

the big screen



a new *gathering place* for this Berwyn family and their guests By Lindsey Getz

Imagine having your own personal theater located inside your home. You could watch movies on the big screen without the expense and hassle of having to drive anywhere. Victor Maggitti, Jr., wanted to do just that. He wanted a home theater that he could use with family, guests and clients.

"I've been in business since 1960 and I often entertain my customers out of my home, so I kept that in mind when I had the basement constructed," says Maggitti, who owns a concrete forming and accessories business. Maggitti's basement includes a game room, bar area, gym, wine cellar and now a state-of-the-art home theater. "When we are entertaining, we have dinner in the wine cellar and then move to theater for a movie," he says.

In addition to his clients, Maggitti says his primary reason for having the theater built was for his family. The theater has become a

special place for his eight children, eight grandchildren and his fiancé to gather. "In wanting to create this theater for the children, I found that the adults always wind up there, too," says Maggitti. "They want to relax and hang out in the space. So we have already had many pleasant hours enjoying it together."

"I love the theater," adds Florence Milch, Maggitti's fiancé. "Even if a movie isn't on, just sitting in the room is incredibly tranquil."

A SPECTACULAR VIEW

Maggitti's theater is quite spectacular—much nicer than many movie theaters, in fact. "The client requested a grand movie palace-style home theater," says Rob Dzedzy, president and owner, Media Rooms Inc., a full-service design, construction and installation company specializing in electronic systems and related custom interiors.



None other than Marilyn Monroe sells tickets to Maggic Theatre, named after owner Victor Maggitti's dad.

Dzedzy personally oversaw Maggitti's project from start to finish. "The goal was to create an attractive theater with art deco design influences," he adds.

This project earned Media Rooms Inc., a DelCY award for the Home Theater/Media Room category, and gave the company the distinction of being the first Del-Chester National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) member to win a National CotY award.

INSIDE THE THEATER

The staircase leading down to the lower level, where the theater is located, opens into a foyer area, explains Dzedzy. This area includes a ticket booth with none other than Marilyn Monroe on the job. The mannequin always gives guests a laugh, and is a very unique touch. Dzedzy also created theater-themed entrance doors, which add an authentic feel. The theater is named after Maggitti's dad, who was nicknamed Maggic, and Dzedzy created an art deco themed sign for the name, which hangs above the entranceway.

Having theater-style seating was an important feature, so Dzedzy selected chairs that were very luxurious. Seating for nine includes five individual motorized recliners and two motorized reclining loveseats. "The chairs are honestly more comfortable than a bed," says Milch. "They are beautiful, too, but more than anything, they are just so relaxing to sit in."

All of the audio processing and video source components are hidden nicely behind a closet door. "We fabricated a decorative acoustical panel to camouflage the door," says Dzedzy. "Left and right speakers were built into the decorative columns behind acoustically transparent fabric. And room-matching decorative acoustic panels were placed throughout the room to match the aesthetic, but diffuse the sound."

Perhaps the most unique details are on the ceiling, which features starfield fiber optics so that when the lights are out, moviegoers can feel as though they are watching a film under the stars. "I can control the lighting so that it's either completely off, or just the stars are on," says Maggitti. "Rob did such a fantastic job with the details. He even went as far as arranging the stars as they would be in our actual heaven. There are constellations, like the Big Dipper, on my ceiling. It's amazing."

The ceiling itself was painted completely black, including all the HVAC vents and recessed light reflectors. The black ceiling enhances the video picture quality and also allows for maximum visual impact. All of the lighting in the theater—including starfield fiber optics, sconces, recessed lighting and step lighting—is controlled from a touch-panel remote.

In addition to enjoying the theater for his own use, Maggitti, who is very involved with Malvern Preparatory School, has used it for >>>

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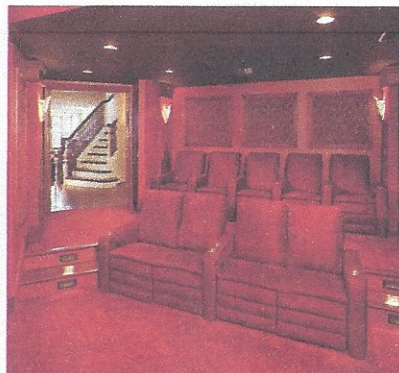
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charity functions as well. Two years ago, he auctioned off tickets for dinner-for-eight in his wine cellar followed by a showing in the theater, at the school's annual charity auction. It went for \$6,000 and prompted a losing bidder to ask if he

could also "purchase" the tickets if he was willing to match the \$6,000. This past year, bids reached \$5,500, with three additional bidders asking if they could also match the highest bid. "So I have four dinners this year that I will be giving along with a movie showing," says Maggitti. "I've found that everyone, including myself, truly loves this theater!"

Media Rooms Inc. is located at 20 Hagerty Blvd., West Chester. For more information, visit www.mediaroomsinc.com or call 610-719-8500. This theater project has also won a silver award for Best Technical Design, Large Home Theater Level IV from the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA).

Visit DelChester NARI at www.delchesternari.org for information about the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

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