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# on the water front

SEEKING OUT LIQUID INGENUITY IN CUSTOM INSTALLATION, ELIZABETH SHARP LOOKED TO THE NORTH EAST AND SPIED THE OLD WATER TREATMENT WORKS...

**S**panning in excess of 11,000 sq. ft, the descriptively-named Old Water Treatment Works doesn't sound like an obvious candidate for a custom installation makeover, but that hasn't stopped installers Finite

**Solutions working their magic on what is, in reality, an incredibly impressive property.**

Located near Rochdale, Lancashire, this listed building picked up Finite a 'Highly Commended' mention at this year's CEDIA Awards, and when you consider the challenges that this £150,000 project represented, it's hard to disagree with the judges.

As you've probably already guessed, the project in question was a modern minimalist retrofit of an old water treatment works. Top of the installer's agenda was an admirable desire to be as discreet as possible while offering the client the very latest in home automation and audio video technology. So, without further ado, let's find out how they got on...

## Fun for all the family

At the heart of the install was a fully featured home entertainment package. At the client's behest, Sky, music and movies needed to be accessible from all of the main living areas within the home, with music also being pumped into a few of the secondary areas. With five members of the family

all wanting independent access to their choice of distraction, Finite's solution was to provide each person, as well as the cinema room, with their own Sky HD box. Thanks to an IDYL storage server, all movies and music can now be accessed in the bedrooms, main living-room and kitchen, without the need for multiple source equipment in each separate area.

In keeping with the need to preserve the minimalist décor, a dedicated comms area was chosen to house all of the source and control equipment, allowing any available kit to be accessed throughout the home via an AV switching unit. Each of the bedrooms and the kitchen area benefit from the same degree of discretion, with in-ceiling B&W CCM65 speakers providing unobtrusive audio, whilst the main living-room boasts an Onkyo surround sound amplifier, paired with some rather impressive Anthony Gallo speakers that lend themselves well to the look and feel of the room.

## Controlling influence

There is of course little point to having the latest technologies if they aren't simple to utilise, so with this in mind, Finite Solutions kitted the property out with intuitive handsets and touchscreens, enabling all members of the family to have easy access to the installed kit. Providing control of any Sky HD box, CCTV image and IDYL server content in any

area, the bedrooms and main living-room benefit from universal MX-900 remote controls, whilst the kitchen and cinema areas play host to Creston's TMPC6 touchscreen controller, a device that serves to connect each of the areas to the security system, and provides them with CCTV images and access to the gate entry system on demand.

Security is a vital part of most modern installs and due to the property's isolated location the aforementioned exterior CCTV security system really was a must. Capable of being monitored from anywhere within the home, as well as remotely for when the owner is abroad, the system incorporates a total of eight outdoor infrared day/night perimeter cameras, one of which is poised over the main gate entry point. In terms of internal security, a Galaxy alarm system was chosen and integrated with the Crestron control and lighting system; as such, the Bako lighting control system is configured to trigger the lights on and off should the burglar alarm be activated.

Aside from its crime-busting duties, the Bako system provides its owner with the convenience of being able to turn off all the lights when leaving the property at the touch of a single button. It can also conjure up mood lighting that not only adds to the ambience of the property, but which had no need for extensive runs of power cabling - perfect for the existing stone walls.





The final touch was the installation of a phone in each room, save the bathrooms. Each handset ties into a central Panasonic phone system, which acts as an intercom between rooms as well as providing outside contact. Given the sheer size of the property, this was a very welcome addition.

### Finite's solutions...

As with any install of this magnitude, there were a number of challenges that Finite Solutions had to overcome. One such dilemma was the fact that there was the potential for interference from the power cabling from lights and sockets – the comms area was also home to the breakers for all of the building's electrics. The solution was to use separate runs of audio visual cabling throughout the house; however, this led to further problems in the form of the building's thick walls. Finite solved the issue by employing special drilling equipment for deep holes.

Elsewhere, because of a high reactance to Radio Frequency Interference, the building itself interfered with the RF remote controls, and so Finite Solutions made use of the infrastructure cabling they had installed, and placed RF receivers to transmit the signals via cable connection directly into the comms room's controller hub. Another hurdle came courtesy of two of the bedrooms, which were separated by a stud wall. Used to house the in-wall bedroom speakers and plasma TV, it soon became apparent that audio coming through the speakers was transmitting into each bedroom, causing sound spilling problems. Luckily, the wall was quite thick, enabling a sealed housing to be built for each speaker. With both the housing and wall filled with an absorption material to minimise all unwanted audio, the problem was solved.

The final verdict? Well, the client is understandably delighted with the results, and has encouraged Finite Solutions to use the house to show potential customers the quality of install that they can expect – and it's hard to think of a greater compliment for a job very well done.

### Contact

[www.finitesolutions.co.uk](http://www.finitesolutions.co.uk)

Control even extends to the kitchen



### Kit List:

#### Audio Visual

Arcam, Onkyo, Xantech, Marantz, Denon, Fujitsu, Key-digital, Samsung, IDYL, soundcraft, B&W, Polk Audio, Anthony Gallo, Screen research, System Q

#### Lighting

Rako

#### Security

Galaxy Alarm, CCTV cameras, Gate entry control

#### Control Systems

Crestron, Universal remote

#### Other

Panasonic phone system with intercom and Gate control, CCTV

Water, water everywhere...

