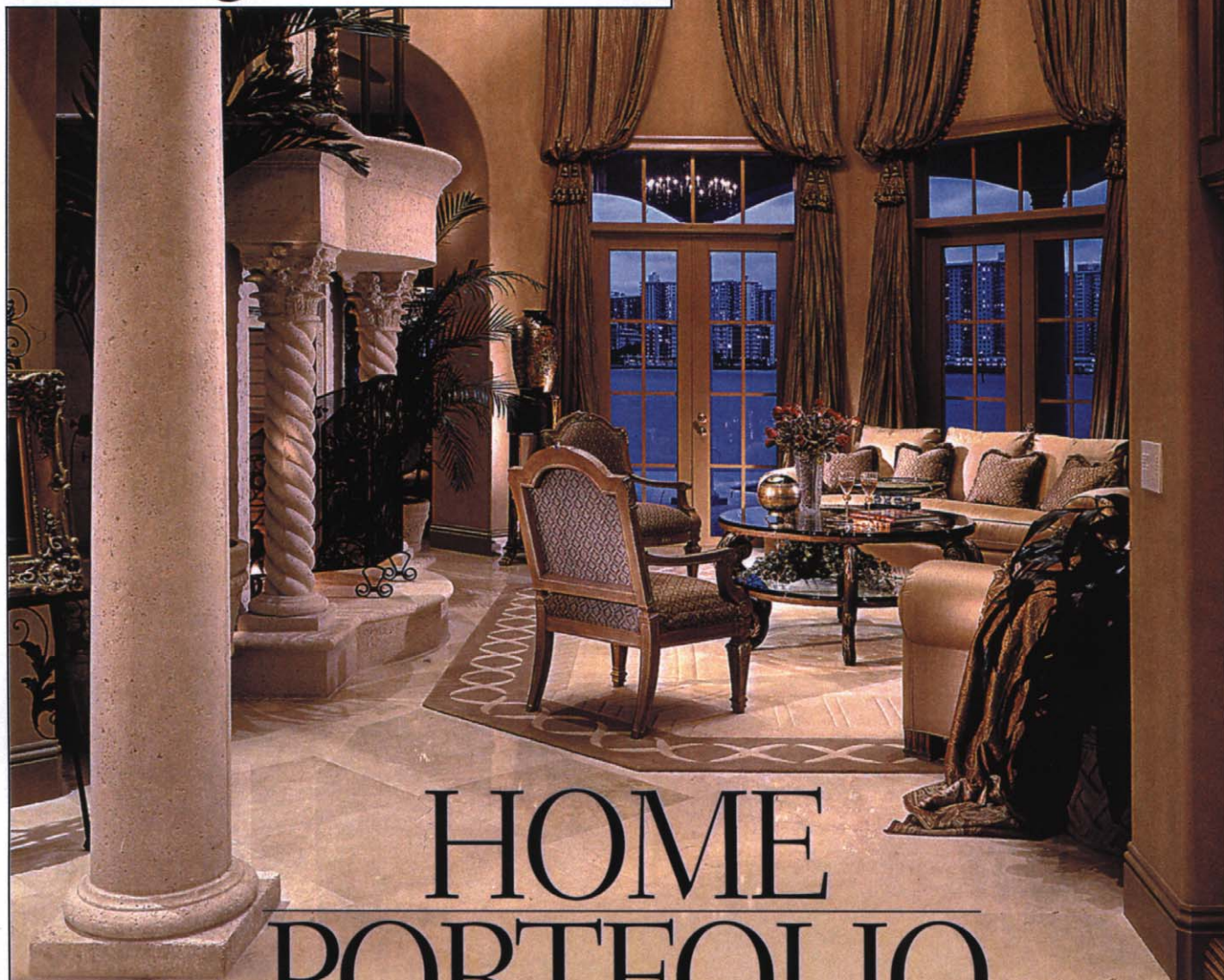


As Featured In

Robb Report
**Home Entertainment
& Design**



HOME PORTFOLIO

BEAUTIFULLY BLENDING
STYLE & TECHNOLOGY

Elite technology makes your home respond to your every whim. Dim the lights and select a CD without leaving your chair. Light the fireplace and warm the spa via the Internet before coming home. Bring a little magic into your life.



Double Duty

A home theater and game room in an exclusive South Florida residence is the hottest hangout in the neighborhood.

By ROBERTA KLEIN



Every once in a while, a perfect idea backfires. Such is the case with Dani and Scott DeLoach's second-floor entertainment space, which does double duty as a theater and game room.

The room, devised primarily for the entertainment of their 18-year-old daughter, Rachel, and 13-year-old son, Shane, is a big hit with the kids and their friends, but not so much with the parents. Dani and Scott thought their cleverly designed plan would guarantee hours of quality family time. Now they rarely see their kids—that is, unless they can pry them out of the most popular room in their 6,500-square-foot Aventura home.

"We wanted a game room where the kids could have

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARRY GROSSMAN PHOTOGRAPHY





SCREEN IMAGE: ©EVERETT COLLECTION / EVERETT COLLECTION INC.

Used as the main venue for DVD viewing, the family room exudes an intimate feel with soothing colors and fine-hewn cabinetry. Although it adjoins the light-splashed kitchen, the space can be darkened like a cave with the touch of a button on the touchscreen remote.

enough privacy so they could [comfortably] bring friends over," says Dani, a former math and science teacher. "We'd rather have them here at home than someplace else."

With this in mind, the DeLoaches fulfilled a list of uncompromising requirements, which included top-notch audiovisual technology for the theater/game room (see previous spread) and the rest of the home that's nestled in Island Estates, a private development adjacent to Williams Island.

As a result, the theater componentry of a drop-down Stewart screen and a Sony LCD projector commingle with a custom pool table, an old-fashioned jukebox and a vintage Coca-Cola machine. Instead of taking the dedicated theater design route with rows of seating and a curtained screen, this multipurpose playroom has a timeless look; its custom-built

pecan-finish cabinetry and casually positioned oversized sofas in durable, distressed leather ensure comfort for every DVD-viewing session.

Developer Gary Cohen masterminded the grand plans for this two-island community, which affords breathtaking views of the sparkling Intracoastal Waterway. This prime real estate offers residents a living maritime landscape painting and provides easy access to the Atlantic for water sports, sailing and fishing—all important to the DeLoaches, next to movie-watching, of course.

With architect Mitch Kunik, interior designer Steven Gurowitz and technology specialist Jan Vitrofsky, Cohen formulated the DeLoaches' ideas into their dream home. The end result still amazes the involved parties. "The pool table

GIENCARLO



"We fully customized the home, from the theater they always wanted to the sound system and the lighting system. Years ago these technologies weren't available, but we're not limited that way today."

—Gary Cohen, developer

turns over, the floor starts to move and the screen comes down," Cohen says, marveling at the theater. "It's just short of *Goldfinger* when you push a button."

While Cohen exaggerates the space's technical capabilities, the room makes an impact. "We really hit the jackpot in getting what we wanted," Dani says. "But we had hoped we could use the playroom more than we do."

While the DeLoach children were the primary catalyst for the space, entertaining was also a motivator. Thus, some formal treatments, such as a 19th-century oil portrait, tone-on-tone embroidered pillows and a hand-carved Empire chair, lend an air of sophistication. "Scott and Dani are a young couple who enjoy the finer things in life," says Gurowitz, owner of Interiors by Steven G. Inc. "They wanted an upscale, quality setting."

That same quality is evidenced in the exterior of the home. The Venetian palazzo-style structure, complete with stone columns, arches, terraces and trellised verandas, exudes an old-world feel consistent with Island Estates' overall Mediterranean look.

MAKING MAGIC: The elite automation system allows the homeowners to control the lighting, audio and temperature by simply lifting a finger.

Gurowitz designed the interiors to be elegant yet functional. To highlight the home's most valuable asset—the enviable natural light and abundant water views, which are accessible from every ground-level room—he developed a muted palette of earth tones. Each room follows this color scheme with varying degrees of deviation.

While the game room follows this formula with its hunter-green wool carpeting, walls of grass cloth, and a green-topped pool table with inlaid mother-of-pearl detailing, the family room is anchored in soft, earthy hues. An entertainment unit of pecan-finished wood quietly dominates the room and provides storage. The sofa and overstuffed chair and ottoman sport a matching linen in mocha; a more formal chair boasts the same pecan finish. A chandelier of handblown glass and iron hovers above.

Like every main-floor space, the family room enjoys a panoramic view of the waterway through French doors topped with clerestory windows. The room is a stylish study in comfort punctuated by a surround-sound system. Automated blinds shield the room from Florida's scorching sun and transform the space into the optimal movie-



Panelled walls and leather applications evoke the feeling of a gentlemen's retreat in the piano bar. The traditional-styled grand player piano and bar topped with black onyx granite add a touch of drama.



The kitchen evolves into a performance stage when Dani prepares sensational meals for guests. The custom-designed kitchen is equipped with a professional-grade Thermador range and stove, as well as an oversized refrigerator and two sinks.

watching venue. "I don't even want to go [out] to movie theaters any more," Scott says, adding that their DVD and video collection exceeds 400. "It's much more fun here."

With its elevated ceiling, the living room accommodates an 8-foot-tall fireplace of twisted Corinthian stone columns; above the mantle is a custom medallion-shaped tile mosaic. Chocolate-colored draperies extend to the 30-foot-tall ceiling and frame the windows positioned above the French doors. A handmade Turkish rug festooned above a built-in display cabinet dramatizes the room's expanse just as tapestries once warmed stone castle walls. Beyond the living room is the piano bar—a cozy, handsome space detailed

with black and red mahogany and leather accents. A series of maritime paintings reinforce the space's masculine persona; cigar smoking and cognac drinking take place here.

Around the corner, the capacious kitchen walled with cherry cabinetry in a rubbed cream finish accommodates Dani's love of cooking. The same cherry-wood treatment makes the top-of-the-line Thermador appliances disappear. But the unequivocal showstopper is the soaring copper range hood, which is set above an intricate mosaic of hand-cut marble. Adding to the richness of the room are Italian granite countertops.

Upstairs in the master suite, the classic look continues



The gold-leaf-detailed four-poster sets an old-world tone in the master suite. A hexagonal-shaped wet bar, complete with wine refrigeration, is tucked into the seating area of the bay window—a feature that encourages the DeLoaches to enjoy the passing yachts from their vantage point on the terrace with a glass of wine in hand and light jazz playing in the background.

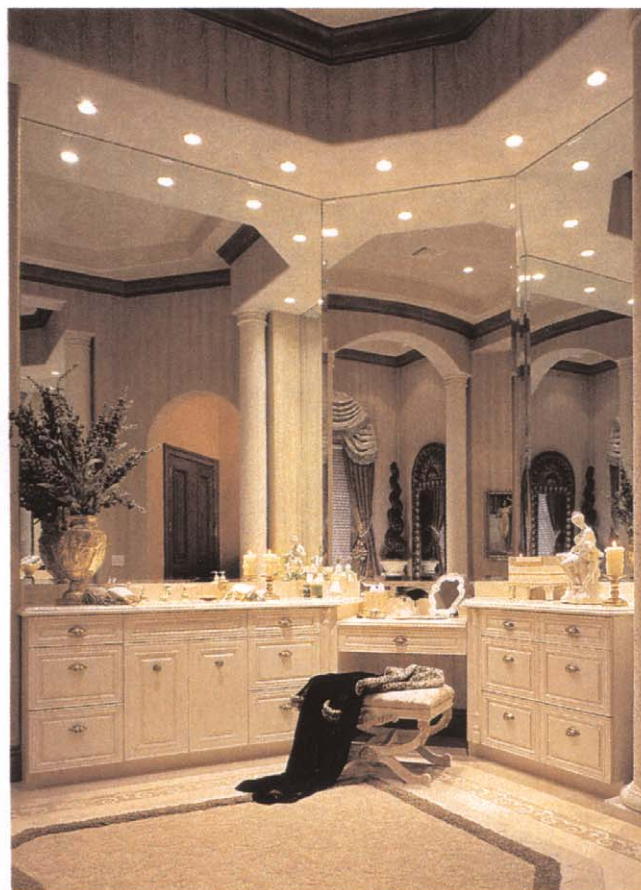
with floors of Saturnia marble and a beveled mirror hanging behind the gold-leaf-detailed four-poster bed. A modern alabaster chandelier romantically illuminates the room, while ornate glass and wrought-iron Spanish sconces, also contemporary in design, add symmetry. French doors welcome in the sea air morning, noon and night.

In a break from the home's earth-tone palette, Rachel's third-floor bedroom is a study in celestial blue. "When she was 14, she found a book on Moroccan design and marked what she liked," Dani recalls. Snuggled into a turret-like space, the room's fanciful tented ceiling hovers above gold wood carvings of the sun, moon and stars; the two-toned leather ottoman and

checkerboard floor further fulfill the Moroccan mien.

The common thread woven throughout the home is its state-of-the-art technology. Scott, executive vice president of PBS & J, a Miami engineering consulting firm, has always had a keen interest in technology, which propelled him to seek perfection in a home control system through Jan Vitrofsky, owner of HED South Inc. "Scott likes nice things, but wanted everything to be very simple to operate," Vitrofsky says.

To that end, the Crestron touchscreen control system and the Lutron lighting system are the home's heart. And every subsystem in the house—from the audio and video to lighting, automated blinds and security features—can be



This luxurious master bath offers custom lacquered antique-white cabinetry, Botticino marble flooring, an oversized dressing table and wraparound mirrors.

managed via touchscreens in the living room, game room/theater and master bedroom. The system was next to flawless from the outset. "It's extremely simple," Scott says. "Dani, who says she's electronically challenged, can work it easily."

In addition to the system's mood setting, which defaults to a preferred level of lighting and music with the touch of a button, Scott's favorite element is a security feature that records the home's lighting history. The push of a button captures every light function during the course of a full week so when the family travels, the system replays these patterns as if the family were at home.

"The result is a home that's not only great to live in, but also spectacular for entertaining," says Gurowitz, now a personal friend of the DeLoaches. "There was mutual respect and harmony between all involved parties. So when the DeLoaches gave us a direction and said 'roll with it,' we did just that." *For a preferred list of interior designers and architects previously published in Robb Report Home Entertainment & Design, please visit www.hedmag.com.* HE&D

TECH TALK: THE DELOACH HOME

How do you differentiate between great and ultimate? For Jan Vitrofsky, CEO and president of HED South Inc., a Hollywood, Fla.-based custom installer, it's all in a day's work. "I have many clients who want great pictures and sound but don't want to be sold the ultimate-performance products that an audiophile or videophile would want," he says. "[The homeowner] is like that—he wants nice equipment, but with him the focus is on ease of use."

That is why Vitrofsky specified Crestron touch-screen controllers for audio, video and lighting in the bedroom, living room and theater. "Crestron is fantastic; I have a long history with [the brand]," he says. "The product integrates well with other components, and the user interface is really simple. To me, that's key." Using the touchscreens, the client can control the audiovisual systems and watch video programming from a Sony satellite receiver. In other rooms, Lutron Audioaccess keypads control the lighting and the multiroom audio system.

Given the client's insistence on excellent—but not over-the-top—equipment, Vitrofsky resisted the urge to install a cathode-ray tube, or CRT, video projector. "I used to work for

Kloss Video, the company that invented video projection," he says. "So it was hard in [some] ways for me to use the Sony LCD projector we installed. But I wanted to give him current, hip technology, and since it was a multifunctional room, [the client] wasn't looking for a videophile experience." A Stewart screen lowers from the ceiling for TV viewing and retracts when the system is turned off.

The speakers, though, fit more with Vitrofsky's personal preferences; he owns a set himself. "We went with Genelec-powered speakers in this room," he says. "I'm a dealer for JBL Synthesis and Genelec [two of the most popular speaker brands for large home theaters and media rooms], and they're both great. But I usually suggest Synthesis for dedicated theater rooms, and Genelec for people who are more into musicality.

"Having done installations for Gloria Estefan and Barbra Streisand and so many other musicians, and being in the studio and seeing Genelec monitors so often, I learned that they are a great musical speaker," he says. *For an in-depth equipment list of the DeLoach home and theater, please visit our website at www.hedmag.com.*

—Brent Buttenthworth

HED
south

p: 954.929.2700 • www.hedsouth.com