

# HOUSE OF TOYS

The owner of this brand-new vacation home on the New Jersey shore gets right to the point in describing the vision he had for the house. "The concept was state-of-the-art systems within a house that looks like it's been here 100 years," he says. Indeed, the house is layered with the latest technology and products for home automation and home electronics, deceptively hidden behind a traditional, shingle-style exterior. On the lower level, a home theater (above) was built as a replica of a 1930s movie house, complete with authentic antique stained-glass "Exit" signs salvaged when an old theater in Asbury Park was closed. Walls are covered in flocked velvet wallpaper and the ceiling is an intricate gold leaf. Twelve reclining velvet-covered seats face a projection screen complete

The basement-level home theater includes a projection screen, serious surround-sound features, and an ambiance reminiscent of 1930s movie houses.



with Dolby 7.1 surround-sound system, DVD and VCR capability, all hooked up to high-definition satellite reception as well as cable television.

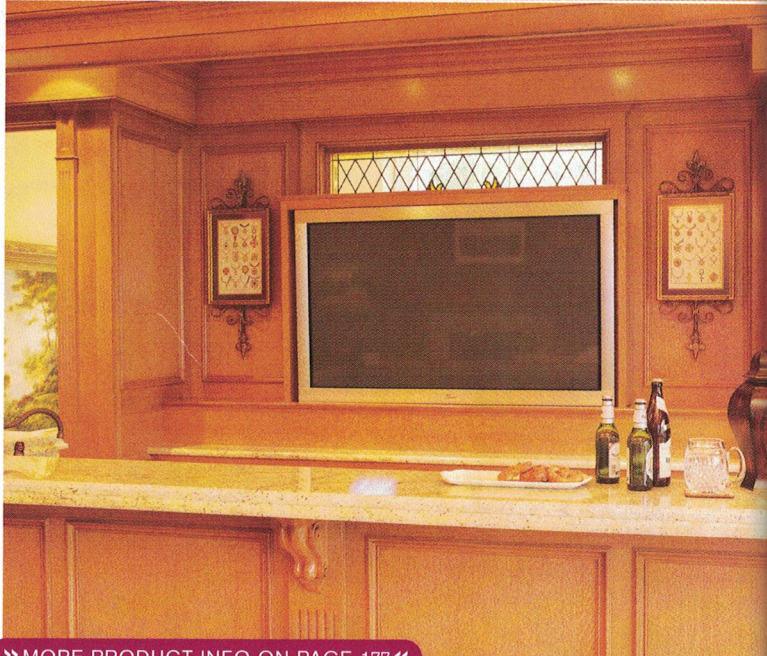
With nearly 20 cable hookups throughout the house, television screens were installed to pop up or disappear at the touch of a button. In the first-floor game room, for example (right, top and center), a 60-inch plasma screen rises up out of the bar in front of a stained-glass panel of the family crest. Speakers in the game room are concealed in the beams of the coffered ceiling.

Most intriguing of all is the home-automation system, which the homeowner can access from three control screens in the house, including one in the master bedroom (bottom right). He has programmed

the system to control every light, thermostat (the house has seven zones), security device, gas-ignition fireplace (there are five), and audio component in the house. Every room has a small touch screen to control the

lighting and the in-house audio system, which includes 700 compact discs, satellite music, and a radio tuner. And the house benefits from a whole-house lighting system by Lutron with control panels that offer a range of lighting environments. For instance, family members can choose from several options suited to their particular needs, from task lighting when working in the kitchen, to evening lighting scenarios when everyone is settling down for the night, to an all-off button when leaving the house. Says the homeowner of the home-automation system cum ultimate toy: "It takes a lot of work to program, but so far it's terrific." ■

**TOP AND MIDDLE: Plasma screens are hidden in several rooms of the house, including here behind the bar in the game room. Another hidden screen sits opposite, allowing someone to keep tabs on two games at once. BOTTOM: The state-of-the-art home management system allows the homeowner to control lighting, audio, and security systems with a touch screen on his bedside table.**



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