



Theater Jams to Hidden Music Stage



What will it be? A movie on the 7.2-channel home theater system? A game of billiards with music playing over the speakers in the back? Or maybe we'll press a button and convert the space into a live concert hall? It's all possible in this home theater/recreation room/music area, thanks to some efficient design and a control system that automatically transforms the space as required.

Let's start with the theater, where a JVC 1080p D-ILA (Digital Drive Image Light Amplifier) projector shines onto a 120-inch-wide Screen

Research CinemaScope display that shows images in the superwide 2.35:1 aspect ratio, which many blockbusters are filmed in. Home systems company DFS Technologies of Victoria, British Columbia, carefully tucked the projector into a soffit space with only a 2.25-inch-high opening. (Access is from the other soffit in the back of the room.) A Schneider Optics anamorphic lens enables the superwide CinemaScope images via a motorized sled that moves in front of the projector.

Powerful Atlantic Technology in-wall speakers and subwoofers fire from behind the grilles on each side of the screen, and a center-channel Atlantic Technology speaker sounds from behind the acoustically transparent screen. Meanwhile, surround sound comes from side and rear-mounted Atlantic Technology in-wall speakers. It's all cool and driven by a Yamaha receiver, Atlantic subwoofer amps and a Sony Blu-ray player.

But say you want to play some pool. No sweat. We move back to the bar area, fix a drink, press a button on the Control4 remote or iPhone for whole-house music, and enjoy some music via in-ceiling speakers. And if we're having a real party, the host might press another button that raises the screen and the center-channel speaker behind it, parts the drapes behind them and reveals a music studio with guitars, drums, piano and its own dedicated speakers. In addition, the kids can use the music area as a stage to perform live skits and shows. If the homeowner is there during the day to practice some guitar licks, he can open the curtains in the bar area to bring in natural light and offer a view of a nearby pond. Wait, there's still more entertainment. You can also sit in the dark and watch some shooting stars on the LED fiber optic starfield ceiling, which is inside the soffit shaped like a Stratocaster guitar. No matter where you are in this space, there's a show or something fun.

