



EcoManor Atlanta, Georgia

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The official ribbon cutting ceremony on February 2, 2007 marked the opening of the first LEED certified residence in the southeast and one of the largest in the United States: "EcoManor."

EcoManor is the brainchild of Laura and Rutherford Seydel, who built the residence in Atlanta, GA to illustrate the benefits of earth friendly, energy efficient homes. EcoManor is an educational tool for builders, architects, designers, vendors, landscapers, local government and homeowners to promote green living, conservation, and improved residential building practices. The house utilizes geothermal energy, which is gathered by one of the largest residential solar panels in the state, and features rainwater collection and gray water reuse.

Believing that "if you track your consumption you will change your behavior," the Seydels wanted to show how information from utility-related systems can inspire new usage patterns that would save both money and the environment. This was achieved



Laura Seydel and her father, Ted Turner, get a demonstration

"The touchpanel monitors electricity, water, and geothermal energy usage, and displays running totals with Flash animation graphics."

by the Crestron 15-inch touchpanel, which monitors electricity, water, and geothermal energy usage, and displays running totals with Flash animation graphics. "Seeing our utility usage on a real-time basis is incredible," Mr. Seydel said. "There's no telling how much energy and money we could all save each year if our homes could tell us that."

The architect, William Harrison of Harrison Design Associates, designed the home and specified Crestron for the control solution. "EcoManor is not our first experience with Crestron. We use it all

over the country in all of our clients' offices and houses. Ninety percent of our projects use Crestron," stated Harrison. "Of all the systems and technology platforms out there for whole house coordinated control, Crestron is by far the best, and the only system we recommend. We tell our clients, 'if you're going to tie it all together, Crestron is the only one that consistently works and gets the job done.'"

Local integrator Interior Media was brought in early, to design and install the AV and control systems. Synpros, Crestron Authorized Independent Programmers, programmed the system with Lucid Design Group. Lucid's unique Building Dashboard™ product offered an interface solution that integrates with renewable solar, water and HVAC technologies; building automation systems; public utility meters, and data logging devices.

Building Dashboard was integrated with the Crestron control system to create a highly intuitive touchpanel interface for whole house control with real-time communications. The GUI screens vary from simple, clear odometer gauges to more detailed graphs. The designs include a main menu on top and unit selectors at the bottom. The touchpanel communicates in real-time with the home's central environmental systems database for current energy and cost savings information display.

The icons along the bottom of each screen allow the user to change the currency used to express consumption or production values. For example, the first screen may show the PV (photo-voltaic, or solar electric) system and the associated electricity payback in dollars; the volume of carbon dioxide averted from



the atmosphere by weight, or energy savings based on the equivalent number of compact fluorescent light bulbs —units more meaningful and intuitive than basic "kilowatts." There is also a live weather forecast feature, which communicates via IP with external weather services.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this landmark project," said David Hardy, CEO of Interior Media. "It is a great opportunity for Interior Media to demonstrate how our state-of-the-art integrated systems can perform in an environment where energy efficiency is the primary concern." Mr. Seydel added, "Interior Media really understands our goal and vision for EcoManor, and they are creating an integrated system that's highly effective and very user-friendly."

Crestron provides easy control of AV distribution, whole house lighting and temperature control, and achieves significantly reduced energy consumption and costs with dimmers, preset scenes, occupancy sensors and timers. In addition to the main touchpanel providing access to all systems, there are several Crestron keypads and thermostats throughout the home for convenient local control.

The EcoManor touchpanel displays the owners' energy usage in real-time, and lets them make individual or one-time modifications, or set the house to function automatically. Preset modes range from Economy and Miser to Entertainment.

Interior Media also added some fun to go along with all the function. They installed the Crestron CEN-IDOC Interface for Apple iPod® to deliver the owners' iPod favorites throughout the house.

