

Matters of the Hearth



The dilemma has existed as long as families have wanted to enjoy a crackling fire and their favorite sitcom: How do you position a TV and a fireplace in a room while giving equal weight to both?

LCD and plasma TVs have solved the conundrum for many who want a flat-panel TV above the fireplace. However, Paul Diggin of Advanced Communication Technologies prefers a different approach. "We've done plenty of those, but I don't like it," he says. "When you do that, the TV becomes the focal point of the room instead of the beautiful mantle or the nice fireplace." Diggin's solution? Put the flat panel on the side wall on an articulating arm. The TV swings against the wall when not in use and then out when the family wants to catch a game or the nightly news.

With its skyscraping ceiling and two-story windows, this room offers a tough environment for optimum viewing. That's okay; the house has several dedicated theaters elsewhere. That gave Diggin the freedom to work within the space. He rigged a three-channel sound system using the TV's speakers for the center channel and flush-mounting left and right speakers into the wall on either side of the TV.

The audio/video receiver and DVD player sit inside the cabinet beneath the TV. "We wanted everything we did to blend seamlessly with the decor," Diggin explains. —*Rebecca Day*

SYSTEMS AND ROOM DESIGN
Advanced Communication Technologies
Hingham, MA
www.actces.com