

DESIGN GURU LEARNS A
VALUABLE, BUT DIFFICULT LESSON



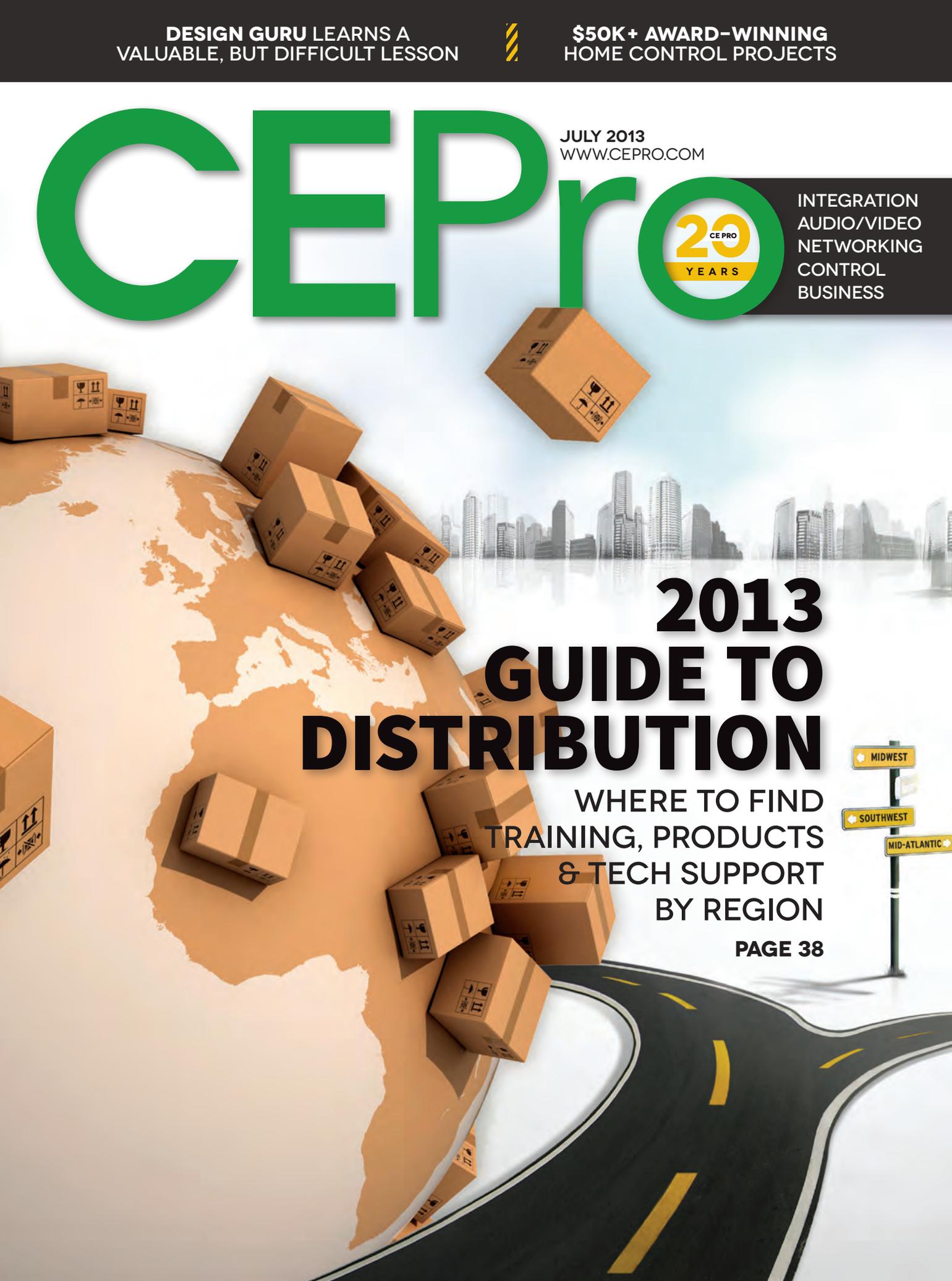
\$50K+ AWARD-WINNING
HOME CONTROL PROJECTS

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EXTRA

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Ahoy!

OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, *CE Pro* has covered a lot of unique niche markets. One particular area in which several coastal integrators have found success is the marine market. Recently, U.K.-based integrator AV Candy used a unique installation on a 69-foot canal boat to catapult itself into the yacht market.

The steel boat was built in Lincolnshire, and when the owners experienced difficulty finding someone who could meet their A/V needs, they called on AV Candy to install a system that would fit into the limited space afforded by the vessel.



The boat's owners requested a home cinema system in the main saloon, with five zones of audio and an additional video zone in the bedroom. The larger components, such as the TVs, antenna mounts and in-motion satellite tracking system, were all fitted while the boat was in dry dock, while the rack equipment, including the Sky+HD, Denon Blu-ray player, Naim music server and Apple-based organ simulator were all installed while the boat was moored.

AV Candy supplied a full specification and wiring schematic so the work could be carried out, and several designs were required to ensure the equipment rack

could slot into the space available.

AV Candy, which normally provides cinema and audio systems for private homes, has since begun developing more robust systems that will allow people to live aboard boats and in mobile residences.

"We're used to dealing with complex projects and delivering bespoke, high-quality A/V systems, but we would usually work in domestic settings, installing home cinema and surround-sound packages," says AV Candy director Simon Redfeam. "Fitting a 69-foot canal boat was a huge task; not least because the space was so limited."

"We really had to find our 'sea legs' for this job," Redfeam continues. "The space available to us to work meant that only one person could work on the vessel at any one time. We also had to park our vehicles several hundred meters away from the mooring which meant there was also lots of lifting and carrying involved in the job and our levels of fitness increased dramatically."

"However, although the job was a challenge, it was a hugely enjoyable experience and we learned an awful lot. Not least that people who live in, or on, mobile vehicles have very specific requirements, not only in terms of reduced space, but also because the very act of moving can adversely affect Internet connection," he says. "As a result of this project, we embarked on an intensive program of research and development to create ways to connect to the Internet that aren't compromised by the movement of vehicles and the process of traveling. Since this first job, we've worked on a number of other canal boat projects, and along with motor homes and caravans, it's now a sector we're targeting more seriously."—*Jason Knott*



▲ AV Candy outfitted this 69-foot canal boat with five zones of audio and a home theater. The cramped space was the biggest challenge. The company is now looking into ways to target mobile connectivity for marine market.

Equipment List

- ▶ Russound CAV6.6
- ▶ Kramer HDMI 4 in 2 out HDMI matrix
- ▶ 2 Kramer HDMI transmitter and receiver
- ▶ 2 Panasonic TVs
- ▶ Sky+HD box
- ▶ Naim NS01 server
- ▶ Denon AVR
- ▶ Denon Blu-ray
- ▶ Tracvision satellite system
- ▶ Middle Atlantic rack hardware
- ▶ Global Cache IP to RS232 and infra red converters
- ▶ 2 Philips Pronto 9400
- ▶ 13 Anthony Gallo Micro speakers
- ▶ Anthony Gallo sub woofer
- ▶ 2 KEF speakers