes he often finds the owner running around the apartment, showing off system features to his friends and guests. "And, it's simple to use—that's key."

Now, the owner's only problem is that pesky decision-making: Gorgeous views, or cinematic delights? Not a bad problem to have, really. ■



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