



Hollywood Lights

Mark Schomisch bought his now-4,000-square-foot home in the Hollywood Hills two years ago with one goal in mind: Renovate the residence to take full advantage of its breathtaking views and tony location. He knocked down all but one wall so he could not only build but wire for the future. The end result is a house that has every comfort and amenity, from the front door—which can be unlocked remotely—to the pool and spa, which can be turned on before the owner even reaches the driveway.

Since unobtrusiveness was the key to the design, everything is connected to a wireless Vantage Controls system with two floating wireless tablets. Remotes turn the lights on and off, and most rooms have preset scenarios. “The lights might come on at 50 percent, the skylight lights come on at 30 percent, and the artwork lights come on at 100 percent,” says Schomisch.

Even the homeowner’s most basic needs are met automatically. A recirculation pump turns on throughout the

day so there is no waiting for the shower to warm up.

The media room, however, says Schomisch, is where the combination of needs and wants is truly balanced. If a future homeowner wants to watch the 50-inch television, a preset scene will create the perfect ambience, turning down the lights, powering up the flat screen and firing up the extensive speaker system. If someone rings the doorbell during the movie, the live footage of the entrance is fed directly to the touchscreen controller—the same one the homeowners use to control their audio and video.

Some things are not networked into the Vantage Controls system right now, such as the fireplace and the drapes. However, Schomisch says he made sure the wiring and setup would allow those to be added at a later date. “The hardware is there,” says Schomisch. “We just wanted to give the new homeowners the ability to personalize the system.”

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Designer Mark Schomisch gutted and rebuilt a Hollywood Hills home (top) to include updated wiring and a home theater (above).