

**HOME**  
**Theater**

**Lighting Design  
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# INTERIORS

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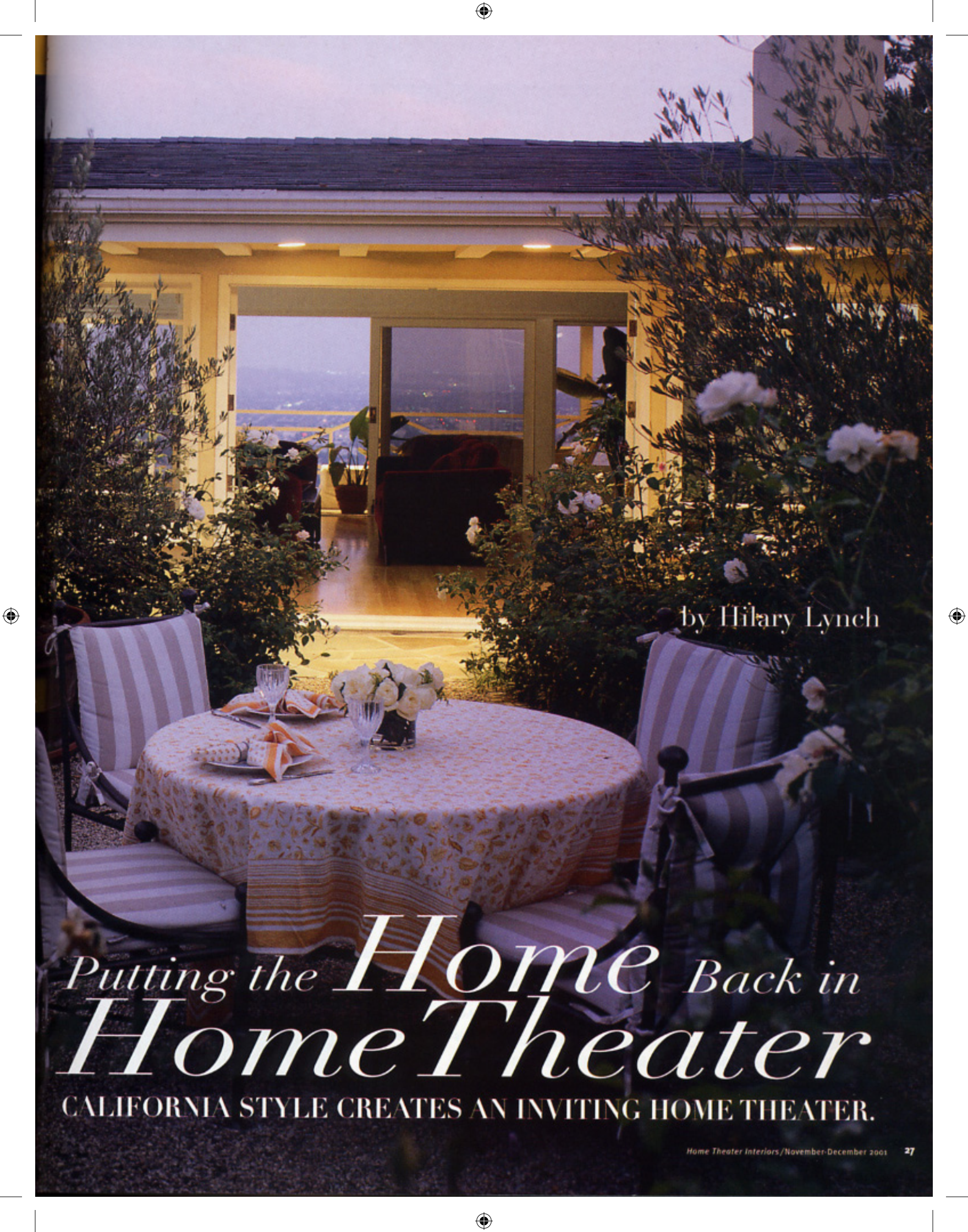
**50 Pages of  
Home Theater Ideas**



**The Future of  
Touchpanel Control  
Is Here!**







by Hilary Lynch

Putting the *Home* Back in  
*Home Theater*

CALIFORNIA STYLE CREATES AN INVITING HOME THEATER.





Can a techno-nerd and a movie star be friends? When it comes to the home, high-tech home theater and breezy California style get along famously. A perfect example is the home of Andy and Vizhier Mooney in Hollywood. While some people have the desire for a dedicated home theater room, they wanted the entertainment system to blend in with the rest of the house. A system that allows for a room's other uses maintains a space where a person can sit in silence and drink iced tea, or be blown away by the surround sound on a DVD. Such a versatile room was the Mooneys' goal.

The Mooneys bought the house less than two years ago, and though the décor was lovely already, Andy and Vizhier started from scratch, with Vizhier taking the helm. The couple found that after all their hard work, they wanted a home theater system that would fit into the cozy, bright environment they had worked so hard to create.



**This unobtrusive home theater doesn't detract from this home's cozy, bright environment.**







The home theater integrates seamlessly into this home's blend of California and eclectic styles.

The gear for the whole-house audio system finds a home in an unused cupboard in the kitchen.



## CONTACT

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Andy, an entertainment executive, saw a Crestron home entertainment system at a colleague's home. He was so impressed that he called the same installer, George Bliss of Bliss Enterprises, to install the same system in his home.

With the Crestron STS 1550C color touchpanel and CPU, a single remote controls everything. The convenience was obvious, but fitting the system into the home's atmosphere demanded special effort and planning.

The home's look determined the entertainment system's design and installation. "The décor is a mixture of California style and our own eclectic taste. We've picked up furniture from our trips abroad, plus a mix of things that are old Hollywood style," explained Vizhier. "We did not want a home theater look. It's an informal, casual house. We didn't want it to be teched out, but we did want it to have the quality of a high-tech system."





A media room was also in order for practical reasons. "My husband has a distaste for clutter and wanted a unified room downstairs. I needed a place to store my books, and he needed a place to house his televisions, so this was our compromise. We don't like freestanding bookshelves or televisions. We used to hide our TV in an armoire. In this case, we were able to build two

pieces of necessary furniture into one," elaborated Vizhier. The media room is long, with a full wall of windows overlooking Los Angeles. The Mooneys didn't want to sacrifice the room's best features, and the décor already fit the concept of a media room. "Because it's a media room, I wanted it to be on the modern side." One of Andy's paintings hangs on the wall,

contemporary yet warm, thanks to the orange and red tones. With or without a TV, this is a room where one would easily like to spend an afternoon.

To maintain this bright, cozy space, Vizhier and Andy decided to build a cabinet to house both their books and their new Crestron system. George Bliss referred the couple to Ed Davis of Another Masterpiece. Looking through design books such as

#### ABOUT THE INSTALLER

Bliss Enterprises has built rooms in various parts of the country and is in the pre-wire stages for homes in Telluride, Colorado, and Lanai, Hawaii. Bliss Enterprises is a small company "with no intention of getting bigger," priding themselves on service and close customer relationships. Their jobs typically start at \$20,000 (for HDTV rear-screen scenarios with THX-approved electronics), on up into six figures for state-of-the-art, turnkey THX-certified, dedicated rooms.



This long hallway is the perfect gallery to display the Mooneys' electric-guitar collection.





To meet THX certification, Ed Davis of Another Masterpiece designed this cabinet so that the left, center, and right speakers are separated for proper balance.



## EQUIPMENT LIST

### Media Room:

- Pioneer Elite widescreen 53-inch HDTV
- Pioneer DV-F727 300+1 DVD/VCD/CD/CDR player
- Panasonic PVS4820 S-VHS VCR
- Denon AVR-3300 A/V receiver
- RCA high-definition satellite receiver
- M&K S750 L/C/R speakers
- M&K SW-85 in-wall speaker
- M&K MX-150 subwoofer
- Cinepro PowerLight 1800 line conditioner
- Middle Atlantic custom rack
- Canarle Custom cables and terminations
- Crestron STX-1550C color touchpanel and CPU
- Crestron ST-VS digital input/output port

### Wholehouse Audio:

- Niles MRZ6 multiroom control system
- Niles 12-channel power amplifier
- Niles keypads for MRZ6 control system
- Middle Atlantic custom rack
- Parasound remote preamp with rack mount
- Harmon/Kardon five-disc changer
- Energy Tempest outdoor speakers
- RBH A-615 and A-610 6.5-inch in-wall speakers
- Xantech 283-00 Blink IR emitters
- Yamaha TX-492 AM/FM stereo tuner

### Cabana:

- Sony PFM-42B1 plasma monitor
- Yamaha RXV-1000 A/V receiver
- Sony DVP-NS3000 DVD player
- Sony SAT-HD100 HDTV satellite receiver
- M&K S150 L/C/R speakers
- Triad Silver in-wall surround speakers
- M&K MX-150 subwoofer
- Proton LCD universal remote

*Design in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* and focusing on bookshelves instead of entertainment centers, Vizhier, Bliss, and Davis came up with an L-shaped cabinet design. The floor-to-ceiling cabinet is constructed of curly maple and trimmed with aluminum for a contemporary touch.

The cabinet is as functional as it is gorgeous. "The Mooneys wanted to be sure the home theater met THX certification, so I was part of the design team," said George Bliss. "We had to make sure the left, right, and center speakers were separated properly for balance. We placed the surround speaker in the rear, in the ceiling, and we placed all the gear in Middle Atlantic racks for

proper installation and serviceability. The racks are on pullout swivels so they can be serviced easily. The television is trimmed out in the cabinetry, and the Crestron system controls not only the home theater but the wholehouse system."

The equipment is as high-quality as the cabinet design. Filling the shelves are a Pioneer Elite widescreen 53-inch HDTV, a Pioneer DV-F727 300+1 DVD/VCD/CD/CDR player, and a Denon AVR-3300 processor/receiver, to name a few items. "The AVR-3300 matched with the M&K 750 LCR speakers. They're a great complement for each other," explained Bliss. "The power of the AVR-3300 and the requirements for the 750 are a good match. The MX-150 subwoofer also complemented the 750 THX speakers really well."

The installation was not confined to just one room. The Mooneys entertain guests often and bought the house with that in mind. The wholehouse audio adds easy finesse to their parties. Centrally located in an unused cupboard in the kitchen, the entire system is controlled by Niles keypads so it can be operated from anywhere in the house. The Mooneys can listen to CDs, the radio, or satellite music channels. The budget for the equipment and installation was approximately \$15,000, which is a great value, according to Bliss. "It's a lot of bang for the buck, considering this was retrofitted." The wires had to run throughout the house, attic, and crawl spaces in an unobtrusive manner.

Don't forget the outdoor aspect of California living. After a swim in the pool, the Mooneys can dry off and sit in their cabana. They can watch football or a DVD on the Sony plasma TV or just listen to music as they catch some fresh air. When not in use, the TV is concealed by curtains on the wall. Daylight glare isn't a problem with the plasma, which has enough light output to create a great picture. The drapery also provides damping, which helps achieve the necessary acoustics. As for the installation, the wires run inside the ceiling and walls, and are routed back to the satellite system on the roof.

Describing the entire job, Bliss claims, "It's a very straightforward system. Andy wanted a system that is easy to use, performs well, and looks beautiful. The Crestron touchpanel automates all push-button commands." With the push of three buttons, the system starts, the DVD is selected, and the movie starts playing. Before, the Mooneys fumbled with seven different remotes. Now their system is fast and simple to use, and guests don't feel intimidated.

With some careful planning and artistic vision, the latest in home media can complement bright, inviting homes. "I think there are people who don't want the look of high-tech, who really want to preserve the architectural style (ours is cottage style) and still have a great system. I'm thankful we had an installer who acknowledged that, and a cabinetmaker who was willing to adapt to our taste." From the looks of things, this lovely Hollywood home's electronics don't steal the scene—and that's good. ■