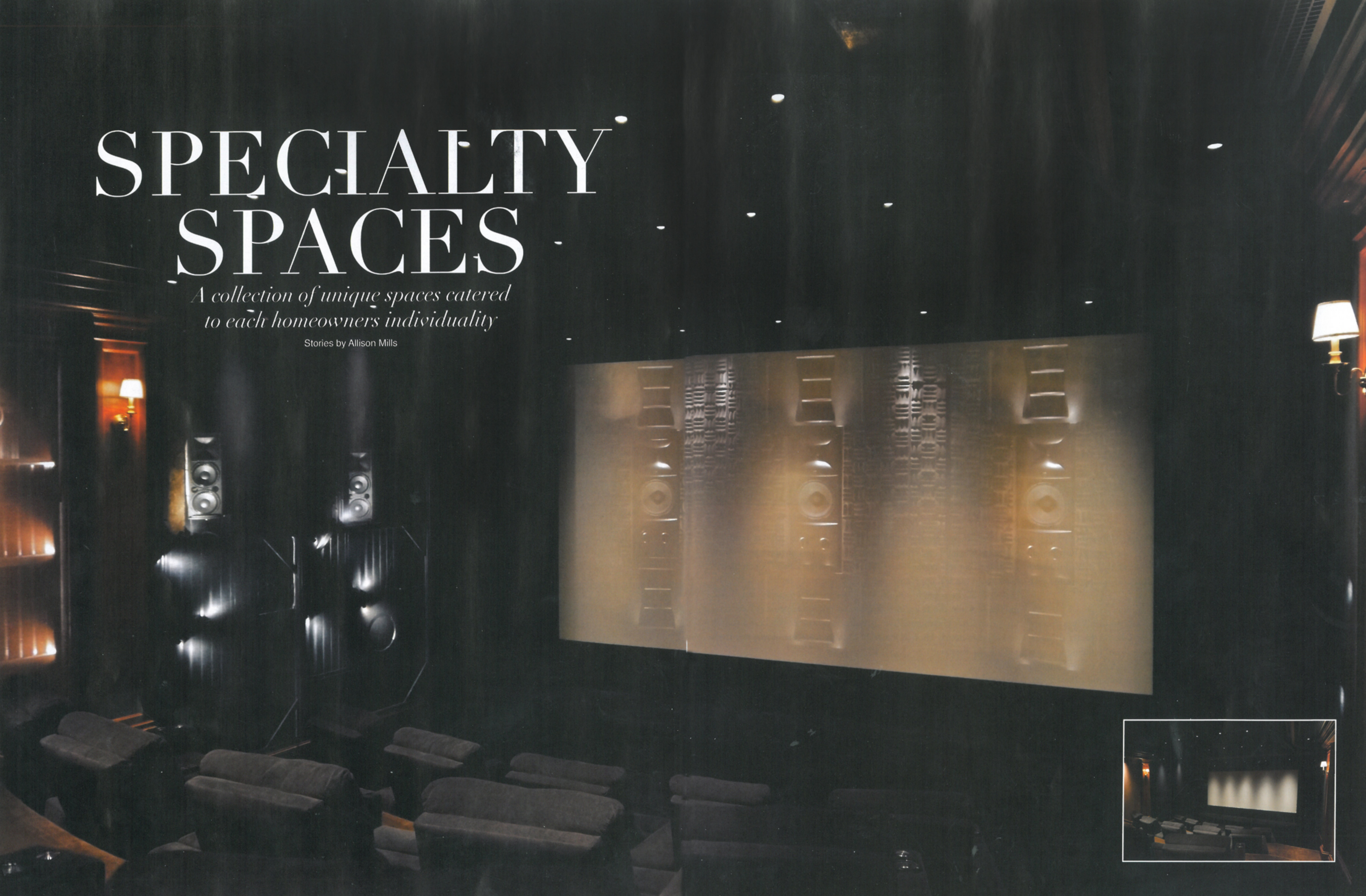
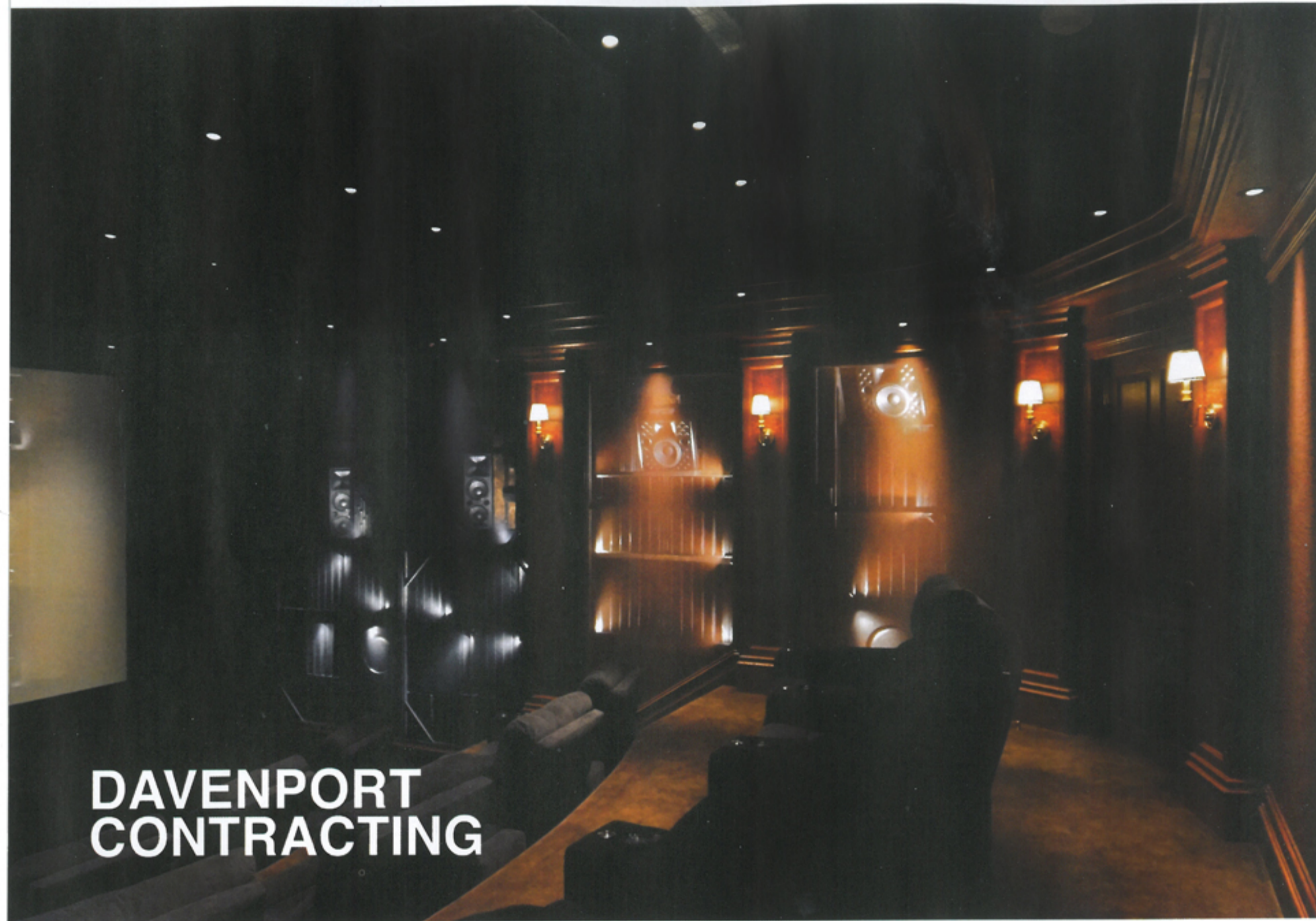


SPECIALTY SPACES

A collection of unique spaces catered to each homeowners individuality

Stories by Allison Mills





DAVENPORT CONTRACTING

Specialty spaces don't come more special than this: when the end result is the true essence of one's being. Rob Hahn, a cinematographer and the owner of this beautiful home theater, is in the enviable position of having created just that.

Being a cinematographer was integral to the whole project. When you are used to creating a world from scratch, building a home theater is essentially an extension of this role. "I've always dreamed of building a proper home theater, but it's only just now that the technology is good enough to do it right," says Rob. "Another motivation was to build a theater that would properly showcase films in the manner they were meant to be seen."

Davenport Contracting in Stamford, CT, executed the actual construction of this specialty space. "We needed a contractor who wasn't afraid to ask questions and would be incessantly curious about solving the many issues that were sure to come up during building," explains Rob, who called for precise construction techniques to achieve the performance he wanted. The need for stupendous sound quality led to the design of a floating room over the garage, which enabled all the speakers and acoustic treatments to be installed in the sides, rear and ceiling of the theater behind acoustically transparent fabric.

The room not only delivers performance on the home theater front, but

oozes warmth and elegance. Rob had to design a space that was comfortable when the lights were on, and also be the perfect environment—with no distracting reflections—for when the lights go down. "A completely black room can feel oppressive, so we built a hybrid," explains Rob. "The back half of the room has warm wood, a deep brown carpet and classic moldings, while the front half is black to maximize perceived contrast on the screen." The room is utterly quiet, so whenever you hear a sound, you subconsciously know it has to be coming from the movie, not from outside the theater.

What if there's a "full house"? "There are 15 seats in the theater: three rows of five seats. The front row is there to provide a frame of reference when watching a film from the back two rows," Rob explains. "It's not really the best place to watch. That said, we did have one important screening where every seat was taken. Rick Koch, the head of Davenport Contracting, passed away from cancer at the end of our job. He was an extraordinary man and the main reason the theater came together so beautifully. He desperately wanted to see a movie in the finished theater, so everyone worked long hours to make that happen. At the end of April 2016, we watched Gravity with him and all the people who helped build the theater. He was so proud of what his company had done, and he was fascinated to see and hear how all the work they did translated to the incredible movie-watching event we were having. It was a profoundly moving



experience that none of us will ever forget."

A real specialty space is one that never ceases to amaze on a daily basis. Rob and his family are always surprised. "This is in our house? Over our garage?" he exclaims. "We never get used to it, kind of like seeing the Grand Canyon."

Resources:

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