

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON LEITZ



The home's living/dining area is uncluttered, yet outfitted with cozy, comfortable seating.

Concrete Solutions

Cementing aesthetics with seamless home control.

By Nancy Klosek

Jay Divine, president of the Seattle-area firm Cascade Integration, specializes in stealthing A/V and automation gear so that it is kept out of the way of the aesthetic impact of a home. That was the main design goal for the Washington Park project he was tasked to design, at the behest of builder Lockhart Suver: "to focus on minimal-impact components and devices so the end result would bring attention to the architecture and not wall or ceiling clutter," he says. But getting there proved daunting, as this project was very different from your typical large-scale residential installation.

"The construction method consisted mostly of concrete, steel and glass, with wood infill. It was almost like a commercial project," says Divine. "Our immediate challenges were wiring pathways, and simply, how to get from Point A to Point B."

The key here was close collaboration with the builder, architect and interior designer, so that the

Cascade team could stake out the real estate it needed from the beginning. "We literally were having design meetings when they were pouring concrete," says Divine. "We've since done projects similar to this, where you have to get in there early and start figuring things out because, if you don't claim your space then, you many not have enough later."

Throughout the course of this project, which spanned two years start to finish, regularly scheduled meetings with the other involved trades paid off, in that "we came up with some really creative ideas to get everything in the space."

One problem that required Herculean creativity was designing wire pathways to the 80 electronic windows in the upper half of the home. "They were solid-steel windows, which, for security contacts, don't work well because you have to isolate the contacts from the steel or the magnets will eventually fail. It was extremely challenging," said Divine, but he and



Interior and exterior lighting control show off some of the 80 solid-steel upper-area windows to great effect.

his team successfully brainstormed the issue and solved it.

Another idea took shape in the downstairs "golf room," a multipurpose, utilitarian space that serves as a play area for the owners' grandchildren—its concrete floors are rubberized to prevent injury when a fall happens—and also as a home theater. Stealth wasn't a primary consideration there, so Divine installed regular ceiling-mounted speakers.

"We can send any audio/video through the projector and speakers in that room. But what's great are the wheel-up theater seats the interior designer made. They're really cool, with handles on the backs that make them easy to move, so that the owners can roll them out on movie night," says Divine.

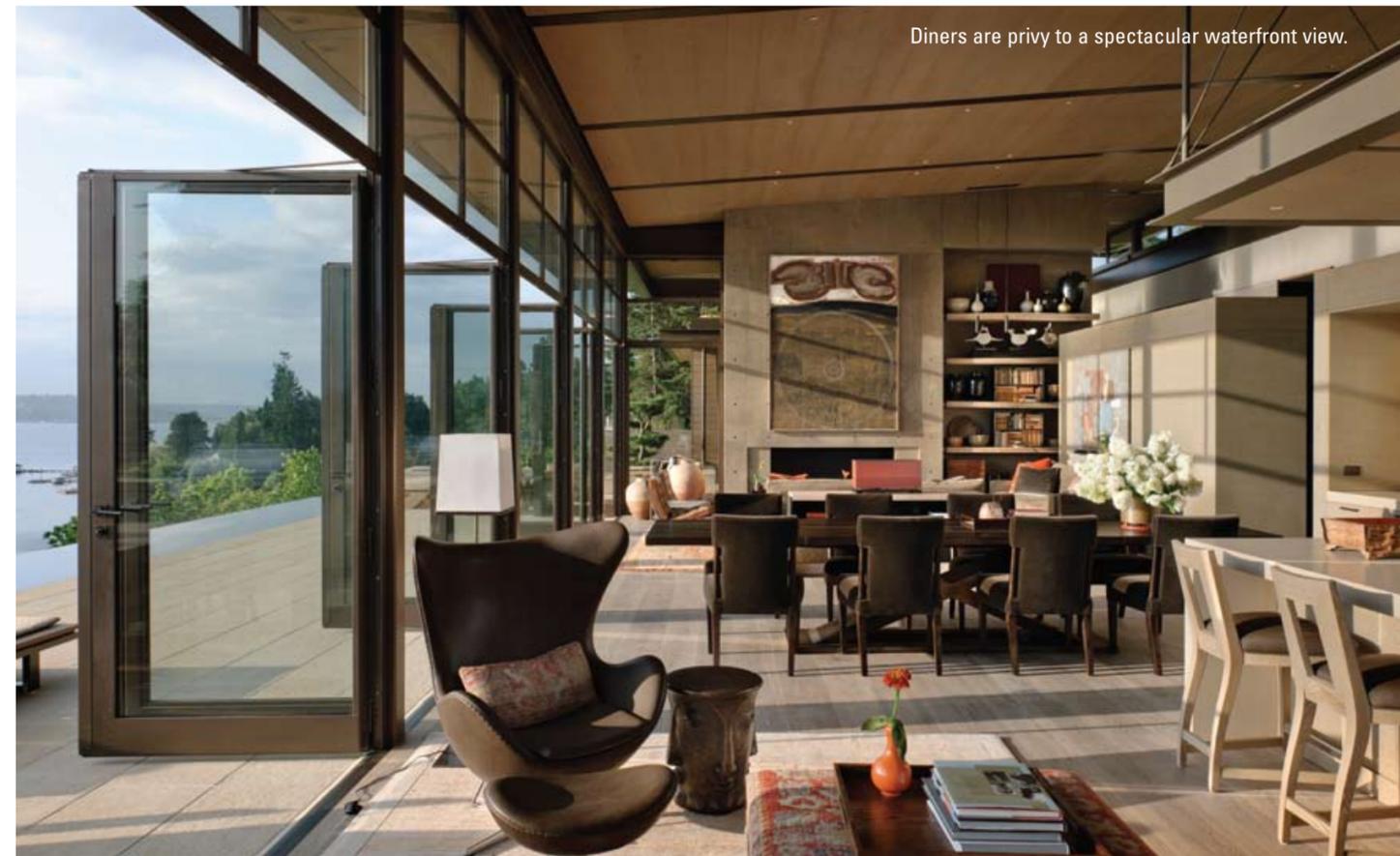
Anchoring the control system are Savant products, which have been designed from the company's inception to work in harmony with Apple's iOS. And nearly all components, except for the home's three flat panels, are tucked away

and not anywhere near the main living areas. "We went to extremes to take the cable boxes, the Apple TV box and everything remote down to the mechanical room," he explained, "so there's nothing in the TV space at all other than the display, and, if you open a cabinet, a Blu-ray player. Everything else is centralized in the rack."

The residents are able to control everything—A/V, lighting, security, shades, drapes, hot tub, interior and exterior fireplaces, and so on—from a few iPads and iPod dock locations and from Savant's SSR-1000 Wi-Fi device, a small, sleek remote that could be tucked away easily in a cabinet out of sight, with no impact on the home's uncluttered feel.

"The owners were so happy with this system, they contracted us to retrofit their island home with the same system. Now they can access both residences remotely with their iPhones or iPads, allowing them to check in on either residence from anywhere in the world," says Divine. ■

The patio's five pairs of Sonance X8S Architectural speakers are heard but nowhere to be seen.



Diners are privy to a spectacular waterfront view.



The master bedroom has a pop-up 37-inch LG TV in a cabinet at the bed's foot; audio is provided from flush-mount in-ceiling speakers.



With a touch of the remote, the TV has disappeared into its cabinet.



Above: The golf room, which doubles as a movie theater, via seating on wheels. Far right: A wall-mounted iPad works seamlessly with the Savant control system. Right: Jay Divine



ARCHITECT'S PERSPECTIVE

Peter Conard, Sullivan Conard Architects



Electronic Lifestyles®: You've collaborated in the past with Cascade Integration. What makes them so easy to work with?

Peter Conard: All of our projects involve a team approach, and Jay [Divine] has proven to be an effective team player on several projects for us. His group has been able to work well with our lighting designer and contractor to

effectively coordinate and execute the work. The home integration industry is in a constant and rapid state of evolution, and one thing we really appreciate, working with Jay, is his ability to stay on top of recent technological developments. On this project, he was able to bring a brand new and more user-friendly interface to the table during construction that resulted in a better experience for our clients.

EL: What was the biggest challenge for you, as the architect, in this project? How did you overcome it—and what were you proudest of in the end result?

Conard: The project presented more opportunities than challenges. We did some really innovative things with fully insulated concrete walls with a very high level of finish exposed on both the interior and exterior. This required significant coordination to get systems infrastructure into the formwork very early in the construction process.

EL: Are you getting more involved in such collaborations with Jay and other electronic systems integrators—and what are the benefits to you and your clients that come from such close collaboration?

Conard: Yes. I would say that at least 50 percent of our clients choose a fully integrated approach. It's essential for us to have firms like Cascade to help educate our clients about the options. One thing I look for in a home integration contractor is someone who does not up-sell our clients on systems, but rather, helps them choose a system that is appropriate to meet their lifestyle goals.

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equipment Contact the CEDIA ESI for a complete equipment list.

Savant AIM-0A16 Analog Audio Input Module, AMP-164016-channel Amplifier, SSR-1000 iPod Touch Remote (3); **Sonance** X8S Architectural Grade Speaker (5 pairs), 622 6" In-wall Speaker (2 pairs); **Niles** CM730 7" In-ceiling Speaker; **Triad** In-room Gold Mini Monitor (1 pair); **Pakedge** WAP-W3N Wireless Access Point; **Lutron** Sivoia Motorized Roller Shades (11); **LG** 37LV3500 37" LED TV; **Samsung** UN46D8000 46" LED TV; **Holoision** 100 ORB Door Intercom System; **Wyrestorm** HCX1T100-01 Coax Balun; **Peerless** SA763PU Articulating TV Mount; **Apple** iPad; **Marantz** SR-5004 A/V Receiver; **Vantage** MPER-4-IC36 Lighting System Cabinet, KS12TG Lighting System Keypad Stations (41); **Leviton** Structured Wiring Jacks (17); **Squeezebox** Touch Music Player; **Middle Atlantic** ERK-4425 Rack