

## DelCY award project



### an impressive home theater stands out in this renovated Downingtown basement

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Top: The homeowners wanted a home theater that was classy but not overly ornate, with a red color scheme.

Left: The theater features top-of-the-line equipment that's hidden away from view.

When Downingtown homeowners wanted a dedicated home theater in the basement of their home, they called Media Rooms, Inc., to design and build the space. The theater was to be just a portion of a fully-customized basement which would also include a wine cellar, golf driving net, bar area and an exercise room.

The theater won Media Rooms a National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) DelCY award from the DelChester chapter in the Media Rooms under \$150,000 category. Rob Dzedzy, president and owner of the company, says that he worked closely with the homeowners to create their dream space. "When I design a home theater, I spend quite a bit of time interviewing the homeowners," he says. "I like to find out what their thoughts are with respect to color, design, the number of chairs and how the room will be used. For example, will it be used for movies only, primarily for sports or for a combination of things?"

In this case, the homeowners preferred a red color scheme and wanted to be able to seat eight to 10 people in the room. Their idea of a home theater was that it be classy, but not overly ornate. And





The rear wall was left partially open so that those seated in the bar area would be able to see the screen.

while they wanted it to be a dedicated room, they were concerned about how the room could be extended so that more people could see the screen when they hosted parties and large family gatherings. Dzedzy overcame this challenge by orienting the theater so that its rear was next to the bar counter outside of the room. "We opened up the rear wall of the theater to allow viewing of the 110-inch screen from both the bar stools and the lounge area next to the bar," he explains.

The room was designed so that all of the source components were hidden away with the exception of the projector, which was ceiling mounted. The homeowners wanted to keep the floor plan as open as possible and didn't want closets. Since the theater was going to be near the center of the space, there was no room to place a closet for the components. "In many of our home theater projects, the components are located 'remotely,'" explains Dzedzy. "In this situation, we could have located the audio-video components in the unfinished section of the basement, but that would place the DVD player too far away for convenience."

Instead, Dzedzy found ways to incorporate the necessary components into the space, but keep them hidden from view. For instance, the left and right front speakers were built right into the front columns behind acoustically transparent fabric, while the side speakers were placed in side columns and the rear speakers in the ceiling. "We designed and fabricated all of the acoustical wall panels, custom columns, wood millwork, front curtains and proscenium in-house," says Dzedzy. "In addition, we installed the surround sound audio systems and a 1080p high-definition video system. We also installed a single, handheld remote control to operate the audio-video system and the room lights."

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a home theater, and a detail like the entranceway is no exception. "To enter the theater, we installed a pocket door in a side entrance configuration," explains Dzedzy. "The side entrance allows maximum seating capacity and does not eliminate the prime seating positions as a rear entrance would."

#### A BRAND NEW BASEMENT

The home theater is just one part of an entirely brand new layout, however. "Media Rooms remodeled the entire basement," says Dzedzy. "Completing the theater was the first phase of the project, followed by a customized bar and wine cellar. Media Rooms provides a complete turnkey service. In addition to selling and installing hundreds of brands of audio video components, we also provide design services, theater interior décor and have an in-house custom cabinet shop. After we built the theater interior, we turned to building the bar."

The bar was constructed in cherry wood with a natural finish. "It is complete with a granite countertop, sink, under-the-counter refrigerator, icemaker and a beautiful back bar area that includes display room for bottles, plus plenty of storage," adds Dzedzy.

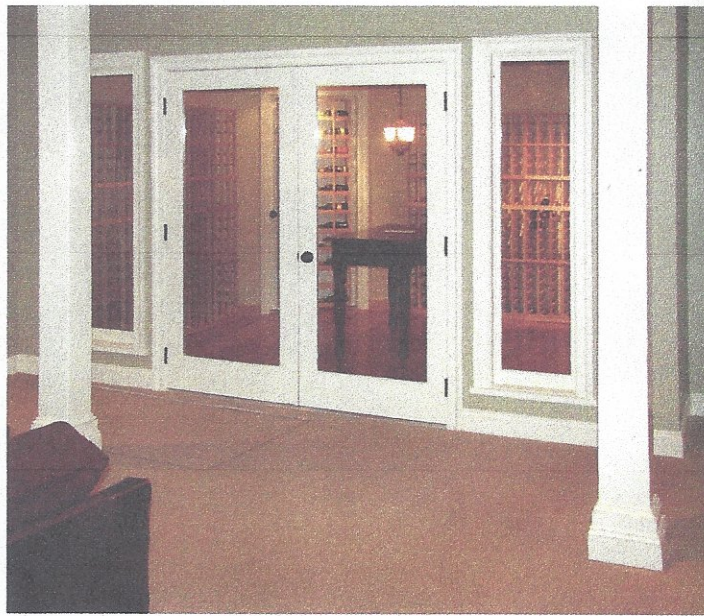
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Media Rooms also constructed a bar area where guests can still view the theater screen. The bar was built in cherry wood with a natural finish.

But the award-winning theater is arguably the most impressive area of the basement. Home theaters are a welcomed addition to any home and are installed for many reasons. "The most popular reason is that many homeowners are parents of teenage or preteen children and want a place in their own home where the kids and their friends can congregate," says Dzedzy. "Another popular reason for home theaters is to use them as an escape. Many of our clients are professionals with stressful jobs. They like to watch a movie in the comfort of their own homes and without all the hassles of having to drive



A customized wine cellar is also part of the newly finished basement.

somewhere at a specific time. A home theater can also have a very positive effect on a home's resale value. Many home shoppers have even come to expect that their new home purchase will include a home theater."

*Media Rooms, Inc., is located at 20 Hagerty Blvd., in West Chester. For more information, visit [www.mediaroomsinc.com](http://www.mediaroomsinc.com) or call 610-719-8500.*

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