



This house has changed my life

Case study | Residential

Challenge

To restore the independence and transform the life of disabled former Harry Potter stunt man, David Holmes.

"I love the fact that I can go to bed at night and feel safe. I can check my cameras and turn everything off. If I hear a noise I can turn a light on and check a camera. I have never had that before. I didn't have that in hospital. There you have to bite down on a buzzer for someone to come and help you."

David Holmes

Solution

CSS embarked upon this transformational project with Crestron, and their solution uses as its foundation the Crestron App to bring together all the functionality of David's home into an intuitive, touch screen interface that took account of David's physical limitations.

Crestron's intuitive and reliable technology has proved totally life changing for 31 year old David Holmes, a former stuntman who, at the age of just 25, broke his neck whilst rehearsing a stunt for the popular Harry Potter film series, leaving him a level C6/7 Tetraplegic.

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How home technology has helped Harry Potter stuntman regain independence

Crestron's innovative technology has helped restore some of David's independence and has offered him the opportunity, even if just for a short period, to escape his disability

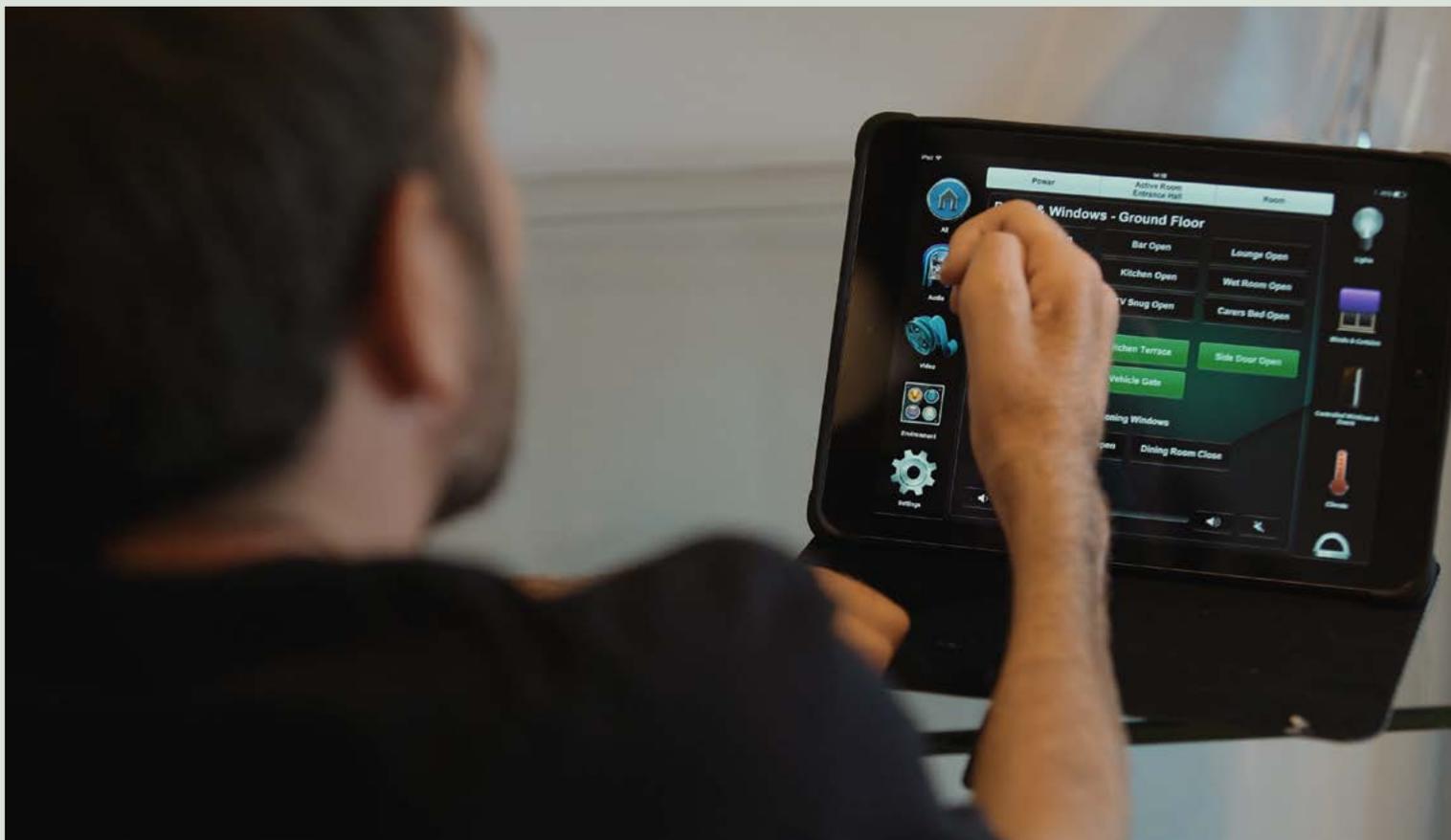
Having trained as a professional international gymnast growing up, David had grown accustomed to the superior use of his body, making the results of his accident all the more difficult to adjust to. Now bound to a wheelchair, David's life is vastly different to six years ago, when he was at his physical peak. Although he still has the use of his arms, his hand functions are very limited, making push-button controls almost impossible to use.

Whilst in hospital recovering from his accident, David started reading about the latest control systems from automation specialists, such as Crestron and began to think about how they could be used in a domestic setting to his benefit. This was the beginning of the decision that would end up ultimately changing the future of living with his disability.



Working closely with his AV integrator Custom Sight & Sound (CSS) has meant that David's dreams have become a reality. The Crestron App has allowed David to have control over functions that without, he would have had to rely on carers help. All the 'simple' things we take for granted such as turning on the light, closing a blind or playing music were suddenly accessible to David and achievable alone through the iPad interface.

"We were engaged to work directly with David to design all aspects of the technology of a new build home," explains Ian Bolt, Managing Director at Custom Sight and Sound. "The goal was to create an automation system to win back the independence that he had lost, to release him from the need to have full time care and live on his own once again. The key to this project was a full Crestron solution.



Large, sensitive Crestron TSW wall touch screen panels control the opening and closing of doors and windows, eliminating the need for handles, all whilst maintaining a stable and constant cooling and heating temperature.

Security was an added aspect that also had its own benefits, as David explains: "I love the fact that I can go to bed at night and feel safe. I can check my cameras and turn everything off. If I hear a noise I can turn a light on and check a camera. I have never had that before. I didn't have that in hospital. There you have to bite down on a buzzer for someone to come and help you."

David was passionate about making a space that didn't feel clinical or that was instantly recognisable as disabled living but instead a space he could feel proud to invite family and friends to. He stresses how the design of disabled rooms within hotels seem to be an afterthought to the main design process with the rooms having a distinctively different feel and look than the rooms for the able bodied.

David was determined not to let his disability define his future. With his hugely inspiring can-do attitude and positive nature, he was keen to use his experience as a way to help others and spread his infectious optimism to individuals who have experienced similar disabilities to himself. David is now an active Appeals Ambassador for the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital as well as the founder of Ripple Productions, a fantastic charity of his own.

Ripple Productions is a small, not-for-profit, production and events company that does some truly remarkable work to help others who have suffered from similar spinal injuries.

Crestron's innovative technology has helped restore some of David's independence and has offered him the opportunity, even if just for a short period, to escape his disability. He stated, "Inside this house my disability is not constant, or ever present". With modern technology constantly evolving, creative solutions such as these that can have such a positive impact on an individual's life, are ultimately invaluable.