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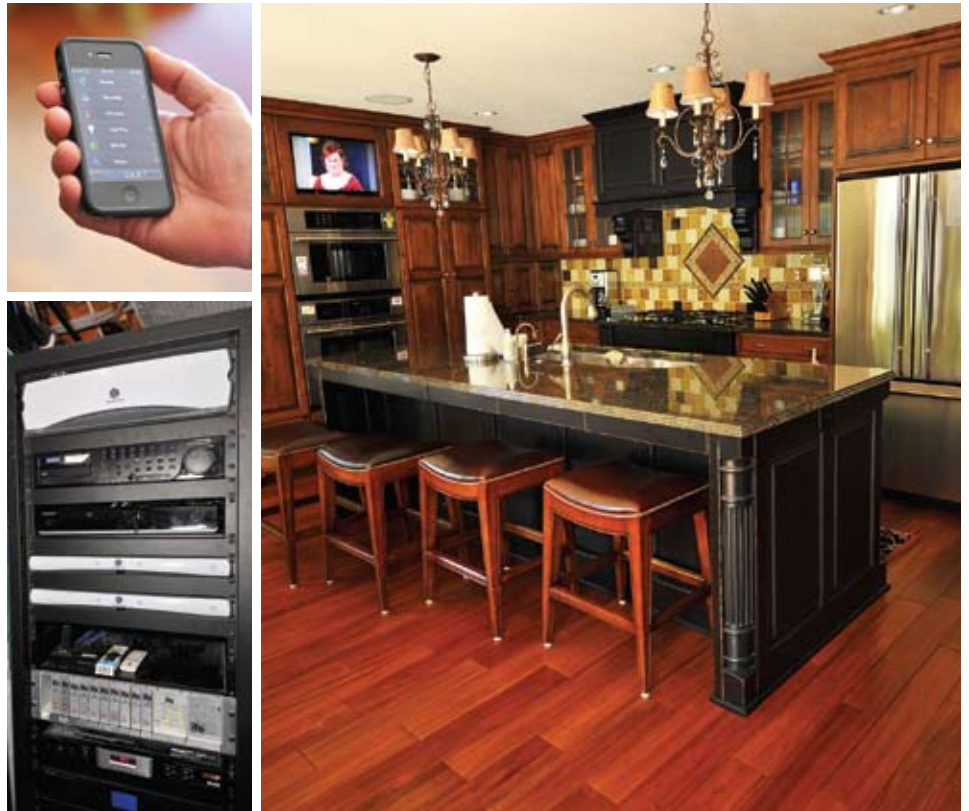
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Innovative Technology
Intelligent Design

Smart Home

By Kirsten Freeman | Photography By Michael Becker Photography



Clockwise: The home's security, lighting and audio/visual system can all be run from Chris' iPhone. Speakers and a cabinet-encased flat screen provide entertainment in the kitchen. The Kaleidescape Media Management System is the hub for all of the audio/visual entertainment in the home, and garage.

Like one of James Bond's sleek spy cars, there's more than meets the eye to Chris and Raiko's posh refined lakeside rambler. Behind the classy and a-little-bit-country facade, is a covert and cleverly concealed collection of electronic gadgetry that is deliciously exciting and somewhat futuristic.

Peaceful, sophisticated and secluded were the objectives the couple had in mind when they started to remodel the home that Chris's grandfather built in 1960. When they met with Jim Heckendorf, vice president of sales and marketing of Cybermation in St. Cloud, it was with the intention of installing a small security system for peace of mind. The little project soon morphed into a massive, one-of-a-kind, luxury security and entertainment retrofit with the extensive help of Jim and Travis Burg, lead technician at Cybermation.

Security was a top concern for the family of five, so 16 small, out of sight cameras strategically placed throughout the property keep an eye on every niche and corner and record what they see. The cameras' vision can also be seen on Chris' iPhone, via the Internet, or on the property's closed circuit television system.

Custom, programmable lighting also enhances the family's safety. The lights in the driveway and inside the garage and home can all be adjusted remotely. The family also uses path lighting to

softly light hallways and bathrooms at night and they keep the lights at a conservative level by using pre-set dimmers. "Lighting can be one of the biggest wastes of energy in your home," Jim said. "Dimming your lights by just ten percent can reduce energy usage by 20 percent."

The luxury HomeWorks lighting system adds an exquisite ambiance to the property as well. On the crisp, white outdoor Mediterranean-styled terrace, the post lights, stair treads and pergola beams are interfaced with small LED lights that come on automatically when the sun goes down and then turn off several hours later. Beneath the terrace is a ground-level outdoor entertainment area with bead board ceilings, slate floors, a fireplace and a full granite-topped outdoor kitchen and dining area. Phantom screens surrounding the perimeter slide down in unison-- and in seconds-- enclosing the entire space in bug-free comfort and making the space instantly 'indoor' at the touch of a HomeWorks button.

Further enhancing the atmosphere of the outdoor areas is the amazing auditory accompaniment provided by several James acoustical systems. Strategically and discreetly placed on the posts of the lakeside terrace are dozens of petite, cone-shaped, powder-coated satellite speakers. Sonic sound from subterranean subwoofers beneath the landscaping floats into the space, but not out of it. The whole area is bathed in

even-toned music. "No matter where you are in this area, the intensity of the music is the same," Jim said, "but outside the circle of sound is nearly silent."

Across the street on the family's basketball sport court adjacent to the detached garage, the awesome sound situation is the same. On the posts of the stylish black fencing surrounding the court are a dozen or so black, cone-shaped James satellite speakers. Under the ground, near the putting green and outdoor fire ring and television set, are submerged subwoofers. "Our kids can be rocking out in here," Chris said, "but it sounds like whispers from the road."

If rock is not your musical preference, they have a universal collection of other options. The home is equipped with a Kaleidescape media management system, the hub for all the audio and visual entertainment. The system is expandable to a whopping 84 terabytes which is capable of storing any combination of 1,800 Blu-Ray movies, 10,800 DVD movies or 237,600 music albums. Each television can be playing a different movie or musical selection.

The system is also interfaced to run in the garage. Even though it's technically called the detached garage it's more like a home theater room with space to park the family car. This

Opposite page: Chris and Raiko's audio/visual systems throughout the home are elegantly encased in cabinetry.



is a sophisticated audio/visual space, complete with monster television that emerges from its hidden cabinet home, airplane hangar quality epoxy flooring, beam ceilings, hammered copper workbenches and a few useful tools stored in glossy apple green glass-fronted cabinetry. "My dad likes to bring his buddies over to play cards," Chris says.

The systems in the home and detached garage across the street are synchronized thanks to an underground fiber optic system connecting the two. "Fiber optics are basically glass wires that transmit super fast so all of the audio, visual and security between the house and garage across the road is simultaneous," Jim said.

Even though the electronic goodies are ample, they are subtly presented. The televisions are embraced elegantly in cabinetry face frames, speakers and switches and wires are concealed behind panels and walls. The main A/V components are all put away in their own massive basement mechanical room so each television area does not have a gaggle of wires and apparatus everywhere - just a simple touchpad and a remote control -- so what you see is nominal, but the effect is sizzlingly delightful.

Small but powerful satellite speakers provide entertainment while remote-operated screens slide to enclose the patio area.

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"These are the brains that run the whole system," Jim said. "It's all backed up by a battery system." Chris also has a natural gas generator that can power the whole house -- the freezer, refrigerator, hot water heater, but most importantly, the televisions!

The home is virtually lightning-proof. "If the home gets hit by lightning, the surge protectors lock before it can damage the other equipment," Travis said. "There are power conditioners in place to absorb energy and make sure that the power stays consistent at all times even if there is an over or under surge."

It is also ready for whatever new technology comes along tomorrow. "With the completely new Cat 6 and fiber-optic wiring, this home is now future-proofed," Jim said. So when new technologies are introduced, this home is ahead of the curve and can be updated and modified very easily. "It's infinitely expandable," Jim said.

Above: The Kaleidescape Media Management System is interfaced to run in the detached garage, providing exceptional entertainment.

Insets clockwise: A television rises out of the cabinet to provide entertainment during a hot card game. The kids can enjoy music in the sports court and putting green.

Cone-shaped James speakers are subtly positioned around the sports court.

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