



ACT INSTALLS — FOR ARCHITECTS

Architect Technology Planning Guide

A working reference for building hidden technology into schematic design, ceiling and soffit details, and equipment spaces before construction documents lock the plan.

Technology that disappears into a residence is drawn in, not bolted on afterward. The projects that achieve true Invisible Technology™ are the ones where speaker locations, shade pockets, conduit pathways, and equipment space are considered at the same table as structural and mechanical coordination — starting at schematic design, not construction administration.

This guide summarizes the planning inputs ACT needs from your team, and the deliverables we provide in return, so that low-voltage and audiovisual infrastructure moves through your drawing set with the same discipline as any other building system.

Designing for Hidden Technology from Schematic Design Onward

The earlier a Luxury Technology Advisor is looped into design conversations, the more options remain for concealment: in-wall and in-ceiling speaker locations, motorized shade pockets, dedicated chases, and rack space can all be resolved with minimal impact when they're addressed at SD or DD. By construction documents, most of those options have narrowed to costly field changes.

- ☐ Flag rooms with defined audio, video, or lighting scope early, even before equipment is selected
- ☐ Reserve wall and ceiling cavities for cable pathways adjacent to structural framing, not through it
- ☐ Coordinate speaker and shade locations against reflected ceiling plans before they're finalized
- ☐ Identify exterior zones for ACT Outdoor™ coverage so conduit stubs are set during rough grading
- ☐ Note any rooms intended for a dedicated media or listening space, which carry their own structural and acoustic requirements

Ceiling and Soffit Coordination for Speakers and Shades

- ☐ Confirm soffit depth requirements against shade tube and bracket dimensions before soffits are framed
- ☐ Align in-ceiling speaker locations with joist bays and blocking, not just reflected ceiling plan aesthetics



- ☐ Coordinate speaker and sensor cutouts with lighting and HVAC diffuser layouts to avoid field conflicts
- ☐ Detail access provisions for motorized shade motors and speaker backboxes where soffits are not accessible from above
- ☐ Route conduit for concealed volume controls and keypads before drywall, sized for future cable pulls

Equipment Room Sizing and Placement in Early Plans

Equipment spaces are frequently sized as an afterthought and end up undersized, poorly ventilated, or located too far from primary runs. Planning rack elevation, power, and ventilation into early floor plans avoids retrofitting a closet mid-construction. A well-planned equipment room also supports Quiet Technology™ — mechanical cooling and rack placement that keeps noise out of living spaces entirely.

- ☐ Locate the equipment room centrally to primary AV and network runs to limit cable distance
- ☐ Reserve floor space and elevation clearance sized to The Signature Rack™ rather than a generic closet footprint
- ☐ Provide dedicated, isolated circuits and confirm HVAC or supplemental cooling capacity for continuous equipment load
- ☐ Provide a solid door, not louvered, with mechanical ventilation to control both dust and acoustic transfer
- ☐ Position the room away from bedrooms and quiet living areas where fan and rack noise would be noticeable

Documentation and CAD Coordination with ACT

ACT reviews drawings at defined intervals rather than a single markup pass, matching the milestones already built into your design process. This is formalized through the ACT Blueprint™ process, our nine-step framework for carrying technology scope from concept through commissioning in step with the architectural and construction timeline.

Working from shared CAD files or PDF markups, we return low-voltage plans, RCP overlays, and equipment schedules in a format your consultant set can incorporate directly, keeping technology infrastructure current with every drawing revision.

Questions on a specific set of drawings or a project in schematic design — reach out to ACT Installs.