The Ultimate Man Cave
Case Study | Residential

Challenge
To create the Ultimate Man Cave. One homeowner was looking to transform his basement and garage space into a unique retreat where he could store his wine collection, entertain friends and display his supercar, a McLaren 650s Spider.

Solution
In a complex feat of innovative installation and technical prowess, a Crestron 3-series processor controlled rotating turntable acts as a centrepiece to this room, encasing the McLaren within a curved glass and leather cylinder for the ultimate wow-factor. A custom user interface for the Crestron TSW touch panels uses Smart Graphics control to unify the newly installed entertainment system, providing instant access to TV, movies, music or automation of the car turntable from the touch of a button.

It’s not often that a home automation installation captures the imagination, but this exciting residential project in Cheshire certainly has the wow-factor. In fact, so impressive was the finished installation, it won Best Innovative Solution in the Crestron Integration Awards 2016.
The challenge was to create the Ultimate Man Cave, an idea that was conjured in the mind of the client who imagined turning his unexciting garage space into something much more entertaining. In a complex feat of innovative installation and technical prowess, Ultamation & Intuitive Homes successfully married the clean design of Crestron’s advanced home automation with industrial motor controls to create an intelligent hideaway that Bruce Wayne would be proud of.

David, the homeowner, wanted a unique retreat within his existing basement car park in which to escape the outside world, store his wine collection, entertain friends and display his supercar, a McLaren 650s Spider. Having previously worked with Ultamation for the Crestron install throughout his main house, David introduced them to the project in February 2015.

Ultamation & Intuitive Homes worked with an industrial controls company to create an automated rotating turntable as a centrepiece, encasing the car within curved glass and leather, while ensuring it had all the health and safety features required. The turntable is controlled by a Crestron 3-series processor, which can rotate the car to pre-set positions or simply spin 360° for “look at me” appeal.

The brief was to construct the ultimate man-cave, so asides from the aesthetic grandeur and impressive layout imagined by Simon Evans of interiors company Uber, the tech needed to roar with power too. Ultamation & Intuitive Homes worked with an industrial controls company to create an automated rotating turntable as a centrepiece, encasing the car within curved glass and leather, while ensuring it had all the health and safety features required. The turntable is controlled by a Crestron 3-series processor, which can rotate the car to pre-set positions or simply spin 360° for “look at me” appeal.
Turning up the entertainment factor to the max, a unified entertainment system provides instant access to TV, movies, music or automation of the car turntable. An HD distribution system was installed in the games room, with HiFi audio distribution throughout the space and over 15 sensors to facilitate additional features – including gate and garage door automation, so when the homeowner drives into the driveway, the home’s lighting, heating and AV systems kicks in.

Magnetic flux vehicle detection sensors are fitted into the driveway and underneath the cars which detect when a vehicle has entered the garage and when it is parked. This in turn starts up a pre-defined playlist of background music, including his and hers pre-sets, depending on which car has arrived home.

There are sensors on every door within the man-cave, which not only enhance safety (the turntable won’t operate if the door is open), but also notifies the owner if the wine cellar door is left open, for example. The features also include automated audio in the bathroom, so when it is in use the occupant can enjoy music or sports commentary filtered through from the games room.

“The project presented a number of challenges in the mix of sensors we needed to integrate – we have magnetic flux detectors set into the floor and laser range finders through to the control of the 0.75Kw drive motor for the turntable, and all of the safety features required to spin a £200k car inside what’s effectively a huge glass cylinder” explains Oliver Hall, Managing Director of Ultamation. “Crestron’s product range and programming flexibility meant we could accommodate all of this easily.”

“Automation comes into its own when the technology responds to things you do through your normal lifestyle without thinking, which is why the wealth of information we get from all of the sensors is able to drive the Crestron system to react in a truly intelligent way.”
Ultamation and Intuitive Homes designed a custom user interface for the Crestron TSW touch panels using Smart Graphics control to create a bespoke “man-cave” feel. The system is connected to the industrial controls of the turntable to show the exact rotational position of the car. With a simple swipe, the car can be rotated to specific angles to show off its best side and when the system is not in use the vehicle will always come to rest pointing outwards, towards the garage entrance.

“We knew from the initial meetings that this was going to be an exciting project and a true ‘custom installation’. Whilst there are always challenges in delivering a unique solution, it simply wouldn’t have been possible without the power and versatility of the Crestron control system,” says Stephen Nevison, Intuitive Homes. “The functionality of the system on its own is amazing but the custom user interface is my favourite feature and always puts a smile on my face!”

The project was finally completed in December 2015, just in time for New Year’s Eve. David is delighted with the result, saying: “What originally started as an idea to use a little of our basement car parking space as a room to watch football and play pool has evolved into a state-of-the-art man cave and I couldn’t be happier with the result. From initial concepts...through to completion, the space has transformed into more than I could have hoped for and the level of automation and intelligent control adds genuine convenience, on top of the obvious wow factor. From the reactions of my guests on New Year’s everyone else is blown away too. It’s my own little Vegas!”

“The space has transformed into more than I could have hoped for and the level of automation and intelligent control adds genuine convenience, on top of the obvious wow factor.”

David, Homeowner