

Interior Designer Luxury Home Bay Area, California

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infiNET™ Wireless Lighting and Climate Control Helps Interior Designer’s Home Shine Inside and Out

Background

Retrofitting lighting and shade control in an immaculate 3600 square foot home without leaving signs that you were there, is a challenging proposition. When the client is the owner of one of the largest interior design firms in the Bay area, the task can be downright daunting. But that didn’t stop Twilight Solutions, a Walnut Creek, CA-based integrator from designing and installing a system that delivered everything this discerning homeowner asked for, and more.

“With no room for error, a perfectionist customer, and a lot of potential referrals at stake, infiNET™ wireless lighting and climate control technology was recommended and installed”

“Many home improvement professionals are pounding on his (the client) door to get a place in his design showroom,” said Twilight owner and head systems designer, Justin Johnston. “So it was a huge compliment, not only to be able to pitch my solution to this client, but to be selected to work on his personal residence.”



“He got through a very big hurdle there, but I was so impressed with his knowledge and his presentation,” says the successful interior designer and satisfied client.

There was initial concern about automating the lighting system, with its more than 75 lighting loads. “After learning about the feasibility of automating the pool and hot tub controls, water features, and landscape lights, as well as the HVAC system, the homeowner asked us to install whole house lighting control,” explains Johnston.

The Solution

After detailed discussions with the client, the objectives were identified. Create a simple-to-operate system for a non-technical homeowner that would deliver complete control of indoor lighting, outdoor landscape lighting, shades, HVAC and the pool/spa. The homeowner also wanted the ability to quickly adjust and save preset lighting scenes based upon his own preferences and changing interior design configurations in the home.

Every inch of the 30+ year old home was immaculate and finished. So with no room for error, a perfectionist customer, and a lot of potential referrals at stake, Twilight recommended and installed a Crestron control system and infiNET™ wireless lighting and climate control technology.

Crestron’s infiNET technology provides 2-way communications for lighting and climate control, and other home systems, while eliminating the need and expense for additional bulky wiring.



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infiNET dimmers, switches and thermostats are installed easily in place of conventional devices without requiring additional control network wiring.

At first, the homeowner was apprehensive about altering walls and damaging the designer wallpaper, “He envisioned tearing out walls,” Johnston said, “until we showed him how infiNET works.”

infiNET wireless devices provide extreme installation versatility and are ideal for retrofits. They function seamlessly as both standalone and integrated components, delivering enhanced functionality as part of a complete Crestron Home® automation system communicating via the infiNET wireless control network.

“There was exquisite wallpaper throughout the home, and we needed to get various wiring to the shades and to the different peripherals to make the system work,” explains Johnston. “infiNET allowed us to keep the walls intact and not have to pull additional cable, which is the only way the project could’ve worked.”

Systems at a Glance

A PAC2M Control System serves as the central processor that integrates, controls and manages all the disparate environmental systems into a single, user-friendly interface. An infiNET Wall Box Dimmer and Wall Box Master Switch provide adjustable and preset dimming commands, and on-off/turn-off delay control for multiple zones, right from stylish wall plates.

As part of the whole-home automation system, both devices also communicate with the PAC2M via the infiNET wireless control network, enabling advanced control and versatility from a TPMC-12 touchpanel.

In order to communicate with the new control system, the existing battery-operated Hunter Douglas shades were retrofit into line voltage, with the creativity of vendors Hartley Installations and



Busch Electric. Now, the shades can be raised/lowered from the touchpanel and integrated into a variety of one-touch lighting presets based on the client’s desires.

A CHV-TSATRF infiNET™ Thermostat provides energy efficient HVAC management, while enabling wireless climate control. Connected to the whole home system, the owner can now control heating and air conditioning throughout the home, right from the touchpanel. And, since no control wire is required, the CHV-TSTATRF was easily installed just like a conventional thermostat.

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How the System Works

Initially, the homeowner was nervous that the new technology would be intimidating and complicated to operate. Therefore, he wanted a touchpanel interface that was extremely straightforward and easy to use.

Crestron independent programmer, Casgan, Inc., was brought in to design a user-friendly GUI according to the homeowner’s desires, which were – sweet and simple. “Touchscreen layout is critical for the user experience; if it’s too complicated the client will end up not using the system,” explains David Martin, Casgan’s president and lead programmer. “Our own in-house design team allows us to create custom touchscreens with pleasing aesthetics and maintain a logical interface for the user.”





While at the office, he can heat up the hot tub, adjust the landscape lights in the backyard to the desired ambiance, and set the AC to the ideal climate right from any PC or MAC. When he arrives home, everything is just the way an interior designer likes it. Perfect.

“It’s just extremely well done,” summed up the homeowner.

A Crestron TPMC-12 touchpanel is centrally located in the kitchen area and provides an “at a glance” view of all lighting levels, room temperatures and thermostats, and pool/spa settings.

A contemporary brushed metal GUI blends in perfectly with the impeccable décor of the home. With a button press from the lighting menu page, the homeowner can adjust and save his own “Entertain”, “Goodnight” or “Dinner” scenes, to name a few.

“The homeowner loved this feature. Since he often changes the artwork and design of his home, he wants the ability to adjust lighting scenes and ambiance accordingly,” says Martin. “This interface gives him the ability to do it on the fly without requiring a programmer.”

Crestron XPanel even allows the client to replicate the touchpanel GUI from any Web browser, providing the ultimate in remote control. While at the office, he can heat up the hot tub, adjust

the landscape lights in the backyard to the desired ambiance, and set the AC to the ideal climate right from any PC or MAC. When he arrives home, everything is just the way an interior designer likes it. Perfect.

“Jerry (the client) was pleased with the final result because it was quite easy and intuitive,” Johnston adds,

“It’s just extremely well done,” summed up the homeowner.

Describing the defining project, Johnston said, “Crestron technology played a key role in connecting every aspect of the system with the reliability that was necessary when dealing with the convergence of so many unknowns.”

“I wouldn’t have risked my relationship with one of the biggest sources of referrals in the area, with some other company.”