

MICROSOFT CORPORATION DIGITAL HOME DEMO SUITE REDMOND, WASHINGTON

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

As a part of the effort to develop and test software products that will lead the way into the "information age," Microsoft built on its corporate campus a model of an upper middle-class home, which could be used to showcase and test consumer reaction to proposed new product offerings. This resulted in what is known as the Digital Home Demo Suite, or more commonly, the Digital Home.

Due to the rapid evolution of computer and communications technologies, the design of the Digital Home facilities had to accommodate several generations of changing technology. For this reason, both the home-like rooms revealed to the visitor and the behind-the-scenes technology spaces had to be very flexible while permitting high systems reliability and performance.

ACSI'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

ACSI was engaged by Microsoft to provide engineering and project management services. As the designer of the initial complement of computer-based media presentation systems, ACSI was called on to identify the leading technologies for implementation in the Home. As a key member of the architect's design team, ACSI provided the concepts for needed spaces and built-in equipment features. In addition, ACSI provided many details showing the necessary integration of the systems and equipment into the spaces, custom millwork and furniture. During the construction and outfitting of the Home, ACSI also provided specialized project management and coordination services to ensure that the project came together in accordance with the established plans, specifications, and project objectives.

Systems in the Digital Home include those for rear-screen and direct video projection, computer-based video projection in multiple spaces, multi-channel (Surround-Sound) audio presentation, multimedia computers in both home office and family settings, and integrated, user-transparent control of all systems capabilities from anywhere in the suite.

The project was designed and constructed in secret. Since being publicly announced, the Digital Home Demo Suite has been featured in several national publications and has received CBS network news coverage.



Family Room with Large Rear-Screen Display and Surround Sound



Modern Kitchen with Video Display for Computer, Media Presentation or Personal Video Conferencing



Behind the Scenes Computer, Switching And Media Presentation Equipment