

Appetizing Views

The kitchen in this Philadelphia high-rise serves up big-screen entertainment. *photography by John Martinelli*

VITAL STATS

SYSTEMS DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Frankentek
Medford, NJ
609-654-6888
www.frankentek.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Marguerite Rodgers
Philadelphia, PA

BUILDER

Phillip Johnson Construction
Philadelphia, PA

Forget the small LCD for watching TV in this Philadelphia kitchen. It has one of those, but the 20-inch LCD is certainly not the primary display here. That nod goes to a motorized 100-inch screen that drops down from the ceiling on command from homeowners Marguerite Rodgers and James Timberlake.

The view behind the screen is pretty spectacular in its own right. That's because this kitchen resides on the top floor of a 31-story high-rise, with floor-to-ceiling windows that showcase the city lights and skyline.

It's no coincidence that a kitchen area in Rodgers' home would cook up such unique and creative aesthetics. She runs an interior design firm in Philadelphia and served as the kitchen and home interior designer during this remodel project, which came about when she bought a neighboring space and combined the two areas.

Electronics installation firm Frankentek of Medford, NJ, had worked with Rodgers on several previous projects, so it was only fitting that they join forces for her own home renovation. "We do a lot of work with her, and she pays extreme attention to detail. She wanted all the audio/video stuff but didn't want to see it," says Frankentek CIO Edward Wickham. "The kitchen was their most used space, and they're big movie buffs, so they wanted a big screen to watch on."

Keeping the electronics hidden served to reduce potential clutter in a confined space. Frankentek and Rodgers worked with



builder Jim Campbell to construct a cabinet to house both display devices. To the right of the sink, the homeowners can turn on the built-in Sharp LCD in the mornings and catch up on the daily news headlines and weather. On the cabinet side that faces the windows, a Sanyo PLV-80 720p projector is barely noticeable behind a circular cutout that appears like an oversize peephole. The

projector has a semilong zoom lens to cover the 20-foot throw distance.

"In such a designer space, Marguerite didn't want to see a big honkin' projector," Wickham says. "For the screen, there's a custom pocket designed into the ceiling, and we built it into the Lutron [Sivoia] shading. There's a blackout shade and a regular shade, and there's a third roller that housed the

Stewart motorized screen, so when it's up, it's out of the way."

During the day, Marguerite and James can pick either a translucent shade or a total blackout shade to roll down, depending on how bright it is outside or whether they want to watch something on the Stewart Filmscreen Luxus Model A screen. At night, leaving the shades up and allowing the dark sky to enter

A built-in 20-inch LCD screen is fine for these homeowners when they want to catch up on the news during breakfast, but they desired something more dramatic for their nightly viewing—they got it in the form of a 100-inch projection screen.

Homeowner Marguerite Rodgers wanted some cool electronics in her renovated kitchen, but as an interior designer she didn't want any potential eyesores. She doesn't have to see the room's 100-inch screen unless it's in use, and she never has to see the projector because it stays hidden, except for a hole to let the light beam through, within the kitchen's large custom cabinet.

EQUIPMENT LIST

DISPLAYS

Sanyo PLV-80 WXGA projector
Sanyo LNST31A semi-long zoom lens
Stewart Filmscreen 100-inch Luxus Model A
Electriscreen
Stewart Filmscreen quiet electronic drive unit
Sharp LC-20SH20 20-inch LCD

AUDIO/VIDEO COMPONENTS

Audio Design Associates Suite 16 preamplifier
Audio Design Associates Suite 7.1 home theater preamp
Marantz MARVC6001 5-disc DVD changer
Marantz DV6001 single-disc DVD player
Marantz SR8002 A/V receiver
Parasound Zamp v.2 amplifier
Sherbourne T100-60 AM/FM tuner

SPEAKERS

Sonance Z4 Architectural series speakers (6)
Sonance Son of the Sub 10-inch subwoofers (2)

CONTROL

AMX Mio-R4-ZGW remote
AMX Integrated Master/NetLinx controller
AMX Modero 10-inch wall flush mount
AMX Modero 5-inch wall mount video touchscreen
Niles Audio SPK-1 speaker A/B switchers (2)
Niles Audio IR repeater system
Channel Vision 16-way splitter/combiner
Lutron Sivoia shade interface
Lutron See-Touch keypad
Lutron processor
Lutron Sivoia shades

FURNITURE, ACOUSTICS & ACCESSORIES

Active Thermal Management Cool-stack II (2)
Active Thermal Management 25-foot tubing extension kit
Active Thermal Management rack-mount cooling unit exhaust
APC S-20 power conditioner
APC UPS 900VABR900 power supply
Linksys BEFSR81 DSL/cable router
Panasonic telephone system
Middle Atlantic rack system
Sharp AN-PSMARM articulating arm



the room has no ill effects on viewing the projected images, according to Wickham. "It's not like there are blinding lights because they're so high up," he says. "It's really awesome at night, because it looks almost like runway lights when you're landing in a plane. There's no problem seeing the screen."

Using an AMX Mio R4 remote, the homeowners can hit a PROJECTOR button on the color touchscreen to command the shade and screen, and then grab whatever video content they want from a Marantz DVD changer or high-def cable box. Or they can press one of the lighting scenes on a Lutron custom keypad.

They can also select audio from an Audio Design Associates distributed preamp system, which provides for surround sound, or pick tunes from their iPod that's placed on a Sonance iPort dock.

Sonance was also Frankentek's loudspeaker choice. The company's Z4 Architectural series in-ceiling speakers weren't completed in production yet, but Sonance worked with Frankentek to install them on-site—the first time the truly flush-model square and rectangular speakers had been installed, says Wickham. He says a chase built into the bottom of the windowsills allowed for inconspicuous wiring and was a fortunate alternative, because running wire through the concrete floor and ceiling wasn't an option.

"How many times have you heard people say that the kitchen is the most used room in a house?" adds Wickham. "They wanted a screen, and now they have it with a little wow factor." For these homeowners and their two kids, it sure makes nightly dinnertime an event to look forward to. —AS **EH**