

We're not even inside—yet. This outdoor patio space features a Runco plasma screen and four Bay Audio flush-fitting Phantom in-ceiling speakers.



APPLE OF OUR EYE

A Macintosh-based control system and European styling star in this Pacific Northwest stunner. *by Steven Castle, photography by Leo Arfer*

Stunning is about the only way to describe this 6,500-square-foot home overlooking Portland, Ore. Its three stories combine contemporary elements with swirling soffits, magnificent rock walls and plenty of state-of-the-art elements—from a new kind of home control system to high-res media systems to hidden speakers and Euro styling. Did we mention that the views are stunning as well?

The builder, Haggart Luxury Homes of Portland, was constructing the house for a Street of Dreams show, in which residents tour fully furnished homes for several weeks before the owners take residence. The house was already unique in terms of style, and he wanted to put the latest technology in the home.

Enter Genesis Home Technologies in Beaverton, Ore., which had worked with the builder before. Genesis had just the thing for this tech-savvy builder: a home control system called Savant that runs on an Apple Macintosh platform. And yes, that means iPhones can easily operate the system. “We had been beta-testing Savant,” says Jason Gotz of Genesis. “The builder was perceptive and just wanted to be sure it worked.”

Genesis was confident enough in Savant to install two 13-inch wireless touchpanels, two 5-inch in-wall touchpanels and a 40-inch Savant touchpanel built into a coffee table—all of which operate an eight-zone whole-house audio system, video distribution to TVs, heating and ventilation, lighting, security and more.

THE TEAM

Systems Design
and Home Installation
Genesis Technologies
Beaverton, Ore.
www.geneshomemtech.com

Builder
Haggart Luxury Homes
Clackamas, Ore.
www.haggarthomes.com

HOME OF THE MONTH: APPLE



Come inside, where you'll be greeted with soaring spaces and dramatic pendant lighting, just one part of a whole-house Vantage lighting system that is also operated by a slick Macintosh-based Savant system. A variety of lighting and audio scenes can be enacted with the home controls.

Bay Audio speakers above the bed help provide a relaxing ambiance. The homeowners can also tap into a house-wide music server on the Savant system. A 5-inch wall-mounted touch-panel ties together commands of the audio, lighting, HVAC and security for peace of mind.

And with a Bluetooth wireless keyboard and mouse, the tabletop screen can double as a computer monitor.

“Every touchpanel is basically an Apple computer,” says Gotz. “They can call up Mac’s Safari web browser, and your whole Apple desktop is available [if your computer is on the network]. You can push a button on the touchscreen to switch it over to desktop. And widgets pull up scores, Yahoo, and stock news,” if you really want to look at that.

In addition, the Apple platform allows Genesis to program some stunning—there’s that word again—graphics for the touchpanels, like some cool animation. And that doesn’t take countless hours of programming time, which costs much more money. “It has ease of programming,” says Gotz. “We can drag-and-drop to

add components and connections, and all the programming behind the scenes has already been done. Then we can customize it from there.”

Savant’s main Rosie system does all the audio and video switching for the house, in a one-box solution, with video sent via HDMI (high-definition multimedia interface) over Category 5e Ethernet cable. It has all the connections for lighting and security systems, too, like RS-232. It also has a built-in iTunes music server with eight outputs—and that means it can download music directly from the Apples iTunes store. You can even pull events off of iCal, Mac’s calendar program, to play *Happy Birthday* in your house.

Gotz says the Savant system is very stable. It received lots of *ooohs* and *ahhs* from the 70,000 or so people who came through the house during the Street of Dreams event. “About half of the homeowners walking through said they were Mac users, and the other half have iPods or have iPhones and are thinking about getting Macs,” says Gotz. “Some people don’t want a PC controlling their house, but they will have a Mac doing it.”

OK, so the Savant system is way cool—and the touchpanels just need power and Ethernet connections. So what about the other cool stuff?

Start with the full-blown Vantage lighting control system, using very Euro keypads styled by BTicino of Italy. During the Street of Dreams show, every day at 7 a.m. the lights turned on at preset levels, and the music turned on. Genesis also added the usual GOOD NIGHT, ALL OFF and VACATION scenes that power systems up or down depending on whether someone is in the house.

Hey, there’s also a stunning media room—we just can’t help it—with a 65-inch Runco 1080p plasma TV hung like one of the overlapping pieces of woodwork. Bay Audio’s Phantom series speakers are concealed in the ceiling for an immersive 5.1-channel experience. And when the views on the screen or out the windows overlooking the city aren’t enough, there’s a bar in the back with a wall of windows that opens to another media space outside. This has a 60-inch Runco plasma and four Bay Audio in-ceiling speakers. The speakers play audio off the whole-house music system or the TV. And if the TV is turned on, the speakers automatically switch over. Homeowners can also access the Kalei-





The spacious kitchen offers some great views and a 13-inch Savant Rosie wireless touchpanel that can operate the lights, audio/video, security and more. Small Bay Audio flush-mounted speakers that match lighting cans are visible in the ceiling. A Euro-styled BTcino touchpad for lights is on the left (between windows). In the media room is a Rosie Surface 40-inch touchpanel integrated into a swiveling tabletop, offering all the home's control options while doubling as a computer interface. It also allows access to iTunes, digital cameras, IP-network cameras and more.

BREAKING IT DOWN

SWEET TREATS

Savant's Rosie Contemporary remote is shaped like a candy dish, and small enough to sit in the palm of your hand. Use your thumb as you would operate an iPod to move the remote's scroll wheel through a menu displayed on the TV.



PHANTOM SOUNDS

Bay Audio's Phantom speaker mounting system reduces the speaker's frame to a few millimeters, and sets the entire speaker flush into the wall for a clean, finished appearance. The frame and microperfed grille are flush with the ceiling's drywall for a completely innocuous look.

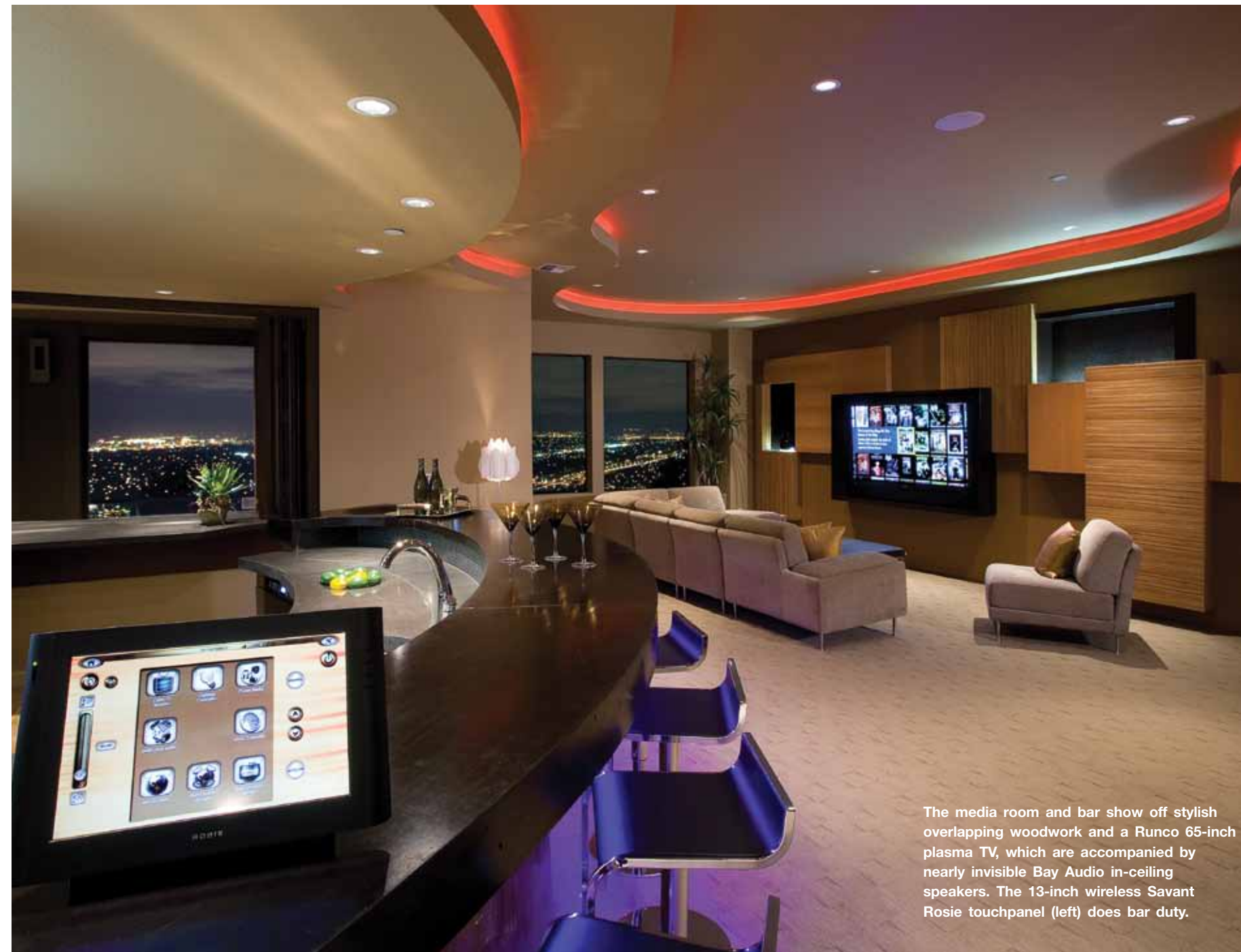
TOUCH OF CLASS

Cool Euro styling complements Vantage Lighting control on these elegant BTicino touchpads placed around the residence. Homeowners can press a button to enact lighting scenes—and do so with style.



SAVANT COSTS

What does a Savant system cost? The extensive system installed in this house came to about \$75,000, says Jason Gotz of home electronics installer Genesis Home Technologies, though about half of that was for the custom-built tabletop with its 40-inch touchscreen. An entry-level Savant system, with about four zones, starts at around \$10,000.



The media room and bar show off stylish overlapping woodwork and a Runco 65-inch plasma TV, which are accompanied by nearly invisible Bay Audio in-ceiling speakers. The 13-inch wireless Savant Rosie touchpanel (left) does bar duty.

descape DVD server that stores DVD movies right to hard drives and organizes them on screen by genre, artist, and producer—with cover art.

Here's another cool Savant trick: Say you want to control something in the house via the TV? No problem. An on-screen display overlays the picture on the Runco plasmas, and icons for the lighting, security and other systems spin in the foreground.

We'd call that stunning, but let's just refer to it here as super sweet.

There are four other Bay Audio speakers outside the kitchen on a patio and two more in the outside area of the master bedroom. The kitchen features four very small 3-inch-diameter Bay Audio speakers that blend in with the ceiling's down lights.

And naturally, everything can be controlled via

an iPhone, on site or remotely. Homeowners can see the video feed from the three security cameras on the TVs, Savant touchpanels, iPhone or computers.

Even the Aprilaire HVAC system has some sleek features—as in no thermostats. Temperature sensors in every area were installed in the walls so they are practically invisible.

Stunning? Yes. Super sweet? Most definitely. **EH**

EQUIPMENT LIST

WHOLE-HOUSE CONTROL

Savant CTK-1000 Rosie
Surface 40-inch touchpanel
Savant WTP-1000 13-inch
Rosie wireless touchpanel
Savant ITP-1005 in-wall
5-inch touchpanel
Savant OCC-9999 system
OSD and server
Savant SVR-2000 user
interface OSX server
Vantage lighting control
BTicino keypads for lighting
and audio

AUDIO/VIDEO

Runco 65-inch plasma TV
Runco 60-inch plasma TV
Chief pull-out plasma mount
Bay Audio LCR bar speakers
Bay Audio 535 speakers
Bay Audio P65 speakers
Bay Audio JM in-wall sub-
woofers with 150-watt amp
Bay Audio 465 speakers
Bay Audio 485 speakers
Audio Control 1601SE
multichannel amp
Kaleidescape System
NAD Receiver
Samsung Blu-Ray player
Savant RAD-3000 audio
distribution processor
Savant AOM-016U audio
stereo preamp
Sherbourn T-100 AM/FM
tuner

HVAC AND SECURITY

Aprilaire 8870 thermostats
Aprilaire 8051 remote temp
sensors
Holovision door station
Door station camera
GE Interlogix Security
Fire/life safety system

ACCESSORIES

APC H15 power & surge
protection
Middle Atlantic Rack
Structured wiring