



## ELIFESPACES WINNER CEA 2008 MARK OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CHARLESTON, SC. (Mar 17, 2008) - The Consumer Electronics Association's (CEA®) announced that Charleston, SC-based eLifespaces captured three top electronic integrator awards in the 2008 Mark of Excellence Awards presented by CEA's TechHome Division. The winners were recognized at an awards dinner this evening at the ninth annual Electronic House Expo (EHX) Spring 2008.

Competing among technology companies nationwide, eLifespaces was awarded



Best Integrated Security Project, Best Distributed Audio/Video Project, and the coveted Ultimate Home of the Year categories. "Our team was privileged to have worked with a wonderful homeowner and is incredibly honored and thankful to them, the other project team participants, and our industry," said Fred Fabian, eLifespaces' President.

CEA's Mark of Excellence Awards honor industry leaders in custom electronics products, services, and installations that are instrumental in changing the shape of the connected home. Industry trend setters were honored in three categories – Supplier, Training and Support Programs, and System Integrators.



Each TechHome Mark of Excellence Awards category is judged by a four-member panel comprised of systems integrators, manufacturers, members of the trade press, and industry consultants. Each entry is given a numeric score and the entry with the highest score in each category is named a TechHome Mark of Excellence Awards winner.

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### The origin of THX?

THX stands for Tomlinson Holman's eXperiment. THX was developed by Tomlinson Holman at George Lucas's company Lucasfilm in 1982. The goal—ensure that the soundtrack for the third Star Wars film, Return of the Jedi, would be accurately reproduced for the viewing audience.

What is the name of the sound trademarked as THX's audio logo?

## STANDARDS FOR REFERENCE THEATERS

Often misinterpreted, THX is a set of strict standards for reproduction of high quality sound and images in commercial and residential theaters, screening rooms, and more. THX is not a recording technology like Dolby Digital, TrueHD, and others, although all sound for-

mats can be reproduced in the THX mode. THX's objective—recreate for the viewer the same experience as was had by the film's director when editing the original movie.

In addition to products holding their certifications, THX stan-

dards also address architectural requirements of a room including acoustical performance, geometry, and sound isolation. Contact an eLifespaces Certified THX Technician about implementing THX standards in your project.





## MARK OF EXCELLENCE WINNING HOME

Built in the 18th Century, the home represents one of Charleston's treasures, located on the historic Battery. The Homeowners wanted to renovate the house with priorities in preserving many of the home's unique characteristics. Having a deep technological background, the owner's objectives were to enjoy technologies that encompassed security, lighting control, entertainment systems, motorization, data and communication. Most importantly, these systems were to be integrated to provide seamless operation.

Our engagement with the homeowners began with a series of meetings over two months. After introducing them to the features of various products and integrated systems, we were able to develop a scope of work, supported by drawings, riser diagrams and other documents. With copies to the homeowners, GC and interior designer, these drawings and specifications, periodically updated, allowed us to keep the project

on course.

Three security systems were designed under distinct protocol sets; burglary, life safety and CCTV. Integrating these into the home's other systems afforded expanded safety and functionality.

Controlled lighting loads were identified early in the project allowing us to incorporate their use into the other control systems. Astronomical timers and other system interface events (i.e. climate control, etc.) executed various lighting scenes (including the motorized windows & window treatments) and thermostat control.

Managing and distributing a 1,200+ DVD collection, exceeded by an even



larger number of music CDs led the requirements for our entertainment system. Since many entertainment system components (i.e. TiVO, MusicServers, VideoServers, etc.) utilized the home network, great care was focused on management of data traffic, not to mention the storage requirements!

"When we contracted with eLifespaces we were looking for more than the usual lighting, audio and home theater solutions.

We needed a company that could focus on many technological levels and with great depth and understanding... I don't know of any company that can provide the range and depth of service we have received at eLife!", said Mike Appleby, the homeowner.

## ELIFESPACES 'FAQ'

What is an aspect ratio? 'Four by three', 'sixteen by nine' - what do these numbers represent? There is 'traditional' or 'Academy' [a/k/a 1.33], 'Letterbox' or 'widescreen' [a/k/a 1.78]. Were you aware of the multiple others? Cinema, CinemaScope, Panavision are just a few. Here is another audio visual



question—What does the acronym, HDMI represent?

These and many other questions are addressed in eLifespaces' new website

"Everything you always wanted to know about A/V but were afraid to ask." Just kidding, the real name is eLifespaces—Ask A Tech! The web address is

[www.elifespaces.org/faqs](http://www.elifespaces.org/faqs). Links to this site are present at [www.eLifespaces.com](http://www.eLifespaces.com) on the main page.

Learn about "green" issues in the electronics industry. Who will be affected by DTV in the coming months. Also featured are highlights from industry news. Please join us, and remember—the only silly question is the one not asked!

## SAFETY: EXTENSION & FLEXIBLE CORDS

Occasionally, an electrical outlet is not conveniently located where work with power tools needs to take place. Thus the need for flexible extension cords. Because they are exposed, flexible, and unsecured, they are more susceptible to damage than is fixed wiring. Hazards are created when cords, cord connectors, receptacles, and cord- and plug-connected equipment are improperly used and maintained.

Selective tips for safe use:

- Do NOT pull the cord when unplugging from outlet.
- Watch for damaged jacketing on cords.
- Never cut off the grounding pin from a plug.
- Flexible cords are finely stranded for flexibility, so straining a cord can cause the strands of one conductor to loosen from under terminal screws and touch another conductor.

- Limit exposure of connectors and tools to excessive moisture by using water-tight or sealable connectors.
- Select the appropriate rated cord for the task at hand.



**“Deep Note”**  
 is the name of trademarked THX’s audio logo. It’s the exhilarating sound which launches the viewer into movie-mode!

## RAISING THE BAR IN AUDIO

Take the test!

- Are you not listening to music as often?
- Is your volume control turned down?
- Unable to understand the words (music or movies)?

One of the goals in establishing good sound is to reduce listener fatigue. Some classic signs are listed above. Next time you are in a restaurant, listen to the background music played over the sound system. In many cases, you will find that the quality of the music is below average. You may complain to the server, requesting they reduce the volume. Over the course of the dining experience, you will grow increasingly

irritable, finding yourself anxious to leave.

Let’s define sound quality. Breaking it down into five areas, sound quality is:

- 1) Clarity—dialogue, detail, spatial cues.
- 2) Focus—imaging, sound stage, and localization to all listeners
- 3) Envelopment—no gaps, smooth panning on the sound stage AND throughout the room.
- 4) Response—what has been recorded is what you are hearing!



5) Dynamics—power, reduction of ambient noise

Executing good sound in your home or office WILL reintroduce you to the joys of music and movies.

For the skeptics—for those who say they are not audiophiles or can’t hear differences in music—kid yourself no longer in this belief. Make an appointment to visit our facility and hear the difference! eLifespaces are members of HAA® who brings together Manufacturers, Audio/Video Professionals, and Consumers in the pursuit of excellence. For more about HAA, visit their website at [www.homeacoustics.net](http://www.homeacoustics.net).

## STUDENTS OF TECHNOLOGY

Local students from James Island Charter High School (JICHS) were given insights to the applications of technology during a field trip to the eLifespaces’ Technology Center. Christopher Nisof, JICHS networking instructor, coordinated the trip to introduce the students into real world applications of what they had been learning in the classroom.

Students rotated through various technology disciplines in the residential and commercial environments. The Information Technology group addressed the design and layout of internal networks.

Two eLifespaces programmers discussed home automation and integrated control of the many electronic systems in a



home.

Lastly, the students were introduced to the geometry, mathematics and art of good sound reproduction in a surround sound room. The experience was heightened when they were provided a viewing of a recently released movie inside a calibrated reference home theater.

“This needs to be an annual trip for our students. What a good learning experience!”, said Chris Nisof.

## ESECURITY



*Security. Evolved.*

Security. Evolved. A slogan adopted by eSecurity to reflect our commitment to stay abreast of the advances being made in security technologies. Partnering with companies such as GE, PCSC,

and Alarm.com, eSecurity is bringing only the best and latest products and services to its customers.

eSecurity offers:

- Low Monthly Monitoring Fees
- NO Homeowner Long-term Contract Commitments
- 24/7 Customer Support

- Digital / Satellite Monitor Options
- Internet Access System Options
- Trained Professionals
- 24 Hour UL Listed Monitoring Facilities
- CCTV Systems
- Access Control Systems

Call a representative today or visit our website @ [www.esecurespaces.com](http://www.esecurespaces.com).



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## About lifespaces<sup>®</sup>

We are technology contractors. Providing contracting, security and audio visual (AV) services over two decades, the company directors and technical practitioners hold multiple licenses and certifications in the construction, low voltage cabling, electronic, security (both fire & burglar), and electrical contracting fields. As design & installation contractors, our goal is to make the technology in your lifespaces intuitive, invisible, and incredible. Whether it's Video Conferencing, THX Home Theater construction, ISF<sup>®</sup> Video Calibration, HAA<sup>®</sup> acoustic calibration, CCTV systems, or any number of other specialized requirements, let our team of Industry Certified Professional Designers and Installers address your technology needs.

Product Lines include McIntosh, Integra, Jamo, Sonance, totem acoustics, Stealth Acoustics, Pioneer, NEC, Sharp, Digital Projections, Screen Research, Inteset, Lite-Touch, Centralite, Vantage, Russound,

Crestron, Extron, Ashly, Panamax, EquiTech, and many others.

We are also members of ICIA (International Communications Industries Association), CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association), the NAHB (National Association of Home Builders), CEA (Consumer Electronics Association), NBFAA (National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association), SCAA (South Carolina Alarm Association), HAA (Home Acoustics Alliance), AIA (American Institute of Architects), ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), and Better Business Bureau of SC. We hold many industry awards, the most recent of which was Winner in the Consumer Electronics Associations 2008 Mark of Excellence Awards in multiple categories.



2004 TechHome  
2007 TechHome  
Winner  
2008 TechHome  
Mark of Excellence

member  
CEDIA  
CUSTOM ELECTRONIC DESIGN & INSTALLATION ASSOCIATION

NBFAA  
Electronic Life Safety, Security & Systems Professionals

THX  
CERTIFIED DEALER

infoComm  
Member  
INTERNATIONAL

CEA  
Consumer Electronics Association

isf

HAA  
Home Acoustics Alliance

BBB

NAHB

ASIB  
INDUSTRY PARTNER

Certification Wall