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home cinema • multi-room audio & video • lighting control • networking & system integration



An intelligent development...

Summary: Multi-source AV system, whole house telephone / broadband, TV and Sky network, remote CCTV access and HD home cinema
Location: Kent
Budget: £25,000

Mr. M (a property developer) met thinkingbricks at the Smart Home Show in London in September 2005. Mr M. had researched a lot of the options available, but wanted someone to translate what was available into what he wanted and design the best possible system for a new property he was building, across the road from his existing family home.

For a high specification property in a leafy avenue, he wanted to give the house the "bells and whistles" but not go overboard.

After reviewing a set of plans from Mr M., thinkingbricks visited site, with a proposed system and budget. We agreed on the Russound CAV as the best option to deliver both audio and video distribution around the house, as well as offering the flexibility for future upgrade for additional zones across the house and a music server to replace the extensive CD collection.

A CCTV system was designed at the initial meeting, and then integrated into the TV system so that the cameras could be viewed on screen. It was also important that the client could see the cameras from anywhere in the world, so a networked CCTV system was devised.

With HD screens and technology just emerging, the client wanted a home cinema zone upstairs for the children to watch as well as for his favourite movies in the best possible quality, both sound and vision.

After agreeing the system and the budget for the project, cables were delivered to site and the electricians worked through the design, supported on site and via telephone at every stage of the first fix.

All cables were checked versus the design, and signed off ready for "the bricks" to arrive....

A central area had been devised for the AV equipment, so that the equipment could be accessed easily (important for a DVD player for example), but also so that the equipment could be tucked away out of sight when not required. All broadband and telephone services, as well as the TV aerials and Sky dish cabling came back to this cupboard for termination into a neat, flush mounted enclosure.

As we had designed the system a certain way, with music zones shared across two rooms, the budget allowed a central audio server, which could be



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accessed via keypads and controlled on-screen around the house, to select music and show the client what was playing. The server allowed 3 separate streams of music to be played from the one box, simultaneously.

The audio system covers 8 zones, including the pool area outside.

Programming the system allowed us to name the rooms and make the keypads and system remote controls easy to use around the house, to control both the media server and "normal" equipment such as Sky boxes and DVD players.

Installing the speaker system, a high definition Sky set top box, and DVD player created the HD cinema zone in the upstairs playroom and a stylish cabinet set of the new HD screen the client had purchased.

Remote access via the internet to the CCTV system, and the high quality CCTV cameras make sure the pool area and front of the house are always secure.

The client showed the system to a few of his property developer associates, and they were very impressed, particularly as he had delivered so much for less than the original budget.

Mr M plans to put intelligent home cabling / technology as standard spec in all his projects from now on – bells and whistles, but at an intelligent price.

Final cost of installation:

£ 20000 for 8 zones of multi-room audio, including 6 with video distribution, TV/satellite distribution integrated into CCTV, data / telephone network and HD home cinema.

Excluding VAT and labour



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The hub area – the cupboard under the stairs...neatly installed



And labelled for the client to connect and reconfigure in future as required...



The keypad highlights the source, and allows simple controls of the equipment through the buttons, controlling audio and showing the music server on the TV...

