

HOME CINEMA

Choice™

FABulous!



'Installers FAB won accolades for this barn-storming cinema that majors on acoustic treatment'

Quiet please!



Installers FAB won accolades for this barn-storming cinema that majors on acoustic treatment. **Gareth Mason** reports

An empty barn in Suffolk is not the obvious candidate for a home cinema, but if you've got one to spare the scope is considerable. Converting it was the task for UK installer FAB AV and one it approached with relish.

While an empty barn is something of a blank canvas, the job did come with one major caveat. A groundkeeper's cottage lies next to it, and in the words of the owner: 'Good groundkeepers are hard to find – so whatever we build mustn't disturb him.'

Shhhhhh!

Ensuring silence beyond the cinema room required several steps. Firstly, the basic box structure was designed with a double stud wall, made of two layers of 15mm plasterboard sandwiching a layer of Green Glue on a 100 x 50mm wood frame, filled with acoustic fibreglass. The ceiling received a similar treatment.

Other noise-limiting techniques included housing the projector, in a mechanically ventilated box at the rear of the room behind a glass panel, fitting in-line silencers to the air conditioning, and speccing double acoustic doors to form an airlock-style entrance.

Foam was used all around the room to fill spaces to act as bass traps, while internal walls were treated with acoustic absorbers and diffusers to a depth of 100mm. Dark red and black stretched acoustic velour cloth was used on the walls for visual effect.

All this groundwork means the owner can really crank up the sound without fear. The room is designed for 7.1 surround, with two subs and three active Genelec models located behind a 120in 2.35:1 Screen Excellence acoustically transparent screen, and six more Genelecs spread about the side and rear walls. The fully calibrated system can run a Reference Sound Level of 103dB – or 106dB if the owner presses a 'turbo' preset on the Crestron controller.

The owner is over the moon with the finished room, saying: 'I still don't understand to this day how they convinced my wife to spend so much – but we're both grateful they did! The result is breathtaking. The room looks fabulous and sounds incredible; yet when you stand just outside the building, you can't hear a thing – even when it's running full blast!'

CEDIA agreed, giving this stunning cinema a gong in its 2010 awards. >

Kit Checklist

- Genelec:** 3 x HT315 active speakers; 6 x IW25 active speakers; 2 x HTS4B active subwoofers
- ADA:** Suite 7.1 audio controller
- Dolby:** Lake Audio Equalizer
- Digital Imaging:** Titan 720P DLP projector
- ISCO:** Iscoscope 3S anamorphic lens; motorised lens sled
- Custom projector and lens mount**
- Screen Excellence:** 120in wide 2.35:1 acoustically transparent side masking projection screen
- Kaleidescape:** Movie player 2; 1U server
- Sky:** HD receiver
- Microsoft:** Xbox Elite Games console
- Nintendo:** Wii Games console
- Crestron:** CP2E control processor; TPMC-8X plus external battery pack
- Helvar:** Digidim lighting control system
- RPG:** Acoustic treatment package
- Middle Atlantic:** 29U equipment rack and custom shelves

4 INSTALLS



A The source

A Digital Imaging Titan 720p DLP projector is responsible for this starry light. At the other end of the room is a 120in 2.35:1 Screen Excellence screen

B Mr Speaker

While the front speakers are hidden away behind a false wall, four Genelec AIW25 active speakers line the side walls, with two more placed at the rear

C Room for nine

The seating array means nine people can soak up the HD visuals and Reference Level audio – but we'd definitely try to bag one of these chairs at the front

D Well stacked

AV devices tucked away out of sight in the Middle Atlantic kit racks include a Kaleidescape Movie player, Sky+HD receiver, along with Xbox and Wii consoles

E Calling card

With this FAB personalised floormat, the owner won't forget who to call when he wants to upgrade

F Stay in touch

A Crestron CP2E processor and TPMC-8X touchscreen are the nerve centre of this cinema

G Padded cell

Genelec's HT315 active speakers are fitted snugly in-wall

