



designed for the sculpture viewing area can you tell us its story.

Christiansen: When we got the sculpture running reliably the next step was to house the controls that up until that point had been just setting on a table. We worked out a design that replaced the existing couch cushion at the end closest to the sculpture observation window with the control console, then set the keyboard in rose granite and wrapped the console housing in pin-stripe suit material to match the couch. The monitor and custom electronic controls were mounted in the housing and trimmed with red padauk wood. The lights underneath the milk plex top follow the dimming in the room. The control console provided both manual and computer control to the viewer.

noise and convert it into something meaningful for the computer. They had wrapped the wiring harnesses in standard kitchen foil and grounded them trying to improve the signal. We were able to help them redesign the power supplies and improve the positioning signal by an order of magnitude. We created custom hardware so that the last two tubes could be removed from the game ports of the Apple. That helped things immeasurably.

DTrends: So then the sculpture was able to do its exercises?

Christiansen: Actually yes. But the Apple at that time didn't have a real-time clock so the sculpture had to be told to exercise manually. This was always a bit of a problem. This is also a somewhat paradoxical situation in that you have a world renowned sculpture on very private property. The owners have all been very gracious people, but having a full motion sculpture doing exercise tends to draw a crowd, especially if it's on a routine. The best part of the computer was being able to save the various tube configurations. If we had a setting that we liked we could commit it to a floppy hard drive and call it up at will. I remember one occasion that we did a special configuration for a visiting ambassador. All he had to do was push one button and the sculpture performed a welcoming configuration.

DTrends: We're looking at the console

DTrends: There is certainly a different feel from this angle, and this must be the infamous vault door. The door slab must weigh a couple of hundred pounds. It's interesting how they have it hinged.

Christiansen: I really like the ability to control the sculpture from down here. The computer is great for ease of configuration, but there is an immediacy to being next to the sculpture as it moves. With the manual control down here you can hear all of the sounds that the sculpture makes when it moves. The pneumatic valves are not perfect so it

