

Schoten, Belgium



Crestron Transforms an 1800s Era Belgium Castle Into a Modern Home Technology Showcase

Kasteel Domein Amerloo is a 19th Century castle in Belgium that offers a 21st century lifestyle. The stately mansion is packed with state-of-the-art home technology, and features a Crestron home system that showcases integration on a monumental scale.

Censys Residential Control implemented an impressive, fully-integrated home solution for Kasteel Domein Amerloo, blending beautiful European architecture with the latest home technology. With more than 65 rooms to contend and the grand opening party date set in stone, Censys embarked on a technically ambitious system that would deliver all the luxury and convenience of a modern lifestyle. Completing the project before the party date without detracting from the castle's heritage or classic Empire-inspired interior, was a big challenge.

In addition to enhancing the lifestyle of occupants, the new system would also help fulfill the castle's other function: entertainment. The owners wanted to create a new atmosphere in the state rooms and add to the luxurious amenities of the guest suites. For a project of such scope and complexity, home technology would also play an important role in managing the vast estate, so reliability was crucial.

With a new infrastructure in place, Censys was tasked with designing and implementing an integrated system to control and manage castle's vast array of home technology. A Crestron home system was chosen as a single-platform solution to streamline and simplify the control of home entertainment, thermostats, shades/blinds, security, intercoms, sauna, fireplaces and more.

The castle features more than 80 Crestron keypads, 17" in-wall touchpanels and 20 wireless touchpanels. A Crestron



PVID 16 zone, multi-room video system controls 21 sources including a media server, 10 satellite TV feeds and 11 DVD players. A 60" Pioneer plasma display, 13 Loewe 26-37" LCD TVs and 2 Sony 37" LCDs are placed throughout the property.

Crestron's award-winning Adagio audio distribution system pumps audiophile sound to twenty-size zones from 24 unique sources. The home features a network of free standing and in-ceiling speakers from Bowers & Wilkins, KEF, Speakercraft and Boston Acoustics that were discreetly installed to preserve the palace's regal aesthetics, without compromising sound quality. All TVs can be completely hidden when not in use using customized motorized lifts.

Climate control was of particular importance due to large collections of fine wine and art housed within the castle. A comprehensive HVAC system is fueled from four boilers, with cooling delivered via Mitsubishi AC units. An overview of climate in every room is readily available from all Crestron touchpanels, or from a PC using Creston XPanel. From any touchpanel, thermostats can be easily adjusted from just about anywhere on the property, enabling precision control and optimal energy efficiency.

One touch adjustments for curtains, blinds and five fireplaces are also available from any touchpanel or keypad, adding a further dimension to the building's automated comfort control. Even the sauna and sun bed can be conveniently set to precise personal preferences via the intuitive Crestron button press interfaces. The comprehensive security system features status monitoring of each room with at-a-glance graphical displays, access and control from any touchpanel.

A wide selection of touchpanel presets have been used to simplify operation of the ambitious automation system. Each area of the castle has a dedicated overview page on each touchpanel, allowing occupants or guests to access a number of pre-determined 'scenes'. Whether it's a wine tasting in the cellar, a dinner party on the main floor, or some quiet time in the library, scenes have been set to facilitate each activity. With a button touch, lights, music, shades and thermostats will automatically adjust to perfect levels for any occasion.

Two Crestron control processors combine to form the brains of a powerful integrated automation solution, allowing every audio, video, and environmental element within the castle to become integrated and accessible from the intuitive touchpanels and keypads. For ease of maintenance and service, all the systems can be controlled remotely through a Web browser using XPanel. With one button press however, the homeowner can disconnect the mobile connection option for privacy and safety reasons.

Kasteel Domein Amerloo may well have its roots in the past but, thanks to Censys Residential Control and Crestron technology, its residents and guests enjoy a technology-rich lifestyle which is decidedly futuristic.