

It was submerged under 5 feet of water in late August 2005, but now this New Orleans living room has been transformed into a classic home theater, a testament to the city's rebuilding spirit.

The tag-team project came about when the homeowner contacted architectural firm First Impressions Theme Theatres to design and construct a first-rate home theater that the owner hoped would inspire friends and neighbors to rebuild as well. First Impressions accommodated their wish for a 12-seat theater complete with CineLounger recliners, gold columns and theater lighting. The architectural firm brought in Creative Media Designs of Boca Raton, FL, for the electronics package.

A thousand miles may seem like a long-distance relationship for an audio/video company, but Crestron's IP-based e-Control system maintains close ties. When the homeowner called Eric Hartmann, Creative Media's senior programmer, to say that the theater lights were too bright during the showtime scene, Hartmann tweaked a setting or two and then said, "How's that?" with the homeowner still on the phone. "If the projector needs to be reset, we can do that from the office rather than setting up a service call," says Jim Pearson, president of Creative Media Designs.

Hiding electronics was key to maintaining a theater feel, so First Impressions devised a rack system mounted beneath stairs in an adjacent room. An acoustic panel door conceals the gear. The Marantz projector is hidden in a custom enclosure at the rear of the room. Its long-throw lens enables the projector to be positioned to allow for clear site lines from all the seats.

"He wanted a high-end theater," says Pearson of the owner, "and that's what he got. Who doesn't like a little escape?" — *Rebecca Day*



House of the Rising Fun

FOCUS The Crestron TPS control system automatically switches the video input to the front door camera when a motion sensor detects movement.

THE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

VIDEO EQUIPMENT

- Marantz VP-11S1BL DLP projector
- Vutec 132-inch PearlBrite XWF screen
- Samsung BP-1 Blu-ray disc player
- Marantz DV-7500 DVD player
- Parasound HDMI switcher

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

- Parasound C 1 surround-sound processor
- Parasound A 51 5-channel amplifier
- Parasound A 21 2-channel amplifier
- Snell AMC 2000THX speakers (3)
- Snell AMC 900THX speakers (4)
- Snell ICS Sub24mk3 subwoofers (2)

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Crestron CP2E control processor
- Crestron TPS-3000 Isys touchpanel and keypads
- Crestron CHV-TSTAT thermostat
- Crestron CLS-C6 lighting controls
- Middle Atlantic AXS rack system

ROOM DESIGN & INSTALLATION

First Impressions Theme
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SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Creative Media Designs
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