



# lofty IDEALS

IT TAKES A LOT TO IMPRESS JAKE STOW, SO A SMART INSTALLATION THAT LEAVES HIM SEARCHING THE ONLINE THESAURUS FOR FRESH SUPERLATIVES IS BOUND TO BE WORTH A LOOK...

**I**f our estimates prove correct, and I'm confident that they will (despite having made the rough calculations with a small abacus during the lunch hour), every single residential property in London will be 'smart' (though not necessarily self-aware) by 2015. The evidence for this bold hypothesis? Why, this very magazine, which seems to be chock-a-block with metropolitan smartpads month after month. The capital, it seems, has taken to home automation in a big way and who can blame it, when you look at what such technology has to offer its owners. All of which preamble brings us seamlessly to sunny Islington and yet another stunning installation...

Famed for its lofty living, the Clerkenwell area of Islington is a favourite spot for effortlessly trendy urbanite types. And the

latest addition to its array of desirable properties is certain to excite their interest, since it's packed full of life-enriching, Crestron-controlled, smart home technology. Yes, thanks to the skills of leading systems integration specialist and CEDIA member, James & Giles, this lofty apartment is in fact a technological heavy-weight which takes the concept of home automation to new and impressively lofty heights. So, without further ado, let's take an inquisitive look at what exactly this new kid on the block has to offer...

## Complete control

With a feature-packed kit list that takes in integrated lighting, security, CCTV, AV, heating and a home cinema system, the two bedroom city apartment has been comprehensively refurbished and extended -



The futuristic roof space is a place to sleep, relax and enjoy a stunning view of the London skyline



Intuitive touch-panel control courtesy of Crestron



The hustle and bustle of the city seems a world away...



The master bedroom has access to the finest in home entertainment technology



extra square footage has been added with the construction of a contemporary glass box and futuristic pod on the existing rooftop terrace. This architecturally stunning addition now houses an impressive master bedroom suite, which, as you would expect, boasts its fair share of technology. At the heart of the high-tech gadgetry is an all encompassing, Total Home Technology Solution from a name synonymous with high-end installations across the world, Crestron. The system that was created for the property integrates and controls all the individual systems and technologies that keep this lucky homeowner comfortable, entertained and secure. In fact, thanks to the expertise of James & Giles, anything in this apartment that could be Crestron-controlled, has been...

*"Crestron was a natural choice for us,"* explains the man who puts the Giles in James & Giles: Giles Sutton. *"As system integrators we want to provide our clients with innovative, cutting edge solutions and the Crestron system allowed us to seamlessly integrate all of the technology within the property. No other manufacturer has the breadth of interfaces to allow us to control virtually any system in the home whether it be door entry, heating, audio-visual, security and CCTV."*

### Just a touch

One of the apartment's most impressive features is undoubtedly its comprehensive ESP-AV Multiplex 11 Media Centre Server, a device which provides the homeowner with a single PC-based solution for playing DVDs, streaming media, watching and recording TV, and organising and listening to music. And, to supplement and make the very most of its abilities, James & Giles have installed one of the first Crestron Windows Media Centre interfaces to make it across the pond. Linking the high-end media server with the Crestron control system, this interface enables full 2-way touch-panel control of the Media Centre PC. The touch-panel's capabilities include browsing and searching the library of digital media content including cover art, watching live or recorded TV, and controlling audio volume and mute.

In short, the homeowner is able to access his entire music and film collection across the property, directly from touch-panels in each room. In addition, a Crestron CEN-IDOC iPod





interface acts as an easy solution for when the homeowner gets home from work and wants to quickly access the contents of his iPod while working in the study. If there's an easier way to access entertainment we've yet to see it.

## On the panel

Crestron's TPMC8X touch-panel is the control centrepiece of James & Giles' comprehensive install, giving the homeowner the ability to edit lighting scenes, view CCTV cameras on his flatscreen TVs, set the internal temperature (using the Crestron TSAT thermostats), as well as accessing his film and music collection. Expert programming by Jacques at ESP-AV allows TV programme information to be relayed on the touch-panel directly from the SKY HD box, whilst scrolling RDS digital radio feedback gives the homeowner the opportunity to quickly see what song is playing on the Primare T23 DAB radio. Additional compact wall-mounted TPS-4L touch-panel interfaces, located in each bedroom, deliver touch-panel performance in the space of a common light switch – a convenient and unobtrusive solution to true whole-house control.

The apartment's all-encompassing 48 circuit lighting system is controllable from Crestron's advanced and eye-catching CNX designer keypads. These innovative devices also monitor the internal temperature of the apartment, provide feedback to the heating control interface, and give the homeowner the ability to change music and video sources and provide volume control in rooms that don't have a touch-panel interface, ensuring that fingertip control is never far away. And, when the door entry phone is activated, the Crestron CNX keypads chime to alert those inside.

## Intruder alert!

Another impressive feature is the gateway to the Crestron control system that has been provided via a Comfort Home



Controls SMS interface. This allows the internal temperature of the apartment to be remotely controlled by text message – perfect for getting the place warm in advance of the homeowner's return. The helpful security system has also been brought in on the act and will call a specified number if there is an intruder detected or someone is at the front door. The C2N-IIF Door Entry Interface, installed by James & Giles as part of the complete Crestron Home AV distribution system, provides an extremely flexible intercom interface solution, and its full video functionality makes the homeowner's decisions on who he wants to let in and who he wants to leave shivering on the doorstep a breeze.

The cleverly concealed (thankfully, as compared to the rest of the home it's as ugly as sin) Middle Atlantic AXS pull out rack is the hub of the install and houses the Crestron AV2 Processor. Crestron's 2-Series Control System enables every audio, video, and environmental element of the penthouse to be integrated and accessible. Unmatched for power, performance and scalability, the AV2 boasts (here comes the technical part) six built-in COM ports, eight IR/Serial ports, eight I/O Versiports and eight isolated relays. For the uninitiated, that's good. A CNX-PAD8A high-performance 8 x 8 stereo



The stylish modern interior is unspoilt by the wealth of technology within

## Clerkenwell Road Kit List

### Control System:

- 1x Crestron AV2 Processor
- 1x Crestron iPod Interface
- 1x Crestron PAD8 8 Zone Audio Matrix Switcher
- 1x SKY HD
- 1x SKY+
- 1x ESP-AV Multiplex II Media Centre Server
- 1x Primare T23 DAB Radio
- 7x Parasound Zamp Rackmount Zone Amplifier
- 1x Kramer VP84 RGBHV Matrix Switcher
- 1x Gigabit Ethernet Switch
- 2x Crestron Media Centre Interface

### Rack:

- 1x Middle Atlantic AXS Pull Out Rack

### Lighting System:

- 4x iLight 12 Channel Lighting Dimmer

### Interfaces:

- 2x Crestron TPS-4L Touchscreen
- 1x Crestron TPS2000 Touchscreen
- 1x Crestron TPMC8X Wireless Touchscreen Interface
- 9x Crestron CNX Designer Keypad

### Loudspeakers:

- 6x RBH MC-615 In Ceiling Loudspeaker (Pair)
- 4x RBH A615D Stereo In Ceiling Loudspeaker (Single)
- 4x Speakercraft OE5-THREE Outdoor Speaker (Single)

### Home Cinema:

- 1x Panasonic 50-inch High Definition Plasma Monitor
- 1x Primare SPA21 AV Processor (Titanium)
- 1x ESP-AV Silverscreen III Media Centre Player
- 1x Artcoustic Dual LCR Front Speaker
- 2x Velodyne SPL-800R Subwoofer
- 1x RBH MC-615 In Ceiling Loudspeaker (Pair)
- 1x Slingbox

### Security & CCTV:

- 1x Comfort Integrated Security System with text message control
- 1x 4 Camera CCTV System
- 1x Crestron C2N-IIF Door Entry Interface



audio switcher and preamplifier are also in place and provide distribution of eight stereo audio sources to the eight room outputs.

So, with a Crestron-controlled and James & Giles installed home automation system that's above and beyond the norm, this high-flying penthouse apartment is equipped to give its owner the ultimate home entertainment experience. And keeping people amused is only one string to its incredibly well strung bow. Even in a city packed with some of the nation's, and indeed the world's, finest installs, this is unquestionably a cut above the rest!



## Contact

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