

Chateau Britannia Dallas, TX

Chateau Britannia is a 12,000 square foot residence set on seven acres in Dallas, TX, and was an Electronic House 2007 Bronze winner for Home of the Year this past May. Advanced Home Theater Systems, Inc., a Plano, TX-based Crestron dealer, was brought in at the three-year point of a five-year new construction process. The project was implemented in three phases, starting with systems such as lighting, security and HVAC. Audio and video distribution throughout the house came next, followed by the media room.



Rick Smith and his team at AHTS took on responsibility for the project at a point where the planning and wiring was finished. The first step was to meet with the owners, learn about their goals and objectives, and identify any possible pitfalls.

The owners' primary concerns were basic. They wanted the system to be easy to use with the equipment hidden. AHTS developed a GUI design for the touchpanels that allow detailed control without complexity. From any of ten in-wall touchpanels, the homeowners can check the outside temperature; monitor and control any or all 12 HVAC zones; control all functions for their indoor pool (a room that spans over 2500 square feet) and exterior water features; monitor and set their security system; view all security cameras, and flexibly control AV distribution. A "night mode" was also programmed to ensure that exterior and selected interior lights turn on automatically at sundown for extra security.

To meet the second expectation, AHTS utilized a hidden equipment room and custom cabinetry, as well as a recessed flat panel television in the formal kitchen area, which is covered by a custom-made, antique-looking mirror.

"To ensure delivery of a simple to use and reliable system, the decision was made to use all Crestron components wherever applicable," said Smith. "Also, utilizing one primary equipment supplier for the critical automation control functions helps eliminate any 'it's not our problem, it's the other guy's equipment' issues."

Beyond automation, AHTS employed the Crestron C2N-DAP8RC packaged professional 7.1 surround sound processor, video switcher, and control interface, and the CNAMPX-7X200 multi-channel surround sound amplifier for the home's 500+ square foot Media Room.

The 15-room home's AV distribution is handled by three CNAMPX-16x60 multi-room amplifiers; three CNX-PAD8A professional audio distribution processors; six CNXRMC room solution boxes, which provide connection and control of local room AV devices (specially designed as CAT5 video receivers and control interfaces); one CNX-PVID8X4 video distribution switcher and one C2N-IVDS24X24 intercom video distribution system.

In addition to the 12 CHV-TSTAT thermostats, the Crestron automation system provides the ability to control 182 lighting circuits; indoor pool functions (Jandy Aqualink); exterior water features; monitoring capabilities for 35 security zones; video monitoring for seven security cameras; entry access, and audio/video distribution throughout the house from a single head end. Four portable touchpanels add additional accessibility to all control functions while basic control in each room can be achieved via any of the 30 in-wall mounted CNX series eight-button keypads.

