

PARTNERS

UNICO Contractor

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Overview

Tucked in the mountains in Park City, Utah rises a truly distinctive house, Rivendell. Based on the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, the homeowners desired a Middle Earth retreat without noticeable reminders of modern conveniences such as an HVAC system. The Rivendell home was especially challenging due to the unique design of the home. With several wings off the main body of the house, the house has varying cooling loads throughout the day. Also, the homeowners did not want an outside HVAC unit to be visible on the property. Harris Dudley Mechanical Contractors chose the UniChiller as the ideal solution for Rivendell's HVAC needs.

Strategy

The UniChiller is a completely self-contained outdoor chiller. It uses chilled water as opposed to refrigerant and connects seamlessly to the indoor air handler. Using water makes the system environmentally friendly because there is no risk of a refrigerant leak and it is more energy efficient. The unique features of this system enabled the contractors to meet the specific needs of the client.

The design of the house includes several wings off the body of the house. Traditional HVAC systems compensate for these areas with additional air conditioning units. The UniChiller has the capacity to establish zoned cooling areas with additional chillers and no extra condensing units. As part of Rivendell needs to be cooled, individual chillers can work in the area as opposed to the entire system running at full capacity. Running one area at a time ultimately lowers energy costs.

The owner did not want a visible outdoor unit because HVAC units are not present in Middle Earth. The UniChiller was placed almost 300 feet away from the house in a wooded area, maintaining the homeowners' desire to keep the home's immediate landscape clear.

Stepping into the Rivendell house, most people would not even notice the presence of the HVAC system. The Unico System has a small and flexible duct system, one-fourth the size of most HVAC ductwork enabling it to fit tight places. The outlets are customizable circular or flat pieces that come in varying materials and wood finishes and can be stained to match existing wood or painted to blend in with décor. At the Rivendell house, the outlets were hidden in bookshelves and other structures so they are virtually invisible. Also, the ducts are made with sound dampening supply tubes making it the quietest air delivery solution in the world.

Results

The UniChiller's flexibility allowed the contractor to conceal the presence of the HVAC system. With hidden outlets, an air delivery system that never rises above the level of a whisper and an outdoor unit hidden away in the woods, the Rivendell homeowners' desires were met. The Unico System and the UniChiller never interrupt the illusion that guests at the Rivendell have entered Elrond's safe haven in Middle Earth.

