

THE ULTIMATE HOME THEATER REALIZED

There are those who love music and movies. There are those who are passionate about, even obsessed, with music and movies. There are those we like to call audio and videophiles, the crème de la crème of the passionate. And then there is Mr. and Mrs. Caputo. To call them any of these would be an understatement. Just one look at their home entertainment system, and their love of it, and you get a glimpse of this couple's one-of-a-kind obsession with the ultimate home entertainment environment.

Unique system, unique needs

Much like the birth of electricity, the Caputo's new home theater system started with a lighting strike that left the Caputo's without their customized, recording studio grade speakers and home entertainment

system. And because many of the products in that system were customized and from companies that no longer exist, replacing it with identical components would be impossible – but replacing it with identical quality would not.

But when you have such an amazing home entertainment system, you don't just walk into a store and begin picking out components and placing them into a room. No, the process is much more detailed, and one not to be taken lightly. For Mr. Caputo that meant calling

a number of home entertainment specialists and having them look at his current system. What he found was that his system was out of their leagues, and that only Luis Rodriguez, Magnolia/Geek Squad Home Entertainment Advisor, really understood the complexity of what he had.

From the MartinLogan CLX speakers and Descent i subs, to the perfectly designed rack, one look and you know this is no ordinary home theater system.



“What impressed me about Luis, from the moment he came in, was his understanding of what was here. He realized that the system we had in place was far beyond anything you’d see outside of a trade show or post production studio,” said Richard Caputo. “He realized that there were things that didn’t even exist on the commercial market, but were installed in my home. Other installers were clueless to that fact that those things existed.”

Because of this unique challenge, Luis had to do considerable research, not only learning about what the best gear to replace the Caputo’s existing system should be, but also learning about what the Caputos wanted to achieve from their new system. “I spent a good week just asking questions before I designed anything. First I asked about their lifestyle, what they wanted to achieve when this was done – forget about the products, I wanted to see what their tastes were,” remarked Luis.

“His attention to detail was one of the things that really drew us to him,” commented Mr. Caputo. “Luis took a lot of time to understand me and my wife and our needs, how we live and how we listen to music. He paid a lot of attention to the details, which is important on a system that’s this complicated –this stuff isn’t sold every day.”

But even with all his research and existing know-how, Luis knew he couldn’t do this project on his own. So he called in a few specialists to also go over the system: one in amplification, one in video and one in audio. That, combined with contacts with Ryan Welch, Senior System Designer for Magnolia, and he had the pieces in place to ensure the Caputo’s new home entertainment system would be the best it could be.

A recipe for home entertainment perfection

Mr. Caputo, a chef and restaurateur, along with his wife, a pastry chef, know the importance of combining the right ingredients to create the perfect dish. Creating a home entertainment system that would leave this couple more than satisfied would also require just the right ingredients. So it was no surprise that it took considerable research, and a lot of test and trial of different speakers, amplifiers, subs and other components, before Luis and the Caputos finally found a system that met all of their needs, and gave them the exact sound quality they were looking for. But when they found them, they also found audio and video perfection.

To anchor the system, two pairs of MartinLogan CLX speakers were placed in the four corners of the room – two in front, two in back. Something you’ll see in the finest professional movie system designs, but almost never in a home. As Peter Soderberg, Western Regional Sales Manager for MartinLogan, upon seeing the system put it, “He’s done it right – he’s gone to the extreme of having perfectly matched corners, and as a result he’ll have a more coherent, cohesive sound when he’s watching a movie.”

Combine that with a MartinLogan Stage center channel speaker and five MartinLogan Descent i subs, one for every speaker, and you have a system that’s guaranteed to blow your mind. Now you need power, welcome 5 Krell 400E amps, a Krell 707 3D-enabled processor, Krell 555 3D-enabled Blu-ray player and a JVC DLA-X9B 3D projector. The 707 and 555 weren’t even on the market when this system was built, making the Caputo’s home the first residential space to have them – one of a kind indeed. And the projector? “I went out to CEDIA in October of last year, and when I saw the JVC DLAX93D projector, I said we gotta go with it,” Luis said. “And with the strong relationship Mr. Caputo and I had built, he trusted that it was the right way to go.” Again, the Caputo’s were the first to bring this projector home, for a truly one of a kind home theater system. And finally, for perfect 2.35:1 movie format, a Panamorph lens was added.

Controlling the system is equally cool, the Caputos simply use the Control4 app on their iPad, making enjoying the system one-button simple.

But putting this system together wasn’t as simple as pulling some products off the Magnolia floor shelf. No, this system required a lot more from Luis and Ryan. Together they needed to work with Krell, a product Magnolia currently doesn’t offer in their assortment, to get the Caputos the amplifier they



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This Page: No ordinary rear speakers. By using MartinLogan CLX speakers in all four corners, with Descent i subs, the Caputo’s have created the ultimate surround sound experience.

Opposite page: Top: A MartinLogan lovers dream system surrounds the 2.35:1 Stewart screen.

Middle: This JVC DLAX9 3D projector with Panamorph lens creates the perfect 2.35:1 theater ratio movie experience.

Below: A cap on the top of the MartinLogan Descent i allows the subwoofer to be easily tuned.



The system, realized:
 4 MartinLogan CLX speakers
 MartinLogan Stage center channel
 2 MartinLogan Voyage in-walls
 5 MartinLogan Descent i subs
 Krell 555 Evolution 3D Blu-ray player
 5 Krell EVO400E mono block amps
 Krell EVO707 3D preamp/processor
 Control4 control system
 JVC DLA-X9B 3D projector
 Panamorph lens
 Stewart 2.35:1 screen
 DirecTV DVR
 Mac Mini
 Mac Airport Express
 Oppo BDP83 Blu-ray Player
 5 Mid Atlantic quad fans
 Furman IT reference line conditioner
 Atlona 4x4 HDMI matrix switch
 Audioquest Type 4 speaker cable
 Audioquest Vodka HDMI 1.4
 Audioquest King Cobra XLR
 audio cable

most desired. Just one example of how with Magnolia, if you want it, they'll get it. The MartinLogan CLX speakers are custom order, and the other Krell products and JVC projector were special requests granted simply because of the incredible nature of this system.

From there, two of the top installers from the Magnolia Design Center in Seattle flew out and began building the system. After three long, 18-hour days, with the Caputos providing breakfast, lunch and dinner, the system was complete, and, oh, what a system it is.

The experience, realized

Creating a system for the ultimate audio and videophiles is no small feat, and one that takes time, persistence and a keen eye for every detail. It's this level of detail that needed to match the level of detail the Caputos expected from their system.

The other unique thing about this process was Mr. Caputo's understanding of audio and video. While most clients have a great understanding of what they want, and a pretty good understanding of the details, Mr. Caputo had both traits down in spades. And his vision, though detailed, was very clear and one that was met through and through. "This system is very articulate – it's about asking the instrument to be in the room with us. We're listening to it for the resonant factors of the vibrations of that instrument," explains Mr. Caputo. "I expect that when I close my eyes, that the cello I'm listening to is right there. I expect the kick drum, from what I understand as a drummer, to be real and realistic. The acoustic guitar, the acoustic base, I'm looking for those items to be there, basically for the equipment to get out of its own way and realistically become the instrument, the note or the vibration that instrument creates that we know is music.

"Maybe because as a musician growing up, being surrounded by instruments and music I have a fondness and a very sensitive ear to certain things. But the little things bother us – we want things right and it needs to be accurate." That's why the components that were selected for this system were chosen not only for their superior quality, but also for their ability to work in tandem with each other. This allowed the Caputos to get the sound and video they most desired. "Every little thing needs to be detailed, the whole system is only as good as its weakest link," explains Mr. Caputo.


"So if any little detail is overlooked, then the whole thing could be compromised."

But it's not just Mr. Caputo's passion that shines through, his wife, Kerri, has an equally intense passion for music and movies. Simply mention the experience of a live concert to her, and she comes alive with stories and a passion that is deeply real. "There is nothing like being down in the front at a concert," she says with a smile. "You feel the energy—it's incredible! That's some of what you get here, you get that reproduction of being there – and there's nothing like that energy. That energy combined with bass - that's why I love power, and I like any kind of speaker that's going to give me that reproduction of that thumping you feel. I love it!"

And like her husband, the desire to feel like you're there resonates with here as well. "Acoustic and live music is like you're sitting right in front of them – for me it's all about that concert experience – it's what I love."

A new system, a new relationship

Although projects like these can take considerable time, take considerable effort and always seem to have their ups and downs, one of the wonderful things that nearly always comes from them is a relationship. When sitting down with Luis and Mr. and Mrs. Caputo, it was clear that a friendship had formed. There was mutual respect between the three of them, and an openness and honesty that only true friends can have. "Luis has been a good representation of the brand," said Mr. Caputo. "He's easy to work with, he listens and he delivers, he keeps his word and that's huge." He went on to say, "It's a nice thing when people take care to not just sell a product, because that's just a sale of goods, but when there's a genuine concern that when they put something in they want you to be not only happy, but comfortable with it. I'm respectful of that care."

And it's that care, that passion and that relationship that helped Magnolia build the ultimate home entertainment space for a couple whose passion for all things music and audio runs deep. As Mrs. Caputo put it, "This is what we love, we don't travel, we stay home and garden, we like our horses, we love our music, and we like to entertain." And when you're entertained in this space, you better sit down, because the audio and video experience is sure to knock you off your feet. 



This Page: The solid Maple rack system that houses some of the finest audio and video components. On top are two monitors that display the Caputo's security system.

Top: Mr. Caputo, a chef by trade, a musician at heart, laying down some beats on his drum set.

Below: Just part of the team that pulled it all together. From left to right: Luis Rodriguez, Magnolia/Geek Squad Home Entertainment Advisor, Richard Caputo, home owner, Nate Hunter, Field Services Market Manager, Peter Soderberg, Western Regional Sales Manager for MartinLogan.