



Crestron Combines Technology and Luxury in The Saxon Boutique Hotel, Villas and Spa

Background

Voted the world's leading boutique hotel, The Saxon Boutique Hotel, Villas and Spa in Sandhurst, Johannesburg, is renowned for its state-of-the-art conference facilities.

The luxurious refurbished hotel contains the Nelson Mandela Platinum Suite, three Presidential Suites, and 20 Egoli suites. Additional accommodation is provided in three newly built five-star Villas, one containing seven Egoli Suites and two offering a combination of seven Egoli Suites, four Presidential Suites and a spa treatment room each.

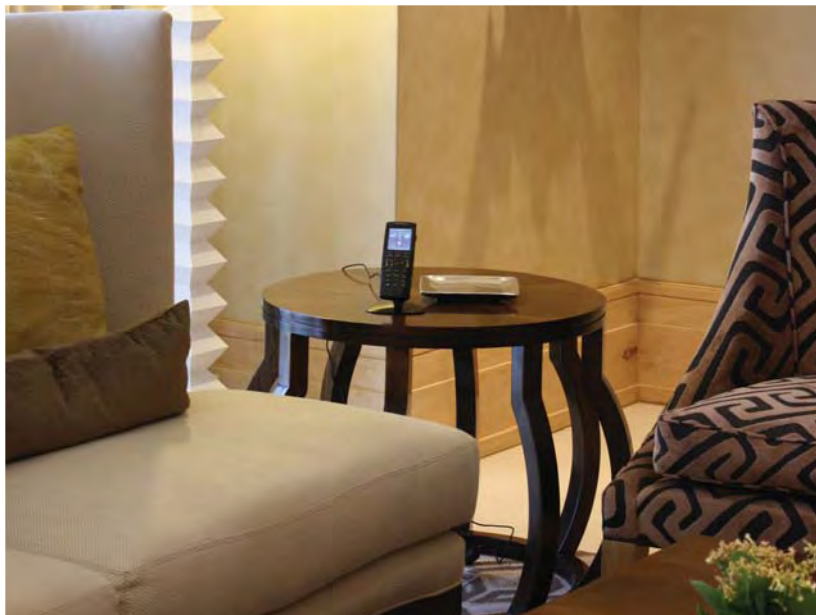
When the Saxon underwent renovation and extension, it sought the same level of integration and control throughout all common areas and private suites – including all in-room entertainment, lighting and air-conditioning systems – on a single platform.

The Challenge

The Saxon wanted a one-remote-per-room solution and a unique look and feel for their rooms, and contacted Johannesburg-based, CKR Consulting Engineers to provide recommendations to meet their needs. CKR evaluated the requirements and specified that all equipment – automation, CCTV, fire detection, IT, and AV – should be controlled by a fully integrated single-platform control solution.

The Solution

South African Crestron distributors, Electrosonic, was asked to demonstrate the capabilities of an integrated Crestron hospitality solution. As a member of the global industry association Hotel Technology Next Generation (HTNG), Crestron understands and meets the challenges the hospitality industry faces. Their control solutions seamlessly integrate with property management systems to monitor and control all room technology, while enabling staff to provide the highest level of personalized service to guests.



CKR selected Crestron as the control solution due to its understanding of hospitality industry requirements, design and flexibility, and versatility of their user interfaces.

Electrosonic set up a fully functional mock-up room, enabling Saxon Managing Director, George Cohen and his project team to put the system through its paces. The mock-up included relevant control and AV systems, and hotel room furnishings from carpeting to furniture and fittings.

Electrosonic was involved in planning, design and management of the system from start to finish, attending weekly project meetings with other suppliers to track progress and ensure that the hotel was up and running in time for the launch of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

CKR selected Panavision as the installer and integrator of the project. Panavision worked closely with the other suppliers to ensure that all the products were integrated with the Crestron system. Wild & Marr supplied the audio equipment, Bang & Olufsen supplied the hotel TV equipment, Dimension Data supplied the video-on-demand (VDA) systems, and Alpine Communications supplied the IT network infrastructure.

“The integration of all the products was easy because Crestron had all the required modules for the products that needed to be integrated,” said Claude Jardim of Panavision.

Pre-wiring commenced in November 2009 and consisted mostly of Cresnet® control and Ethernet cable.

Systems at a Glance

When guests arrive at Saxon, they find the lighting, air conditioning, TV and music pre-set for the time of day, temperature and mood, with automatic background music playing and the TV serving as a welcome screen.

“ Guests who had stayed in the hotel suites previously are now booking the Villa suites where they have total privacy, like being at home, and with technology that works and meets all expectations.”

George Cohen, Managing Director, Saxon Boutique Hotel

The room pre-sets are controlled via Crestron RoomView™ to communicate with all Crestron processors for central monitoring and control.

A major part of the project was the lighting. Electrosonic pre-designed, pre-manufactured and pre-tested all lighting distribution boards which made the installation seamless.



All rooms and common area DB enclosures typically consist of a central DIN-Rail control processor, light dimming and relay switching products, all linked up to the Saxon's IP network.

“Electrosonic designed the system around Crestron's DIN-Rail product line due to its outstanding ease of installation, use, maintenance and cost-effectiveness,” said Eugene Coetzee, of Electrosonic.

The Egoli Suites

Tastefully African in style, the luxuriously furnished Egoli Suites have their own lounge and dining area and are equipped with the latest technology in air-conditioning, automation and state-of-the-art entertainment centre including a high-definition LCD television, Blu-ray player, sound system, full digital satellite TV, digital movie library and iPod docking station.

Crestron TPMC-3X handheld touch screens reside on each side of the king size bed to control sound, TV, temperature and lighting. Several mounted keypads adorn the room to control lighting scenes, volume and source control. The rooms also include a control panel to easily adjust the temperature. Each suite has its own Crestron DINAP2 processor to ensure full control over all equipment.

The Villas

Adjacent to the main hotel, the Villas provide complete privacy and offer an informal, personalized atmosphere, surrounded by gardens.

Each Villa has a communal area that consists of a dining room—which may be easily converted into a boardroom – kitchen with butler service, communal lounge with bar and heated plunge pool.

The communal area in each Villa has a Crestron TPS-6X wireless touch screen for control of lighting, video and background music. The central control processor in each villa is a Crestron 2-Series DINAP2. The Villa Manager can set lighting scenes, video and background music via the TPS-6X touch screen.

The Platinum and Presidential Suites

The Presidential suites feature private entrance halls and large, spacious rooms consisting of guest bathroom, lounge, dining area, fully equipped butler's kitchen and private balcony.



The suites have an HD LCD TV in the lounge with full surround sound, Crestron iPod docking station and TPMC-3X handheld remote touch screen. The bedroom is equipped similarly to the Egoli Suites.

The two-bedroom Nelson Mandela Platinum Suite is accessed via a private entrance, has similar equipment to that found in the Presidential suites, but also offers a Jacuzzi and steam room. This signature suite is designed and furnished to exceed the expectations of dignitaries and celebrities.

The Saxon's managers and butlers have all received training in how to use the Crestron system, and in turn show guests how the system works, should the need arise.

Common areas

Crestron keypads are easily accessible and control all common areas including two boardrooms, dining library, Oprah lounge, piano lounge, cigar lounge, 30-seat auditorium, conference bar, main reception/lobby, restaurant and the chef's table in the heart of the hotel's kitchen.

At the heart of the system are two Crestron 2-Series DINAP2 processors, located in the main server room. These link all the numerous keypads, thermostats, gateways and access points, and ensure rock solid performance of the system.

Business facilities

The Business Centre and General Manager's office are also controlled by Crestron. The Saxon is a true IP environment, with all business communications tools required.

Benefits

Fully equipped workstations, multifunction telephones, faxes and wireless internet access facilitate uninterrupted global business communications for guests.

"Guests who had stayed in the hotel suites previously are now booking the Villa suites where they have total privacy, like being at home, and with technology that works and meets all expectations," concludes Saxon Managing Director, George Cohen.