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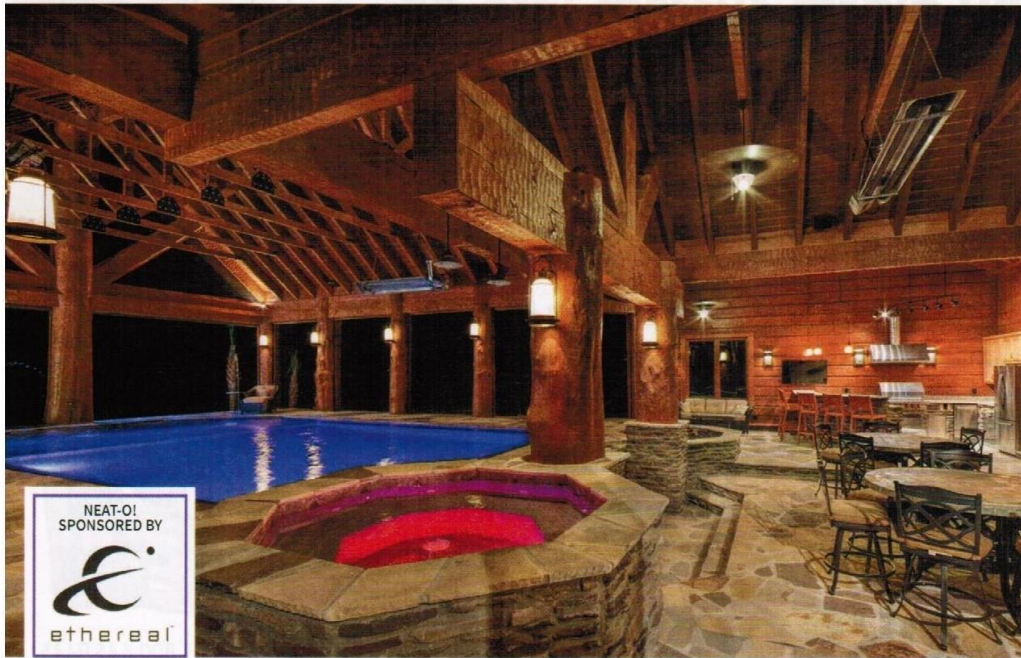
SHOWROOM/
OFFICE SPACE

TO BUY
or
TO LEASE?

How real estate
investment nets
more projects,
better morale and
potential exit strategy.

PAGE 34

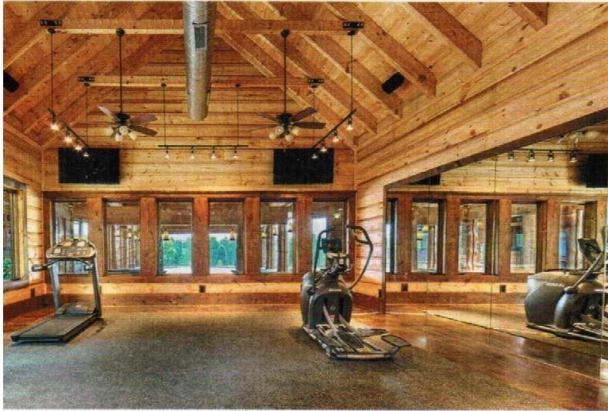
NEAT-O!



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES HICKS

LOG HOME PREWIRE & INSTALLATION

System Installation by Elite Audio



LONG PREWIRE PHASE FOR CHALLENGING PROJECT

Lexington, S.C.-based integrator Elite Audio, prides itself on how it turns challenges into opportunities for creative and unique solutions, and one recent project in particular really put the company's abilities to the test, relates president Brantley Waites. Elite Audio was hired for this installation after construction on the log home had begun. In more than 23 years of prewiring new construction homes, this project was by far the Elite team's most difficult challenge, says Waites. In fact, the total prewire took almost a month, whereas a similar-sized, traditional home with the same infrastructure would have required roughly a week to complete, he explains. One of the first challenges encountered was the construction material of solid log walls. So Elite planned most of its paths for wire in advance with the builder. "This collaboration allowed specific logs for the walls, as well as certain areas for the roof deck, to be grooved as they were stacked so we had paths to route the cables," Waites says.



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES PART OF THE PROCESS

There were additional, less-daunting obstacles throughout the project, he adds. During the commissioning of the lighting control system, for instance, the team experienced what Waites describes as "some unusual problems" that had to be tracked down before the installation could move forward; turns out the culprit was another trade. "We later discovered that these problems were the result of damage to some of our cabling caused by other subcontractors," Waites explains (see photo bottom right). And apart from the work itself, just getting there needed to be factored into the schedule; the home was 45 minutes away from Elite's office, which meant depending on traffic at least one-and-a-half hours each work day were devoted to traveling. "Although this was a challenging project, we are even more prepared for future projects as a result of our experience with this very unique home."



INSTALLATION ADDRESSES SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Prior to the home's completion, Elite was thrown another curveball when an additional structure was started beside the house, which included an indoor pool and a gym. Both the home and the separate pool and gym structure had to be finished at approximately the same time, too. "At this point we needed to engineer a standalone audio/video system with an integrated lighting control system to the main home," Waites says. The resulting technology packages for the home and the pool and gym building included structured wiring systems, two video surveillance systems, a Crestron distributed A/V system with 13 zones and 17 TVs (a trio of 90-inch Sharp TVs plus 14 Samsung models), 17 DirecTV satellite receivers, full network, and whole home centralized lighting controls in both structures.

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