

**SPECIAL INSERT: 1080p Full HD Buyer's Guide**

# ELECTRONICHOUSE

FAST TRACK TO THE CONNECTED LIFESTYLE

NOVEMBER 2007

**5 HOME  
THEATERS**

**\$10K-  
\$100K**



**High Tech Renovation  
Home Theater Seating Guide  
Green Lighting Solutions  
HD Radio Explained**

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# Five Times Over

Nearly \$100,000 will buy you a whole lotta fun.

photography by Bruce Schneider

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### DISPLAYS

Draper HG-HD 144-inch HD high-gain fixed screen  
Samsung HPR4272 42-inch HD plasma TVs (4)  
Sharp XVZ12000 Mark II HD DLP projector

### SPEAKERS

Paradigm Servo15 powered subwoofers (2)  
Paradigm Signature C3 center-channel speaker  
Paradigm Signature S8 Tower speakers (3)  
Paradigm SA35 8-inch in-wall speakers (4)

### AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

B&K AVR507 S2 7.1 receiver  
Denon DVD-2910 DVD player  
Extron MAV Plus 128 HAD 12x8 matrix switcher  
Maxtor 3300 300-GB hard drive  
Panamax Max5300 power conditioner  
Panasonic PV-V4624S hi-fi VCR  
Sony ES DVP-CX77ES 400-disc DVD changer

### CONTROL

Control4 10.5-inch wireless touchscreen  
Control4 AVM-HTC1-B home theater controllers (2)  
Control4 AVM-16S1-B audio matrix switch  
Control4 AVM-16A1-B multichannel amplifiers (2)

### ACCESSORIES

Custom Media equipment racks w/plexiglas fronts (2)  
Premiere Seats (18)

### SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Valley Home Theater & Automation  
Dublin, CA  
[www.valleyhometheater.com](http://www.valleyhometheater.com)

Builder Aaron Vitale of Vital Building & Enterprises had seen enough home theaters, and he wanted a state-of-the-art one in his own residence. Only this wouldn't be any ordinary high-end theater. Vitale likes watching several football games at once, and he wanted to be able to view the video feeds from multiple security cameras on his property. The solution: multiple screens, what else?

The main feature in the 35-by-45-foot theater space is a 144-inch Draper screen that receives video from a high-definition Sharp projector capable of 720p and 1080i resolution. The screen is flanked by four 42-inch high-def Samsung plasma screens. That's enough video for this 18-seat room.

To the sides of the plasma screens and behind large fabric grilles are two Paradigm Signature S8 tower speakers and two Paradigm 15-inch subwoofers. A Paradigm center-channel speaker fires from beneath the screen, and four in-wall Paradigm speakers provide the surround sound at the sides and rear.

Home theater designer Glenn Drummond of Valley Home Theater and Automation designed the theater so sound from any of the screens can play over the audio system. Aaron just has to make that selection on the 10-inch Control4 touchpanel. Each screen also has its own DirecTV high-def receiver with DVR, and something recorded from one screen can be played on any other one in the theater—or throughout the house—courtesy of an Extron switcher.

One might think a theater this large would







A 144-inch Draper screen gets its video from a Sharp HD DLP projector, and it's flanked by four Samsung 42-inch high-def plasma screens. A Control4 touchpanel makes choosing the right program for the right screen a breeze.





If you have five screens, you better have plenty of seats. There are 18 Premiere Home Theater Seating chairs in this spacious theater. Four Paradigm surround speakers are located on the side and rear walls, and the equipment rack is located in the back.

require a rack of power amplifiers, but Valley Home Theater & Automation relied on one B&K AVR507 S2 audio/video receiver that pumps out 150 watts per channel.

The Control4 system operates all the gear on a weblike network and is extended to the rest of the house in 10 audio zones. Vitale uses the system to browse and listen to his music collection stored on a computer, eliminating the need for more costly media servers. All of his DVDs were stored in a Sony 400-disc changer, also accessible via the Control4 interface.

Surfing the Internet is possible on any plasma or big screen with a wireless keyboard, as well as through an Xbox function on any plasma or big screen. "Our networking capabilities allow the homeowner to see who is at

the front door or keep an eye on the children at play while at home through any TV in the house. [He can even monitor these things] away from home via the Internet," says Drummond.

Automated scenes are triggered by custom-engraved keypads at the light switch locations programmed to a movie scene, a sports bar scene, an intermission scene and so on. "For example, at one touch of a button, all TVs turn on, the lights dim, the room temperature adjusts and TV channels are selected," says Drummond.

"Aaron wanted to do a lot of different things, and for the money and flexibility, Control 4 was a good choice," says Glenn Vanderbrugge of Valley Home Theater & Automation. **EH**