

CEPro

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REMOTE Controllers

Can off-site system
monitoring boost
customer service?

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From left:
Ken Johnson, president;
Russ Radke, COO
Premiere Systems, Chicago

'09 **INNOVATIVE
HOUSING
TECHNOLOGY
AWARDS**

INNOVATION
honored

CE Pro and TechHome Builder's annual Innovative Housing Technology Award winners and finalists are revealed. *by CE Pro editors*

Long before then presidential candidate Barack Obama said, "It's time to recapture the spirit of innovation that has always fueled America's economic success," the Innovative Housing Technology Award (IHTA) program was created.

Now in its ninth year, the award program — owned by CE Pro, TechHome Builder and Electronic House magazines — honors the most innovative products, builders and CE pros serving the homebuilding industry. The awards are presented every June in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Builders Conference in San Francisco.

A panel of tech building industry experts and journalists evaluated the 2009 finalists and made the tough choices. The winners represent best practices by CE pros, builders, home technology makers and IT innovators.

Check out the 2009 IHTA class, which (paraphrasing Obama) capture the spirit of innovation.

BUILDER

WINNER BLAIR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

BLAIR HOUSE CUSTOM HOME The goal was to blend "old Southern charm" with modern electronic convenience. It includes video surveillance, home theater, multiroom audio/video, elaborate security and more. The home theater, for instance, includes custom acoustic panels, powered theater chairs, automated lighting, Windows Media Center on a custom PC, PlayStation 3 for Blu-ray playback and more. The automation is programmed to respond to temperature and humidity sensors, includes lighting control and preset lighting scenes and offers remote online access.



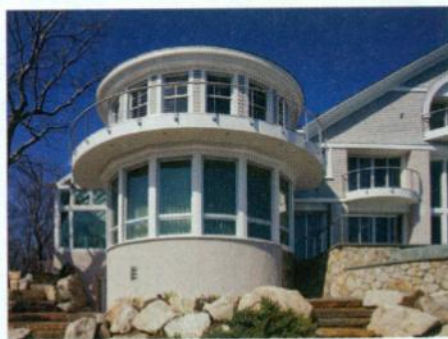
INTEGRATOR



NORTHEAST WINNER AUDIO VIDEO DESIGN, NEW ENGLAND SEASIDE HOME

There's plenty of stunning A/V here, highlighted by a listening room featuring a baby grand piano and McIntosh Laboratory-fueled two-channel system for the classically trained pianist homeowner.

But the true star of this project is automation, led by Lutron HomeWorks lighting control and advanced HVAC scheduler. The latter automates the closing of more than 65 metal shutters during a storm and provides confirmation feedback to the homeowners that they were closed—even if the owners are on vacation while the storm's brewing back home.



MIDWEST WINNER PREMOVATION A/V, CUSTOM THEATER

The custom electronics professional creates system integration solutions specific to your home's needs and your vision.

WEST WINNER ROOM SERVICE HOME THEATER, STREET OF DREAMS 2008

Room Service showcased home electronics and lighting in a 6,500-square-foot home that took "Best of Show" honors.

SOUTH WINNER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, BLAIR HOUSE

Created as a builder showcase, to be purchased by homeowners, this Advanced Technologies project is fully automated with energy and cost-saving devices in mind.



Robert Saglio A/V Design, Rustic

Media Room The custom installer collaborated with a homebuilder on this 10,000-square-foot restoration project, highlighted by a dedicated media room and intricate lighting system.



Cobalt Automation, Electra Lake

Residence Cobalt outfitted this vacation home with entertainment, security, lighting and more so the family could easily enjoy or keep tabs on the systems while at home or away.

Audio Video Design, Coastal Estate The builder is also the caretaker of this project from Audio Video Design that allows for one point of contact, and remote monitoring and operation, of many electronics systems spread through five areas.