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From Blah to Ahhh!

A StarGlas screen makes this family room makeover shine.

By Krissy Rushing

Thinking outside the box often gets the very best results for clients, as was the case for this stunning family-room makeover in Kelowna, British Columbia.

The homeowner wanted something different, and at the top of his priorities list was a big screen. The existing wall had a faux fireplace that was to be covered up, and the obvious solution for the client's big-screen needs

was a large flat-panel TV hung on a wall with flanking speakers—a typical install. But when Mike Ohman of Beyond Audio called his Stewart Filmscreen rep Mark Owen, the duo began brainstorming and came up with a solution that offered the client more bang for his buck in a unique and elegant video system. "There is a utility closet behind the room, which allowed us to do rear projection," says Owen.





Attractive Kinetics acoustic panels control the sound in the room and are accented with Stewart Filmscreen LED lighting.

“The cost of doing a mirror system was cost-prohibitive, so the projector needed to shine directly onto the screen.” Owen and Ohman decided on a high-contrast Stewart StarGlas 60 100-inch screen, with a DPI CineLED projector throwing on it from behind.

While this saved the client upwards of \$50,000 compared to a similarly sized flat-panel screen, it did present some logistical issues when it came to getting the heavy screen into the room. “StarGlas is heavy, so I had to learn how to drive a forklift...that part was easy,” says Ohman. “But then we had to design and build the hanging hardware and hide it with a ‘light box’ above, which also had to be designed and was heavy.” Ohman used the forklift to raise the 550-pound StarGlas screen in its shipping crate 18 feet to the level of the deck. Then his team took over and carried it into the living room.

Not only is the resulting image stunning, the video system speaks to the client’s desire to be green. The LED projector is energy efficient, and the StarGlas is bright enough not to be affected by the skylights in the room. This allows natural light to flow into the room during the daytime and results in a reduced carbon footprint from minimized lighting usage.

The owner is a music producer/recording engineer and has hundreds of 24bit/96kHz music files that he wanted to be able to play on this system in their native resolution. That meant that the sound system had to be equally as breathtaking as the video. In fact, the room features two sound systems. The music system is mostly Meridian Sooloos, with Meridian DSP5200 speakers custom-painted to match a cappuccino machine. Stealthier is a B&W 800 series surround-sound system primarily used for watching movies. Attractive Kinetics acoustic panels control the sound in the room and are accented with Stewart Filmscreen LED lighting.

iPad, iPhone, Crestron V-15 Touch Panel, Crestron Hand Held TPMC-3X, and the Sooloos touch panel with Crestron control are all used to control this system. A “Buddy” setting creates a scene for the owner’s dog, Elvis, with a bit of lighting and background music to keep the dog company when he is home alone.

And thanks to this beautiful transformation, home isn’t such a bad place to be. ■



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The DPI Cine LED projector

■ equipment Contact the CEDIA ESC for a complete equipment list.

DPI Mvision Cine LED Projector; **B&W** 805 Speakers, ASW825 Subwoofer; **Sonance** X4R Speakers; **Meridian** DSP 5200 Speakers; **Stewart Filmscreen** StarGlas 60 Screen, LED Lighting; **Kinetics** Acoustic Panels; **Crestron** Control System; **Marantz** SR5005; **Rotel** RB1572; **Pakedge** 16 Port Switch; **Motorola** Cable Box; **Monster Cable** AVS2000, HTPS7000; **Middle Atlantic** Slim 5 Racks; **Sooloos** Control 15; **Kaleidescape** Video Server; **TRUFIG** Flush-Mounting System