

BEST BOARDROOMS *Presentation Rooms*

Investment giant Merrill Lynch's executive boardroom is a classic mix of old-school elegance and up-to-the-minute technology. At first glance, most of the room's technological enhancements are practically invisible — but make no mistake, this room can do just about anything. A speaker at the lectern can control every function in the room, including lighting and projectors, and the room has been acoustically engineered to have no "dead" spots or echoing when someone is speaking. Each week, the room is used for videoconferences with Merrill Lynch's London offices; the cameras are hidden in pedestals on either side of the projection screen at the front of the room. The projection screen itself can be widened to include one or two additional screens, and dual plasma screens at the back of the room display outside information sources, such as CNN, CNBC or live stock-market data. Each system in the room has multiple built-in redundancies, and each videoconferencing codec has separate network circuits. This impressive combination of appealing aesthetics and sophisticated technology earned the room our grand prize. Congratulations to all involved.

grand prize

Stats

AV cost: \$750,000

Total cost: \$1.8 million

Architect: Cannon, 212.972.9800

System designer: Shen, Milsom & Wilke, 212.725.6800

AV dealer: Ace Audiovisual Inc., 718.429.2555

Equipment

Crestron control system

NEC 42-inch plasma displays (2)

Sony VPLX-FX200U LCD projectors (3)

Folsom 9400 JR scan converter

Samsung SVP6000 document camera

PictureTel VZ 4000 videoconference system (2)

ASPI EF1210 audioconferencing system

AKG and Shure table/lavalier microphones (26)

Crown LM-300 podium microphone

JBL and EAW speakers (11)

Sennheiser SI1015 assisted-listening system

Pioneer DVL-919 DVD player

Samsung SV-4000 multisync VCR



Merrill Lynch
Executive Boardroom
World Financial Center
New York City



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BEST BOARDROOMS *Presentation Rooms*

2nd place

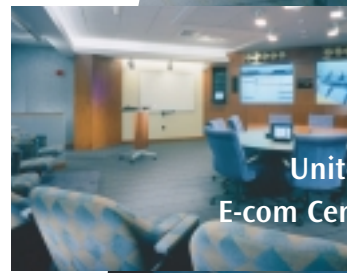
United Technologies' primary objective when designing its E-com Center conference room was to create a space that allows a tremendous amount of communication flexibility. The room can accommodate practically any type of interactive videoconference, and the large dual screens ensure that everyone can see them, no matter how many people are in the room. The room can be used for small or large meetings; the sightlines for presenters are excellent in almost every possible configuration of the room. In short, this is a room that can be used in many different ways, for many different purposes, from small-group meetings to large gatherings to interactive videoconferences. It's a flexible, nontraditional way of using the space — and an ingenious one at that.

Stats

AV cost: \$175,000
Total cost: n/a
Architect: Maria Zawadski,
 H2Z Design, 860.343.9410
System designer:
 AV Associates Inc.,
 860.487.1330
AV dealer: AV Associates Inc.,
 860.487.1330

Equipment

Crestron control system
 Sharp XG-3500U LCD projectors (2)
 Extron VSC-200 scan converter
 Stewart Optawave 75-inch projection screens (2)
 Elmo EV-500AF document camera
 Numonics whiteboard
 Compaq workstation
 PictureTel VM-4000 videoconferencing system
 CTG SM-02 audioconferencing system
 CTG CM-01 microphones (6)
 CTG SP-01 speakers (6)



United Technologies Corp.
 E-com Center Conference Room
 Hartford, Conn.

3rd place

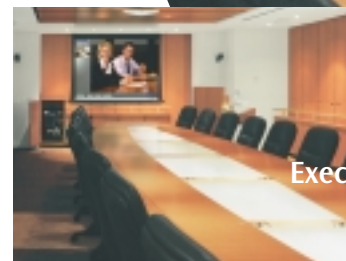
Someone entering the Equity Office Properties Trust boardroom in Chicago for the first time isn't likely to notice the powerful AV system — and that's the idea. The room has a clean, warm feel, with a view of the Chicago skyline. But hidden from view is some impressive hardware. In addition to standard media capabilities — computer display, video and audio — the room has capabilities for DVD, CD audio, slide-to-video conversion, electronic whiteboarding, satellite television and video-, audio- and data-conferencing. The room is specially designed for videoconferencing, with light emanating from the table's center cast diffusely on participants' faces. When images are projected on the screen, the room itself can be darkened, but the table remains lighted enough for people to see their work. The side panel opens into a full kitchen, too. This is a full-service boardroom in every sense of the word.

Stats

AV cost: n/a
Total cost: n/a
Architect: Valerio Dewalt Train
 Associates, 312.332.0363
System designer: Mark Zenner,
 414.908.6175
AV dealer: United Visual Inc.,
 630.467.1500

Equipment

Panja Axcnet 3 control system
 Panasonic PT-L797PXU LCD projector
 Draper projection screen
 Kodak Videomate VM2250MZ slide-to-video converter
 Canon DZ-3600U document camera
 Softboard 201 electronic whiteboard
 Intel Teamstation 384 videoconferencing system
 Gentner audioconferencing system
 Audio Technica AT845 table microphones (14)
 Sony WRR-800 wireless lavalier microphone
 TOA F-121CM ceiling speakers



Equity Office
 Properties Trust
 Executive Boardroom
 Chicago

BEST
BOARDROOMS
Presentation Rooms

Stats

AV cost: \$214,500

Total cost: \$500,000

Architect: Tomas R. Jimenez, 809.220.2145

System designer: Audio Visual Concepts Inc., 787.753.7700

AV dealer: Audio Visual Concepts Inc., 787.753.7700

Honorable mention

Codetel-GTE

President's Boardroom

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Stats

AV cost: \$2.5 million

Total cost: \$4.7 million

Architect: Urban Design Group, 918.582.6377

System designer: Eric Bloom,

Williams Communications, 918.573.9138

Interior designer: Bellwether Design, 918.584.2355

AV dealer: B&B Systems, 702.262.7978

Honorable mention

Williams Communications

Executive Briefing Center

Tulsa, Okla.

Stats

AV cost: \$205,000

Total cost: \$325,000

Architect: n/a

System designer: Amin Elkhailifa, +971.50.625.3432

AV dealer: Omnix International LLC, +971.4.324.6664

Honorable mention

International Investment Corp.

Executive Boardroom

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

