

Waterworld!

The Old Water Treatment Works: Finite Solutions delivers an awesome install over 11,000 sq feet in a listed building located near Rochdale in Lancashire. Only losing out to French Company, Henri Integrateur Domotique, in the recent CEDIA Awards 'Best integrated home from £100,000 - £250,000', the project can make a strong claim to be the best installation of its type in the UK. CI spoke to Fraser Stride, marketing manager for Finite Solutions, to get the full tour.

It has been a busy and successful time of late for Finite Solutions. A relatively new arrival in the category (four years trading) Finite Solutions has quickly become a 'class act' in the sector. At the recent CEDIA Awards the Old Water

Treatment Works project picked up a 'highly commended' mention (many observers thought it was unlucky not to win) and the company also won the 'Best home cinema installation project under £20K' going with its Total Automation

Cinema. Not a bad haul considering it was the first time the company had entered the Awards.

Finite Solutions took on the install aspect (£150k's worth) of a modern minimalist refit of an old water treatment works for a family of five. It was important that each of the family members had independent access to Sky channels, music and movies.

To this end, all source and control equipment was housed in a dedicated 'comms' area within the house. This allowed the entire home to have access to any equipment available in the comms area via a video/audio switching unit.

Each member of the family was given their own Sky HD box and a further Sky HD Box was designated to the home cinema. All movies and music could be accessed in all bedrooms, main living-room and kitchen via an IDYL storage server rather than having multiple source equipment in each area.

In the bedrooms and main living-room Universal Remotes MX-900 controls were available for the

Access to entertainment and control systems was provided throughout the house



The Rako system allowed the creation of specific moods

system. The install team then configured the lighting control system so that the lights would be triggered on and off when the burglar alarm is activated.

This was a discrete install in line with the client's wishes - all the bedrooms and kitchen areas were fitted with in-ceiling B&W CCM65 speakers. However, one area where a more visible approach was taken was in the main living-room where an Onkyo surround sound amplifier was partnered with some eye-catching Anthony Gallo speakers.

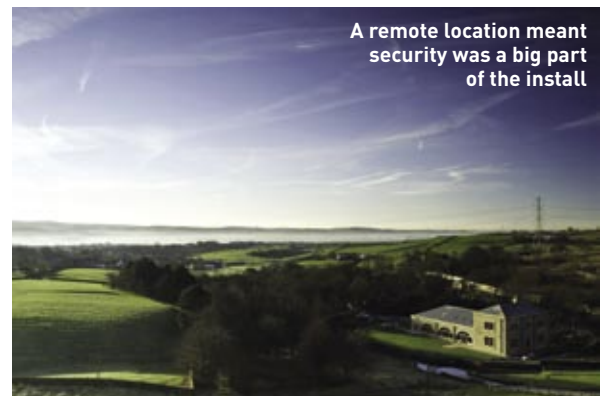
Rako was chosen to drive the lighting system as some keypads needed to be mounted on the existing stone walls, which could not have cables run through. The Rako keypads (being battery-operated) did not need power cables run to them. Rako also allowed the creation of different mood settings and the ability to turn all the lights in the house off with one switch.

The project's Rouge Chic Cinema is deserving of a special mention. The room not only looks great, but delivers a genuine punch with a 7.1 surround sound system provided by the Arcam FMJ AV9 preamp processor and the FMJ P1 mono-block amplifier.

Three B&W (Bowers and Wilkins) CWM LCR 7 in-wall speakers deal with the front (behind an 8ft acoustically-transparent Screen Research screen) and four (B&W) CCM-817 angled in-ceiling speakers create the surround audio. These are joined by a REL 505 sub woofer and a Marantz VP11S1 1080p projector.

Overcoming obstacles

The install team knew there was likely to be some interference with power cabling from lights and sockets as the comms area also housed



A remote location meant security was a big part of the install

Understanding the client's desire to achieve a modern minimalist look was essential to the success of the install

user to select and use any SKY HD box, CCTV image and IDYL server content in any area.

The Kitchen and cinema areas have the use of TMPC8 Crestron touchscreen controller which ties each of the areas into the security system.

Communications around the 11,000 Sq feet property are delivered via a phone in each room (excluding bathrooms) tied into a central Panasonic phone system which allows outside contact and free calls between rooms.

The security system is made up of no less than eight outdoor infra-red day/night perimeter cameras, with one position on the main gate entry to the property. The control system allows the user to look at any camera on any of the TVs (as well from overseas) and control the gate entry system (the main gate is located 200 metres from the house) from any of the phone points.

Finite also recommended to the client a Honeywell Galaxy alarm system so it could be integrated with the Crestron control and lighting

the breakers for all electrics in the building. Because of this, separate runs of audio visual cabling throughout the house had to be installed. To achieve this, special drilling equipment had to be employed as the age and construction of the



An impressive install in its own right the Rouge Chic Cinema creates a genuine impact both in terms of finish and performance

showcase



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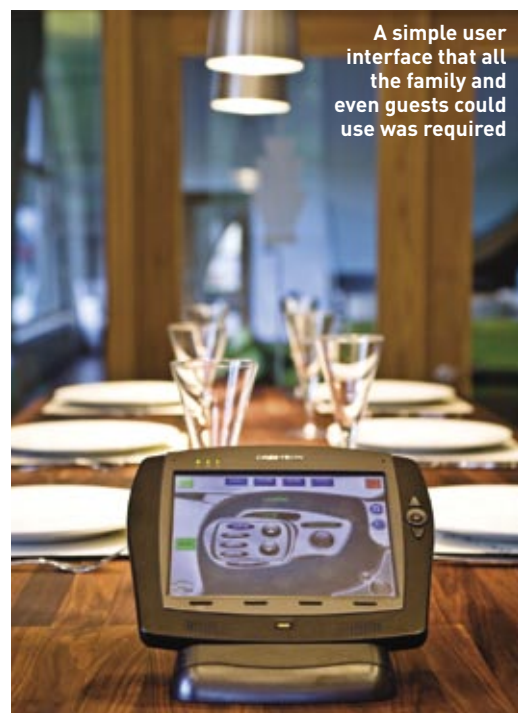
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building means the walls are very thick.

There were also some problems with audio. Two of the bedrooms back on to one another and are separated by a stud wall. The stud wall was used to house the in-wall bedroom speakers and the plasma television. However, because of the nature of the stud wall, all the audio coming through the speakers was transmitting into each bedroom causing sound spilling problems.

Fortunately, the stud wall was quite thick so the team were able to build a sealed housing for each speaker. The housing and wall were then filled with an absorption material to minimise the unwanted audio.



A simple user interface that all the family and even guests could use was required



Effective lighting achieved a stunning effect in the in-door pool area

The building itself displayed a fair amount of reactance to Radio Frequency Interference, which interfered with the RF remote controls. Using the infrastructure cabling which had been installed, Finite was able to place RF receivers and transmit the signals via cable connection directly into the controller hub in the comms room.

Finite is also keen to point out that it builds all its own equipment racks in-house; these are then fully-tested with all control equipment before going to site.

Once tested, the equipment racks are installed as the final installation on the build and only then are the systems set up and calibrated to output the best possible audio and visual signal to the end user.

Client satisfaction

All of this effort is pretty pointless if it does not deliver what the client wants and expects. Happily for Finite Solutions the system fulfilled - and even exceeded - the client's expectations.

The family particularly enjoys the freedom of being able to access the content they want, where and when they want it. In fact, the client is so happy with the install that they have allowed and even encouraged Finite Solutions to use the house to show potential clients the quality of its installs. Now you can't achieve a better client endorsement than that. ●

All photos courtesy of Tristan Poyser Photography.

Kit list

Control/source equipment

- iDyl Video Node - 160GB Additional Video Zone/ Media Back Up Device (2)
- iDyl Idyl2Zone400GB 2 zone 400GB Multiroom audio/ video HD media server
- Philips TSU9600 Pronto Pro Remote (2)
- Channel Plus DA-8200HHR 8 Way RF distribution AMP
- Key Digital KD-MSW8X4Pro Video/Audio Matrix Switcher
- Channel Plus CH0012 All-in-Two System - 2 Modulators + 8 way distribution and IR control
- Arcam DiVA AVP700 Preamp Processor
- Philips RFX9400 WiFi / RF extender for Pronto TSU9600
- ONKYO TX-SR605 (S)/ (B) 7.1 Amp
- Speakercraft MZC-66 6 source 6 zone multi room controller
- Universal Remotes MRF300 Rf Base Station
- Universal Remotes MX 900 Programmable Universal Remote Control (8)
- Crestron TPMC-8X touch panel
- Lighting Rako Various Full House Rako lighting

control system

System Q Q -6 sscdn 6 camera colour day and night CCTV monitoring system

Audio/Visual

- Marantz VP11S1 1080P high definition DLP projector
- Screen research FS961782WB Fixed frame 7.5 foot wide (THX and Isf certified) acoustically transparent screen
- REL Acoustics R505 300W subwoofer, 12" driver downward firing 2
- Samsung LE40R87BDX/XEU 40" in HD Ready LCD TV - (3)
- Samsung LE32R86WDX/XEU 32" in HD Ready LCD TV (6)
- Fujitsu P63XHA51WSb 63" in HD Ready Plasma
- B&W speakers: Wide range of in ceiling, in-wall and exterior solutions used
- Anthony Gallo M1TiS Nucleus Micro Ti Satellite Speaker (6)
- REL Acoustics T1 300W subwoofer