

FROM VISION TO REALITY



RTI Control System Anchors Stunning Tennessee Home Theater and Whole-Home Automation



When Scott and Shelley Ward relocated to their lakeside home in Tullahoma, Tennessee, they envisioned more than just a beautiful residence overlooking Lake Tullahoma. Their dream included a sophisticated entertainment space that could seamlessly transition from family movie nights to corporate presentations for their packaging business. The challenge lay in creating a system complex enough to handle professional requirements while remaining simple enough for everyday family use.

Hugh Cobb of Cobb Home Innovations understood that successful home theater design extends far beyond impressive audio and video components. The control system would need to orchestrate multiple subsystems while maintaining the intuitive operation that defines exceptional user experiences. This project would showcase how the RTI control platform could unify complex technology into elegant simplicity.

The centerpiece installation occupies a substantial 30×30-foot space in the home's finished basement, designed to accommodate both intimate family viewing and business presentations for up to ten people. The technical requirements were demanding: Dolby Atmos® surround sound processing, 4K laser projection, automated lighting scenes, and seamless integration with whole-home systems.

An RTI XP-8v control processor became the intelligence hub for the entire installation, managing not only the theater's sophisticated audio-video components but also integrating

lighting control, HVAC systems, and security throughout the residence. The distributed control architecture ensures consistent performance whether managing the theater's Epson laser projector or adjusting Lutron lighting scenes in distant rooms.

"We installed an RTI XP-8v control system and added an RTI T4x touchscreen remote with automated one-touch 'scenes' for watching a movie or sports or firing up a business presentation," Cobb explained. This approach reflects his philosophy that regardless of system complexity, operation must remain intuitive and accessible.

The RTI T4x remote serves as the primary interface, featuring customized scenes that instantly configure the entire environment for specific activities. A single button press for "Movie Mode" simultaneously dims lights, powers up the projection system, configures audio processing for cinema content, and adjusts climate control for optimal comfort. The "Business Mode" scene provides appropriate lighting levels for presentations while ensuring audio clarity for corporate communications.

Voice control integration through Alexa adds another layer of convenience, allowing users to activate scenes or make adjustments without relying on the remote. This proves particularly valuable during presentations when maintaining professional atmosphere requires seamless technology operation.

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The control system's sophistication extends beyond the theater itself. RTI integration with Lutron Caséta PRO lighting enables coordinated illumination throughout the home, including the theater's dramatic wall sconces and illuminated movie posters. These theatrical elements aren't merely decorative – they're integral components of the automated lighting scenes that transform the space from functional to cinematic.

"We installed an RTI XP-8v control system and included an RTI T4x touchscreen remote with automated one-touch 'scenes' for watching a movie or sports or firing up a business presentation. No matter how complex the system is, above all else, it has to be easy to use."

Hugh Cobb, Cobb Home Innovations

Cobb's implementation demonstrates RTI's flexibility in accommodating evolving requirements. Initially designed with straightforward functionality, the system easily adapted when the Wards decided to enhance the theater's aesthetic appeal. The control programming seamlessly incorporated new lighting elements, including custom wall columns with elegant sconces and illuminated movie posters tied into the Lutron system.

The theater's audio-video components benefit from the comprehensive RTI device control capabilities. The system manages source selection between the Sony 4K Blu-ray player and Roku Ultra streamer, coordinates the Yamaha RX-A8 receiver's complex processing options, and ensures the Epson projector delivers optimal image quality for any content type. Component cooling and power management systems operate transparently under RTI control, maintaining optimal operating conditions without user intervention.

Beyond the theater, RTI control extends throughout the Ward residence, managing a complete technology ecosystem. The system coordinates Samsung displays in multiple rooms, each equipped with Sonos audio systems, while maintaining consistent control interfaces through strategically placed

iPad stations. The integration includes a motorized TV mount above the family room fireplace, security cameras, and outdoor audio systems.

The whole-home approach showcases RTI's scalability and integration capabilities. Whether the Wards are hosting business associates in the theater or entertaining family on the patio, the same intuitive control philosophy applies throughout their home. Climate control, security systems, and audio distribution all respond to the same simple interface paradigms established in the theater.

Professional presentation capabilities receive particular attention in the system design. The RTI control enables rapid transitions between entertainment and business modes, adjusting lighting for optimal screen visibility while maintaining appropriate audio levels for clear communication. The seamless operation eliminates technical distractions that could compromise professional presentations.

The project's success lies not in its individual components but in RTI's ability to unify diverse technologies into a cohesive experience. From single-button movie modes that coordinate multiple subsystems to voice commands that activate complex lighting scenes, the control system transforms potential complexity into elegant simplicity.

For Cobb Home Innovations, this installation demonstrates how thoughtful control system design can elevate any home theater from impressive to exceptional. The RTI platform's flexibility accommodated design evolution while maintaining operational simplicity – proving that sophisticated control and user-friendly operation aren't mutually exclusive concepts.

The Ward theater stands as testament to RTI's role in modern luxury home design, where control systems don't just manage technology – they create experiences that enhance daily life while meeting professional requirements with equal sophistication.

List of RTI products used:

- 1x XP-8v Control Processor
- 1x T4x Touchscreen Remote Control
- Alexa voice control integration
- Integration with Lutron Caséta PRO lighting system
- iPad control stations throughout home
- Comprehensive whole-home automation control



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