

Yorkshire Today

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The best seat in the house



This home in Weetwood in Leeds won an award for its innovative design. The home cinema is a major focal point in the room but can be hidden away within seconds.

PHOTOS COURTESY WWW.TRISTANPOYSER.CO.UK.



The bespoke designed Macassar Ebony cabinet is a great piece of furniture, and when the cinema screen is lowered it is virtually unnoticeable

Increased technology has meant ever more futuristic homes, with ultra-professional entertainment systems being produced with residents' desires as the forefront. A Leeds company has won numerous awards for their breathtaking projects

There's nothing better than coming home after a hard day and immersing yourself into a fantasy world with a favourite movie or TV show. Yet all too often, real life seems to intrude. Somehow your bog standard TV screen seems too small to cope with, for example, the cast of *Heroes* saving New York from being rased to the ground or *Doctor Who* stopping the universe imploding.

It's no wonder, then, that people are looking to replicate the cinema experience, with its big screen and impressive sound system – but in a context where you get to choose what to watch and don't have to put up with people next to you explaining all the jokes to each other. Home cinema

as a concept has been around for a few years now, but of course as technology advances, so the set-ups become more and more professional.

Often too they've become much easier to integrate into the running of the entire house. We may not be living in the sort of push-button lifestyle that *The Jetsons* told us we would be in the sixties, but in an age when even the biggest technical luddite can watch TV shows or edit family photos on our computer, it's not too great a leap to create a unique home entertainment set-up created solely with your needs in mind.

Many companies now specialise in creating concepts such as this, with the customer supplying the brief and

Some of the most complex home cinema systems can be as professional as the real thing



Bespoke home cinema and automation projects invariably run the cables through in the building stage so they are completely hidden from view in the finished project. Additional cables also allow for upgrades and the introduction of added hardware later

the experts working it all out. Some of these can be so effectively realised that they take your breath away, and this is particularly the case at the residence of Mr Tomasso, a fine art and furnishing dealer who lives in a contemporary wing of a nineteenth century Gothic mansion in Weetwood in Leeds.

He was keen to maintain the stylish and minimalist look of his home but also wanted to install a home cinema in the property, so he approached Finite Solutions of Leeds, who create bespoke home entertainment systems to meet their clients' exacting needs. They decided to opt for a hidden cinema system that, when it isn't be used, is completely and utterly discreet.

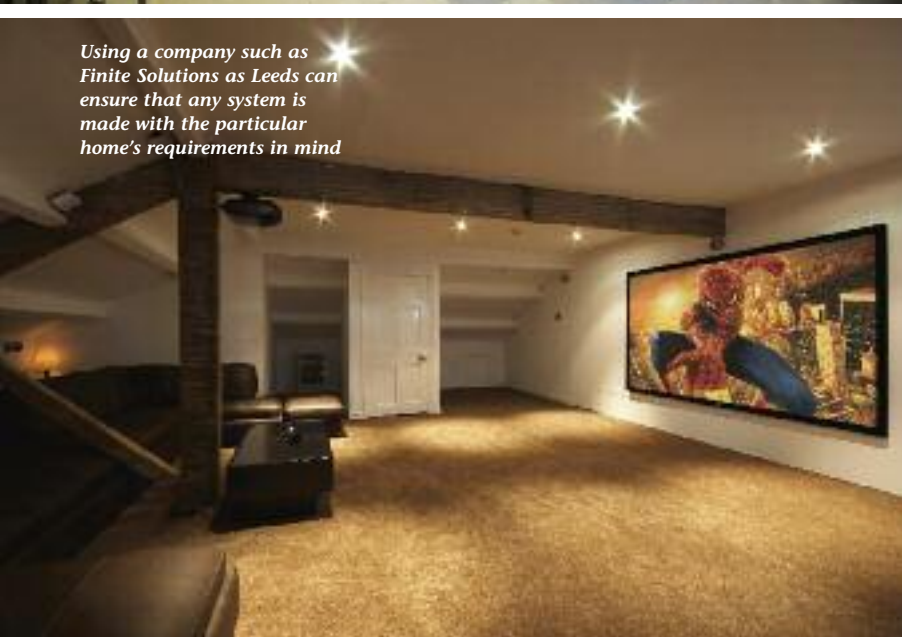
The main feature of this installation is the design and creation of a bespoke Macassar Ebony cabinet to house the hidden cinema and surround sound system, which is in keeping with the cutting edge design of the home – indeed,



Finite Solutions' Old Waterworks project sees automation extended around the house, providing fully-controllable mood lighting throughout every room



Technology has advanced to the extent that almost everything in every room of the home can be controlled from a single hub



Using a company such as Finite Solutions as Leeds can ensure that any system is made with the particular home's requirements in mind

the same wood is used on other existing furniture in the lounge. At first glance, the cabinet is just a beautiful piece of furniture, but with the touch of a button, the fifty inch plasma screen rises gracefully out of the cabinet via an automatic lift mechanism. When it's not lifted up, the top of the cabinet is completely flush, with the grain of the wood running through perfectly – you wouldn't know it was there.

The installation also included blind control, lighting control and CCTV, all at the touch of a button, so even Mr Tomasso's ten year old son has no problems using the system. Mood lighting creates different ambiances within the room, so whether you're watching a film, entertaining or reading, it feels just right.

Such was the success of the project that Finite Solutions recently picked up a prize at the prestigious Home Automation Industry Awards, when it was up against the home cinema projects of some four hundred companies from around the world.

Some of our other pictures come from another project from the Leeds-based company that won the top award of Best UK Home Automation Project. The Old Waterworks is what its name would suggest, an 11,000 square foot conversion that boasts the very latest of home automation technology.

This includes a CCTV security system that can be monitored from anywhere, including overseas, on screen browsing of over a thousand DVDs in any one of the many plasma screens throughout the property, a cinema room with eight foot screen and tiered seating, mood lighting and simple touch screen technology holding it all together. As in Weetwood, the equipment is all out of sight and chosen to blend in with the décor.

To install a home cinema system into a residential property, you're likely to be looking at a budget of about £10,000 for an entry level system. Larger projects that cover a whole house and are created to bespoke requirements, like those pictured here, will cost upwards of £20,000.

For more information on Finite Solutions and a closer look at some of the other projects they have been involved with in Yorkshire, visit www.finitesolutions.co.uk.

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www.yorkshiretoday.net