



HOME Smart Home

Life under control

PALACE OF PRACTICALITY

One man in Macedonia makes life easy for the whole family

DREAM APARTMENT

This bachelor pad IS all fun and games!

A LONDON LOOKER

A homeowner pushes buttons when art meets home automation

SADDLE UP!

Enjoy the ride at this smart home on the range

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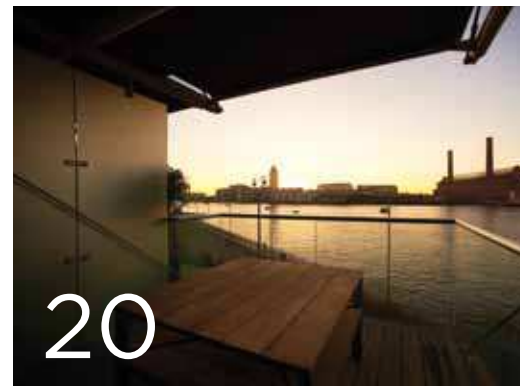
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EDITOR'S NOTE

We made it to 2013! While our writers didn't explore any automated Mayan temples in Mexico for a feature story, it's certainly a solid fourth issue of *Home Smart Home* nonetheless, bringing some of the most unexpected environments to the forefront of automated living. I won't blame you if you choose to race ahead with your reading now.

Otherwise, to give you the lay of the landscape, you'll join us for a most unusual trot to a ranch just outside of Miami, where even the farm animals benefit from a few of the most innovative automated features we've seen yet. Better still—you needn't even take our word for it: If you're reading this via the free tablet version of this magazine, you'll also enjoy a video version of the story where you'll hear it all straight from the horses' (and owner's) mouths. (How could I resist?)

But that's not all: We'll bring you two different takes on London living. One is an amazing residence by the river Thames with a few features that will undoubtedly compete for your attention. We've got the time-lapse photos to prove it. The other, you'll find to be a most magnificent journey down—well, technically it's up—an Alice-in-What-the-heck?-like rabbit hole where you'll round every corner in this Notting Hill home in anticipation of what you might find next. Good thing we got a personal tour from the creative bachelor himself. With an imagination like his, we expect we might be back to see how he continues to blend his passion for unusual art with his clever ideas around automation.

And there's more, of course. Croatia, anyone? Please page on! As always, let us know if there's a smart home you think we should feature in our next issue. Email me at the address just beneath my photo to the right.



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WHAT'S NEW?

Maximize the power with OS 2.3!



OS 2.3 is purpose-built for high performance and stability so your Control4 system will work faster, more reliably than ever. The SR-250 remotes just got turbo-charged with lightning fast responsiveness to your commands. The Video Intercom experience makes it easier than ever to communicate with everyone throughout the home (and at the front door).



MyHome, even better

You may already know that the MyHome app turns your smart phone, tablet or personal computer into the ultimate remote for your Control4 home automation system. But with OS 2.3, you'll get even more control. Now, you can add, delete or swap out your devices easily—anytime you upgrade or replace them—without requiring assistance from your dealer.



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Bright lights, new features

Experience a new world in lighting control with an elegant, consistent interface that puts more control at your fingertips, and the ability to customize the lighting scenes in your home—right from your touch screens or PC. A sophisticated, elegant and intuitive interface is available on every device—on your TV screen, touch screens, smart phones, and tablets—so it's easy to control lighting throughout your home or business. Personalize and edit your lighting scenes, your way. Customize your lighting experience by making changes to existing scenes or adding new ones, right from your touch screens or MyHome PC app.

YOU ASK. WE ANSWER.

Control4 SVP of Sales, Jim Arnold, explains the difference between Do-It-Yourself and custom automation



consumers options they've never had before and allow instant, wireless access from a mobile device. These

More often than not customers quickly realize they want more from an automation system. The personalization they want and need includes lighting control, viewing security cameras, automated door locks, room-to-room audio/video communication and other lifestyle functions that simply cannot be fully executed without an automation professional.

Q. Why do I need a Control4® dealer? Can I install the system myself?

A. When you look at popular consumer devices these days (such as the iPad and mobile app-based audio, video and thermostat control) it's easy to begin thinking, "Why the heck do I need a custom installer for home automation"? Most of these devices and apps, aimed at do-it-yourselfers, give

devices, along with services being promoted by telephone companies and security companies are creating more awareness than ever about the possibilities of home control and automation. But in the end, those devices are very limited in terms of the functionality and the flexibility they offer.

The most important element the professional Control4 dealer brings is knowledge. He or she can help the consumer think through the right options for them. The best dealer won't spend time discussing the hardware. (No discussion about controllers and matrix switches!) They will discuss the lifestyle

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REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

needs of you and your family, and discover what is important to you.

Do you want music throughout your home? Do you want to be alerted when the back door is opened after school? Do you want lights to come on when you enter a dark house or have lighting scenes that create the perfect mood when you are entertaining?

A good, qualified and trained dealer can help you make the best choices for *your* lifestyle, and then they can make sure it is installed perfectly and operating just the way you want it to. As your needs change or as new possibilities emerge through new development—or even if you get one of the latest and greatest toys or gadgets you want to incorporate into your system—they can both keep you up-to-date on what is new, and leverage the inherent flexibility of a Control4® system to



A custom installer programs motion sensors, Kwikset keypads and more in this Florida penthouse.

easily adapt your system to your changing needs.

From the initial concept stage to planning and installing your system to expanding and accommodating changes that your lifestyle demands

over time, Control4 dealers are there to support you and your system every step of the way. This is what home automation was meant to be. Find a dealer near you at Control4.com. ■

LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUTOMATION!

If there's one town where the home automation craze caught on early, it's Hollywood. For more than 60 years, movies and TV have been showing us home automation at its best. And worst. Most of these depictions are portrayals of what were, at the time, only imaginary technologies. How the times have changed!

What was once possible only in the fevered imaginings of Hollywood screenwriters is now an everyday reality, thanks to Control4. With that in mind, we thought it would be fun to take a look back at home automation in film and television, and see how the anachronistic representations of yesteryear compare with the modern realities of today.

Forbidden Planet



WHAT WE SAW: In this legendary sci-fi classic, a crew of Earth men with their own flying saucer discover a mysterious scientist and his nubile daughter living alone on a far-off planet in a very nice house. Dr. Morbius is happy to show the Earthlings a few of his home automation amenities, including the original Robby the Robot, floor-to-ceiling steel shutters, and a handy household disintegration beam. But you better watch out for that rampaging id!

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Darryl Wilkinson, Home Theater Magazine

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63

That's the percentage of business travellers that, prior to booking, confirm if a hotel has wireless Internet access.



15% of Americans would give up their car for an entire year to be able to keep their tablet; that equates to 45 million fewer cars on the road or 270 million tons fewer greenhouse gases (CO²) emitted per year.

3 HOURS

of video is uploaded *per minute* to YouTube from mobile devices.



Every 60 Seconds...

320 new Twitter accounts are created, and 98,000 Tweets are Tweeted.

Hungry for cool technology? How about a Bluetooth fork that not only pairs with your phone but vibrates when you eat too fast. It's called the HapiFork, made by a start-up in France called HapiLabs. Gobble it up!



If 100 million households were to control just one 60W light bulb with one vacancy sensor, nearly 500 million kWh of energy savings would be realized, reducing nearly a billion pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.



In September 2012, the global ratio of spam in email traffic was 1 in 1.33 emails.

"GANGNAM STYLE" EXPLAINED?

By the end of 2012, for just \$27 a month (half what Americans typically pay), South Koreans reportedly had Internet speeds that are 200x faster than those in US!

Google Glass, augmented reality glasses promised from Google, was seen on the runway of Dian von Furstenberg's Spring 2013 show at New York's Fashion Week, worn by several of the models. Google co-founder, Sergey Brin, was in the front row also wearing a pair.



If it keeps up, man will atrophy all his limbs but the push-button finger.

—Frank Lloyd Wright

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: XXX; RUCKUSWIRELESS.COM; DAILYMAIL.CO.UK; PHOTOS: STOCKXCHNG; ISTOCKPHOTO.COM;

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HOME LIGHTING CONTROL ALLIANCE; MASHABLE.COM; HUFFINGTONPOST.COM; SYMANTEC.COM; PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA.ORG

WEIRD,

WONDERFUL, AND

WIRED

A home automation system keeps up with an art collector's ever-changing bachelor pad

Project installation by James Shorter of James Paul AV in the UK.





Mark Christophers, who co-founded the West Cornwall Pasty Co. in the United Kingdom, had an incredible vision for a tired terrace Victorian house in west London, *left*. The ground-floor living room doubles as an art gallery, *opposite*.



There are more than a few odd and unexpected guests staying at Mark Christophers' residence in London, England. There's William Shakespeare, wearing bold and runny eyeliner. (Or would you call that mascara?) A skeletal Sid Vicious pouts above the fireplace, completely exposed—skull and all. A disruptively bright-blue dog-like creature with vanilla ice cream cones, in place of what might normally be ears, stands

patiently by the stairs to greet visitors on the ground floor. What is this (to borrow a line from the original Willy Wonka movie)—a freak out? To some, perhaps. But to Mark, an avid collector of "street art," it's very much home sweet home. And quite a home it is. In the Eighties, the property had been divided into separate flats. Now, after three years of complete deconstruction and reconstruction, it is now restored to a single-family townhouse with a uniquely modern makeover. On the lower-ground floor,

you'll find a kitchen-diner, utility room, home theater/cinema and bathroom. The living room greets you on the ground level, and on the first floor, you'll find two guest bedrooms and a bathroom. The top level has a master bedroom suite, with an office area and roof terrace on the mezzanine, a flight above, but before we make our way up, up, and... let's meet the king of this castle. "I love twisted art. People like it or they hate it," says Mark, a successful entrepreneur whose artful

acquisitions include a majestically crowned and cloaked toad under a museum-quality covering, and a bulldog that happens to be a lamp. To first-time visitors of this big-and-bold bachelor pad, it's the hardly subtle art that catches the eye. But then you realize that the interior is quite beautiful and very intentional. "For me, it was about making every room usable and having a different atmosphere," Mark notes. The multi-floored home hosts many design microcosms, from a nearly all-white beautiful master bedroom suite to the deep-

PHOTOS: HOWARD BARTROP



A cleverly tiered cinema floor gives every viewer the best seat in the cinema. Viewers can access TV, a DVD library, and Internet options like Netflix and Apple TV with the same remote.

purple velvet voluptuousness of a screening room. It's a design scheme reminiscent of a boutique hotel, a distinct, eclectic style Mark draws inspiration from. It truly is a feast for the eyes. But one detail you may not immediately detect is this: The larger-than-life living space is fully automated.

THE ART OF CONTROL

"I always tell my girlfriend that this is my dream house," says James Shorter, the installer whose company, James Paul AV, designed

“I wanted a home system that would add to my lifestyle, not take away ... to make it easier.**”**

and maintains Mark's automation system. Televisions and audio throughout the house are on a

Control4® system, as are the lights, the blinds, a CCTV/security system, and heating and cooling. "Mark's got great input on the aesthetics. He kind of left the technical and how-to bit to me."

"I love technology, but I haven't got a clue about it," Mark admits. "I wanted a home system that would add to my lifestyle, not take away—to make it easier." Mark did an initial install with another company, but frustrated by their limitations, turned to Control4 to take the system where he wanted it to go. "Control4 fit with my lifestyle. It

What does TruAudio bring to the table for Control4 Dealers?

When it comes to audio products, TruAudio offers exclusivity. We don't sell anything openly on the internet. TruAudio products are only sold through an authorized dealer network. Control4 dealers now enjoy that exclusivity while eliminating competition with both the internet and unauthorized dealers in the market.

What product guarantees does TruAudio offer Control4 Dealers?

We've always offered high quality products, and that's allowed us to offer some of the best guarantees in the industry. We have a lifetime warranty on all our speaker and AV rack products. All warranty items are advance replaced to avoid any unnecessary trips to the job which saves time and money.

What Does TruAudio offer Control4 Dealers?

TruAudio was started by installers, and our sales staff all have installation experience. As a Regional Sales Manager, I personally have 13 years of previous industry experience in installation and ownership of an AV installation business. This internal experience makes TruAudio the kind of company a dealer would like to work with. We not only strive for great sounding products, but we also make them very functional and installer-friendly. That's what motivated our introduction of the first frameless speaker which we refer to as the "Ghost." Our 2.2 inch SLIM 300 Soundbar, the SAT3 satellite, and THIN-Ceiling speaker are just a few other examples of our innovative line.

Can Control4 Dealers access other TruAudio products besides audio?

In addition to audio products, we also manufacture FORGE, a complete AV rack line which is also backed with a lifetime warranty. A full array of products are offered such as our THIN line, Stealth, Core, and on-wall Relay racks, all manufactured with the same installation ease in mind.

What does TruAudio like about working with Control4?

Control4 is a top flight company with top flight people. What we have enjoyed most is Control4's welcome and overall excitement about our product and company. Control4 only works with the best, and what's not to like when Control4 thinks you're one of the best? We refer to them as a partner, and we'll service and take care of all their dealers with that same partnership mentality. Give TruAudio a try and we guarantee it will be a great experience.

"What's not to like when Control4 thinks you're one of the best"

- Chris Ivie: Sales Manager



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was iPad-ready, it was on the go, it was Internet-accessible. The other thing I love about it is the fact that the installer can change things remotely, without having to actually come to the site every time, which was a big issue with some of the other providers." Or perhaps the project simply proved to be too daunting for some installers. Let's have a closer look at the home's highlights. Shall we?

TIP-TOP TOWER

The master suite is an all-white, two-story glory at the top of the house. A helical staircase leads from the bedroom up to an office area and deck with big views of a coveted borough of London. Large overhead blinds specially made in Germany are automated and, at the touch of a button, can open on command to let in the natural light through a skylight. Even the doors to the outdoor deck are mechanically automated, and can be opened or closed from anywhere in the house. You'll also find here—a very nice touch in a house with so many stairs—a handy "Good Night" feature: "I just press one button, the blinds come down, and the lights will go down," says Mark. "It just makes everything easy."

The living room (home to Sid Vicious and William Shakespeare, by the way) boasts its own technical gems. "It's probably my favorite room," says installer James. There's a custom TV stand and built-in speakers flush to the wall so you barely notice them. And by the front door is another version of the system's most useful features—the "All Off" button. Similar to upstairs, with one touch, explains James, "it will basically shut the whole house down: dim all the lights, bring all the blinds down,



A helical staircase in the bedroom leads to a galleried office and roof terrace, where the skylight is controlled by the push of a button.



turn the TVs off, everything."

Tucked behind a simply stunning kitchen, where the brick slips for the floor create continuity between the indoors and garden patio, is a viewing room, plush with plenty of

purple décor, including dachshund-dog throw pillows that line a couch. A cleverly-tiered cinema floor gives every viewer the best seat in the house with the ability to access television, a DVD library,



The bathroom seems a spectacular place not just to have a soak, but to immerse yourself in some great entertainment. You'll find the Control4® remote tucked into the medicine cabinet.

and Internet options like Netflix and Apple TV. In fact, despite the pillows, it's a favorite spot for one regular guest: Tommy, the neighbor's cat. "He spends more time here than next door," James notes. "He meows outside, loudly and persistently, until he's let in. I'd probably do the same if I was next door," he laughs.

TRAVELING MAN

A successful entrepreneur, Mark travels extensively, and his automation system provides extra

peace of mind whenever he's on the road. "When he's away he can fire up his computer, sign in to my.control4.com, check the security cameras, turn the lights on and off, anything he's forgotten," says James. "So that works well." Mark agrees. "Having the ability to set a vacation mode so that when I'm away, the house looks lived in, that's a very big issue for me."

FUN FOR ALL

When Mark is home, however, he doesn't seem to get much

rest anyway. He loves to host gatherings at home, even if it's a last-minute decision to do so. "I love being able to email the house," explains Mark. "If you're out, you can email if you're coming back for a bit of a party. You can get it set up in the party mode: The lights will turn on, the music will already be playing..." And, once the party is going, Mark can have any of his musically-inclined friends guest DJ by popping their own iPod or music source into a Control4® dock. "My love of entertaining and making sure people have a good



time is paramount," says Mark. "I've never wanted my home to be just about style."

Overnight guests can select their own television, movies, or music from each guest room, or even from the TV in the guest bathroom, equipped with its own remote right by the tub or perhaps it's hiding in the medicine cabinet. "I want technology that people staying here could access easily and understand," says Mark. "The icons on the Control4® screen are very obvious, so if you want to watch something or listen to something, or you want to change the lights, it's just very obvious what you can do."

So far, this house has been an incredible automation success story. "The project's been fantastic," says James. "It's a really modern, cool, funky place and it quite nicely mixes

modern and comfortable, and that's worked well with the Control4® products. They fit in seamlessly, they don't stand out, they're not frightening to look at, and it works well." But with a client like Mark, you never know what creative surprise might wait around the corner.

"Every time I come here there's a new bit of artwork or a new statue or a new something that we're trying to squeeze in and get the lighting to work around. It keeps me on my toes," jokes James. So far, he's been able to keep up. "Control4 is very modular, so when Mark wants to add a room or an area, we can add bits and pieces on. It all fits in quite nicely together, which is great."

"I know how quickly technology changes," explains Mark. "I didn't want to install technology that in

James Shorter, the installer whose company, James Paul AV, designed and maintains Mark's automation system, below. The "loo" just off the cinema features a faux bookshelf. Scratch that—it's actually just wallpaper, left.



two years' time would be outdated. And, I'm always changing my mind, so I need something that can work with my different moods."

Mark's funky, fashion-forward home may not be everyone's cup of tea. But it's a great example of how home automation can blend seamlessly with any lifestyle—even one as unusual and in constant flux as Mark's. And the best part is, a smart system can work behind the scenes and allow the homeowner to do more of what they love to do, whether it's hosting impromptu all-night parties fueled by Ibiza dance tracks, or revamping the house layout to incorporate a giant aubergine-colored frog. Or whatever Mark may be setting his insatiable and inspired mind on next... we hope he keeps us apprised. ■

VIEWS OR VIDEOS?

In this London apartment,
deciding which visuals to
take in can be a conundrum

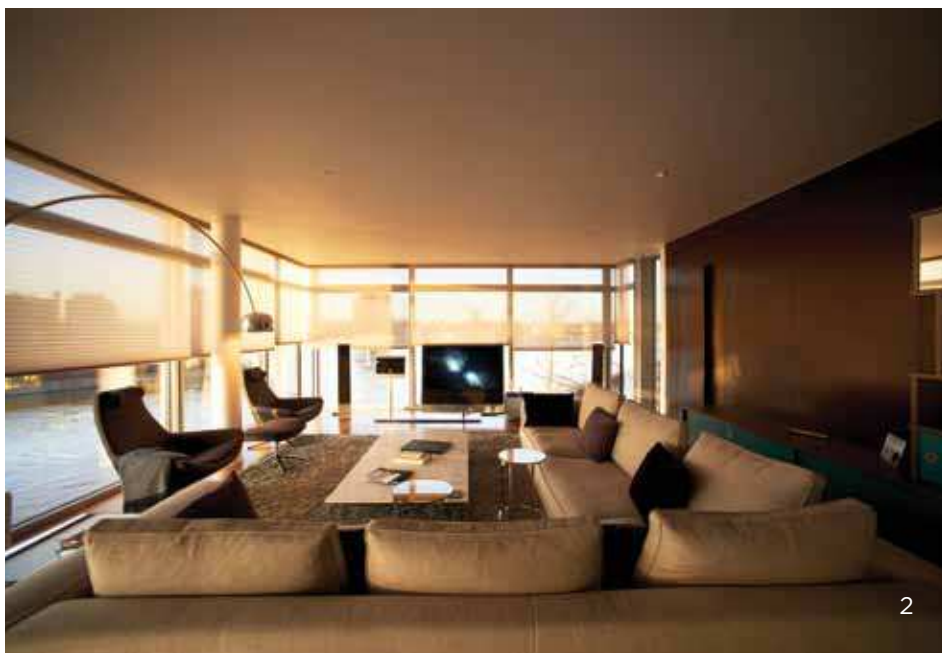
Ah, decisions, decisions: Which voluptuous view to choose? The sprawling Thames river, or the riveting action flick on the wide-screen television, powered by a motor custom-designed to angle and tilt at your command in order to give you the best possible viewing angle.

This is the dilemma facing visitors to this gorgeous residence, nestled in the sleek Montevetro building on the Chelsea embankment of the Thames river in London, England. It's a luxurious 2-bedroom unit with all the comforts of a plush pad: High-end built-in bar, walk-in closets, fancy bathroom. But the stunning centerpiece—the focal point of the flat—is the large, lovely living room. Enter this space and you're channeling little lad Charlie, stepping into the great glass elevator with Mr. Willy Wonka himself. Two floor-to-ceiling walls of glass provide an unencumbered panorama over the river and the city beyond. Natural light pours into the space, and in the waning hours of day, the light of dusk coats the modern décor in an almost otherworldly golden glow.

That experience alone makes this property special. But this apartment isn't just pretty to look at—or to look out from—it's got its hidden genius, too.

The apartment's owner, a globe-hopping businessman, originally had his Control4® system installed to automate the basics: Lighting, heat and AC. But then, when the owner, an American expat,

Easy as one, two, theatre! Automatic blinds, linked to the living room settings via Control4, lower with the press of a button, transforming the living room into a screening room right before your very eyes.



PHOTOS: HOWARD BARTROP

expressed interest in expanding the system to include audio and video, things got interesting.

"That's where Control4 really works, and ties in very nicely with what was already there," notes Justin Wilkerson, whose company, The Media Rooms Limited, installed the system. The apartment now sports a hearty bundle of viewing and listening options: Audio zones throughout the house, an iPod docking facility, 3 cable TV boxes, and Apple TV. And when it comes to movie watching, this system will pamper you like no other. Take your eyes off that killer living room view for a second (if you can), and have a seat.

The vista-laden living room can transform into a stylish cinema without moving a muscle, just pushing one button. (Okay, one forearm muscle working the finger.) The blinds are linked to a movie setting through Control4. "Just hit one button," explains Justin, "and everything fires up: The lights go down, the night blinds come down, and everything's right for that perfect movie moment."

And, just to make things even more comfortable, you can adjust the angle of the television from any Control4® device. The only hard part is watching the vista out the windows disappear as the blinds go down. But fear not, film buff, you can resume the river view with one button when your movie ends.

This automation system reaches far beyond the movie-magic living room, however. Both bedrooms feature automated lights, blinds, televisions, and audio zones. The ever-traveling owner especially loves the remote-access features; wherever in the world he may be, he can monitor the security cameras, and adjust lights and blinds so it looks like he's there,



Film fans can adjust the angle of the television remotely. Or pause the movie and lift the blinds to catch a sunset over the Thames, all without leaving your seat.

even when he's not. It also comes in handy when, for instance, the housecleaners need some extra light to do their job.

Installer Justin is certainly sold on Control4. "It just hits the spot every time," he says. "Its simplicity in use, its reliability, and its proven track record in the field. I predominately use Control4 for all my projects."

And is the homeowner happy?

"He absolutely loves the system," says Justin, who notes he often finds the owner running around the apartment, showing off system features to his friends and guests. "And, it's simple to use—that's key."

Now, the owner's only problem is that pesky decision-making: Gorgeous views, or cinematic delights? Not a bad problem to have, really. ■



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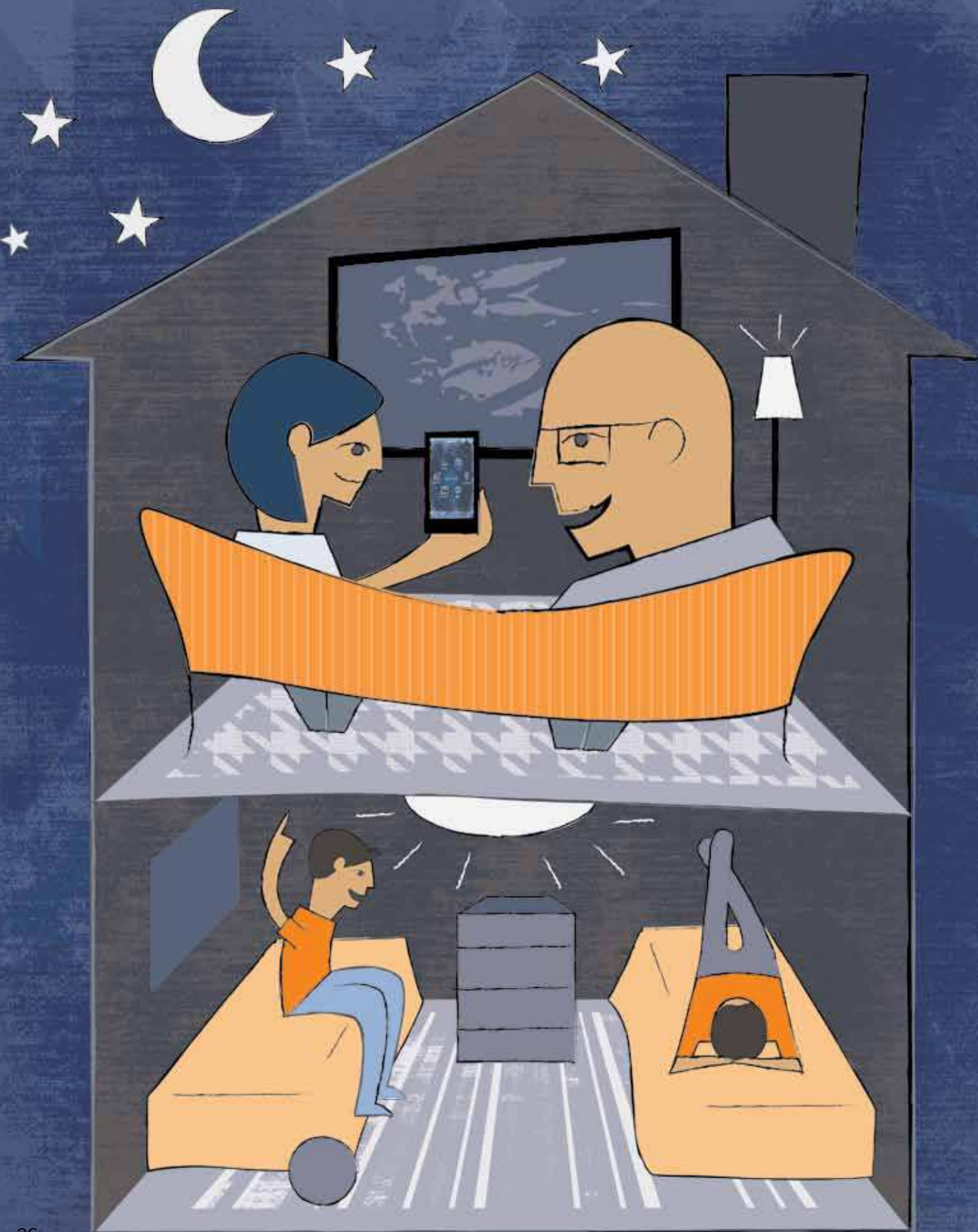


ILLUSTRATION: JENNY DUFF

FLASHING LIGHTS AND TEENAGED GIGGLES

Father and Control4 employee Dave Baker takes advantage of a few clever features to outsmart his teenage boys at bedtime

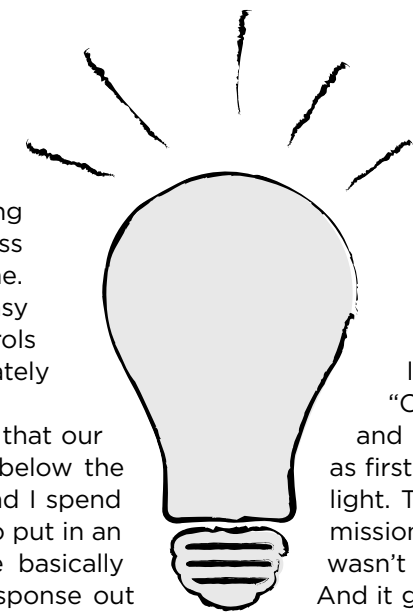
As a Control4 employee with networking and technical training, I'm in the process of installing automation in my own home. I'm going bit by bit, starting with the "easy stuff." I got a bunch of my lighting controls installed first, and our family immediately began to enjoy the benefits.

One of the challenges in our house is that our teenaged boys' bedrooms are directly below the family room, which is where my wife and I spend much of our time. Eventually we'd like to put in an intercom system, but until then, we've basically had to yell pretty loudly to get any response out of our boys when they're down in their rooms.

One night—right after I installed and configured the lights in the basement—I made the trip downstairs to tell my boys it was time for "lights out." We sent our younger daughter up to her own room as well, and she was in bed almost immediately.

About 30 minutes later, we could still hear our teenagers talking downstairs. One quirk of our house is that we can hear *them* when they're talking, but they can't hear *us* unless we shout. Our boys are 13 and 15 years old. They're great friends and love to just sit and chat about the weird stuff teenaged boys like to talk about. Normally, at this point either my wife or I would just scream, "GO TO BED," but neither of us wanted to wake up our little girl.

Realizing that our newly-installed automation system gave us some new options, my wife chose a quieter approach. She simply got out her iPhone and used the



Control4® MyHome app to flash the lights in the boys' bedrooms. Neither of us had any idea what the reaction would be. This was uncharted territory for all of us. The conversation downstairs turned to laughter, and we heard our older son say, "Okay, okay, we're going to bed." My wife and I sat and watched on her phone's display as first one son and then the other turned out his light. The boys were in bed with the lights out—mission accomplished—with no yelling at all. It wasn't earth-shattering, but it was a fun moment. And it gave us a preview of where automation will be taking our family as we get more and more of it in our lives.

Since then, we've made lots of improvements to our system. I added several custom buttons to our family room touch screen so we can use flashing lights to page either boy individually, both of them together, our daughter upstairs, and everyone at once. The same buttons show up on our phones and tablets, so we can easily summon any of them at any time. Also, we've scheduled events to have lights in the kids' rooms wake them up at the right time for each day of the week, and let them sleep in on weekends. When the lights go on and flash, they know it's time to get up.

We're still trying to figure out a way for the house to remind them to take out the garbage and put the lid back on the peanut butter. It's kind of a work in progress, but it has turned into a regular part of our lives.

DREAM APARTMENT

A BRAZILIAN CONTROL4 CUSTOMER UNLEASHES HIS IMAGINATION

How would you design your dream apartment? Take a moment to let yourself imagine it. Would it be a palace of entertainment? A wonderland of creativity and games? The ultimate party zone? Well for Luis, it was all three. And he made it a reality.

A bank executive and bachelor in his mid-30s, Luis moved into a new 4-bedroom apartment in Sao Paulo, Brazil with visions of home automation dancing in his head.

He'd never owned a smart home before, but he was ready to make his dreams come true.

First, there was the issue of the four bedrooms. It was more than he needed, and he had plans for the extra space. Taking down a couple of walls, he doubled the size of the living room and doubled the size of his master bedroom.

Then he called in the dream team, Control4® dealer Paulo Negreiros and his crew from Tripe



The master bedroom, twice its original size, complete with bathtub as well as Control4® automated TVs from every angle, *above*. Luis's dance club, seen here in its secret "living room" mode, *right*.

Project installation by Paulo Negreiros
Tripe Studio, Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Studio. Luis laid out for them all the elements he wanted in his dream apartment, but it was up to Tripe to figure out how to make it all work. The extra challenge here was the fact that Luis loves gadgets and electronics. He has a lot of toys, and uses each of them often—video games, DJ equipment, Blu-rays, DVDs, and music components, to name a few. Negreiros and his team were faced with a design dilemma—how could they work their smart home magic while at the same time helping Luis de-clutter? Creative solutions were needed. Creative solutions were provided.

First off was the living room home theater. Instead of adding another piece of electronic machinery to the already-populated living room, Negreiros had the idea to tuck the Sony VW200 Projector out of the way in a modified air conditioner vent, virtually invisible to the naked eye. Now just like in a movie theater, the crisp HD image is projected out of an upper portion of the wall!

Luis does love movies, but even more than that, he is a music man. A focus point for him is the DJ station located in the large clubhouse-like living room. With one simple push of a button, the



Tripe Studio found a creative spot to hide the TV projector—in an AC vent, above. Getting ready for movie time has never been so much fun, right.



The game of automation really has no end! When Luis is in the mood for ping-pong, one tap on his Control4® Touch Screen summons the game table from heaven. Clear the dance floor, everyone.



PHOTOS COURTESY TRIPE STUDIO

Then take a good look around the apartment. Feel like you've exhausted all the fun and games? You haven't—just look up.

entire room is transformed into a discotheque. The audio zone comes alive, the overhead lights dim, and the ancillary lighting is automated to pulse and activate in sync with the music. In an instant “The Clubhouse” becomes “The Club!” It’s not surprising that Luis has a constant stream of friends coming over to hang out at this ultimate bachelor pad.

But movies and music are just the beginning. When you tire of dancing, why not relax with any of the multitude of games Luis has scattered throughout the apartment? Rack up the pool balls and shoot some billiards. Or belly up to the full-size pinball machine and escape into as many rounds as you like. When you're ready for a change, step on over to the other full-size pinball machine and play more.

Then take a good look around the apartment. Feel like you've exhausted all the fun and games? You haven't—just look up.

Negreiros and the team at Tripe Studio had no choice but to work around the heavy billiards table, pinball machines, and DJ station; but when Luis told them he was also going to set up a ping-pong table, they saw an opportunity to try something different. Lightweight and collapsible, the ping-pong table lent itself beautifully to playful automation. Now, when Luis is in the mood for table tennis, he presses one button, and the entire table descends from the ceiling. He can stop it at whatever height he likes—four feet from the floor, three feet from the floor, he can even bring it down to two feet from the floor if some little kids want to play. Another button push, and the table ascends once more out of sight until the next time.



But the magic doesn't stop there. Luis has kept his childhood passion for slot cars alive and well with a full table-size working race track complete with miniature buildings, bleachers, and spectators. Negreiros saw another opportunity for fun, and suggested they store this nostalgic treasure someplace where it would be protected, but also available at a moment's notice—hidden in the ceiling.

Stand at the billiards table and look straight up. You'll see a flat white ceiling. When Luis taps a button on his touch screen, a rectangular crack forms in the white, and that entire section begins to descend. The automated lift brings it all the way down to rest on the billiards table, and there it can be enjoyed by all without adding clutter to the room. A magical childhood memory that appears and disappears with the tap of a button.

There's a kid inside all of us, no matter how old we get. Luis recognized Control4 for what it is—a grownup toy and key to infinite possibilities. With the help of Tripe Studio, Luis made his inner child's dreams come true, and this "Dream Apartment" is a hot spot in Sao Paulo for those fortunate enough to be invited over. The creativity of this entertainment wonderland is yet more proof that Control4® technology can be used in unlimited ways.

Which brings us back to that all-important question... How would you design YOUR dream home? ■

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SMART HOME ON THE RANGE

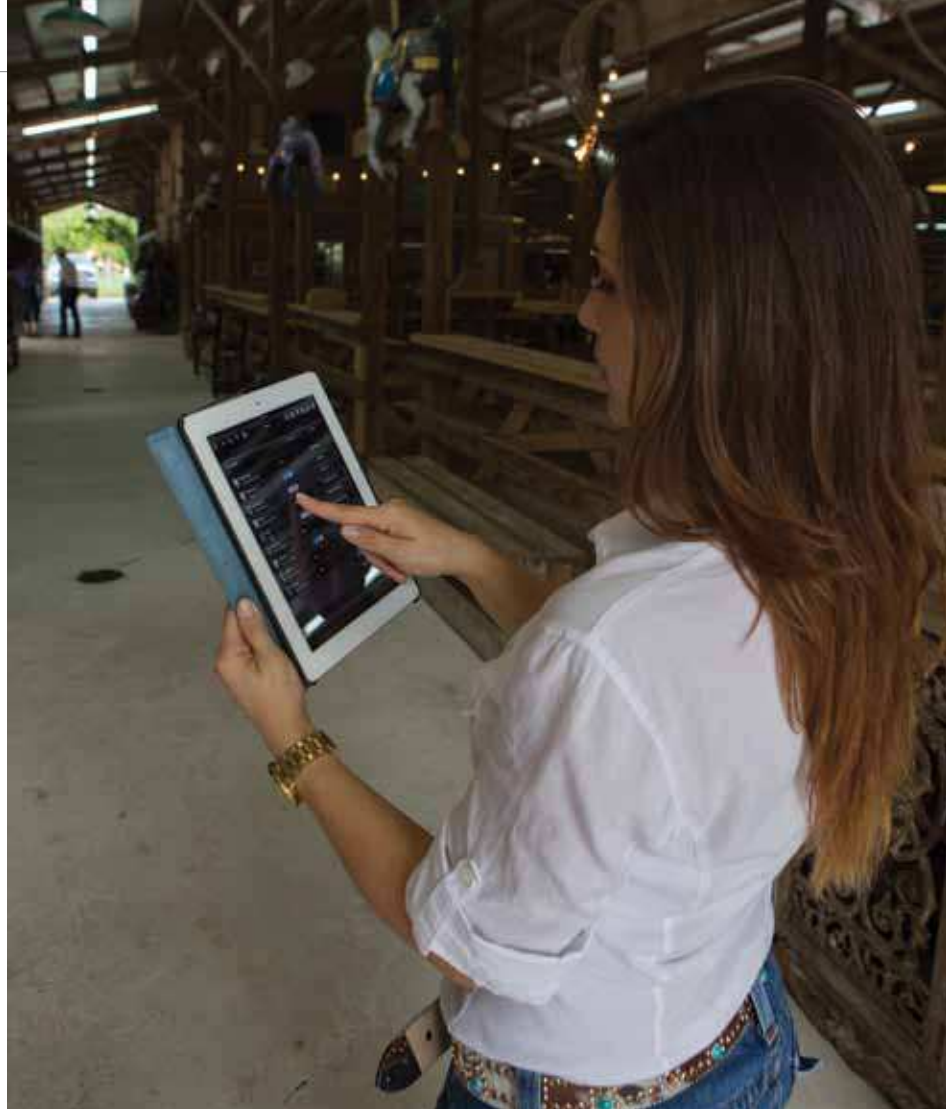
A cancer survivor switches life gears to build his dream ranch

Want to know what's really important in your life? Come face to face with the possible end of it. Just ask Edwin Melendez, whose world turned upside-down when he learned he had cancer. "Having a life-changing experience, it modifies your perspective and your point of view, and it helps put things into perspective," says Edwin, who beat the disease and is standing today stronger than ever. "Afterwards, I realized the things that were truly important to me and that's what I focused on, and this is what's come out."

"THIS" is Davie Ranch, a peaceful and sprawling 10-acre equestrian facility about 20 miles north of Miami, Florida. There's a big barn full of horses, pigs, and chickens. Next to the barn, people ride horses in a large arena. On the other side, there's a petting zoo with more furry friends: rabbits, goats, guinea pigs. The middle of the barn is a large, adorned event space complete with a stage, party lights, and vintage carousel horses around its perimeter, all collected from antique auctions. The ranch offers riding lessons, day camps, summer camps, after-school programs and just



Owners Edwin and Paola Melendez used their expertise in home automation to modernize Davie Ranch—everything from feeding the animals to lighting the riding arena is on the Control4 system.



Ranch staffers can transform the 6,000 square foot stable from barn to ballroom with a few keystrokes on their iPad, *above*. Rugged luxury in the ranch den, complete with televisions, an audio system, and a old-time stagecoach canvas roof, *below*.



a place for friends and family to relax and enjoy the company of like-minded equestrians. It's a slice of country life for city folk, who come here to celebrate birthday parties, ride horses, and get in touch with nature. "This is like paradise for them," Edwin beams.

This is a true working ranch, one that gets up to 3,000 visitors a month. "We're pretty busy seven days a week," sighs Edwin. There's plenty to do. As a home theater installer, Edwin knew he could make life easier for his ranch staff by using automation technology. "This is a production," he explains. "There's a lot of moving parts, so the more things we're able to automate, the smoother things run. The same practices we utilize for our home theater business, we apply here at the ranch."

So, what exactly is life on the ranch's Control4® system like? Well, as they say around here: Hold on to your hats.

"Automation plays a huge role in everything we're doing," notes Edwin. All of the property's lights, music, and televisions are automated. Situated in the tropics, climate control is key. Sensors can detect a rise in temperature and trigger the fans. Security lights turn on at night. Lights in the riding arena are synced, as is a timed and automated sprinkler system that keeps the arena area watered down so the dust stays out of eyes.

Edwin also takes advantage of the remote-access capabilities. "We have so many people that are coming through here," he notes. "If somebody needs access, I can just push a button on my phone and I can open up the door, and that's all done through Control4 and the systems we have in place."

It's a pretty impressive system, and it's not just the two-legged

PHOTOS: JIM TOSHIO INOKUCHI, TOSHIO PHOTOGRAPHY



The high tech is hidden, so visitors can enjoy parties, petting zoos, and a piece of the country. Square dance, anyone?



Each of the ranch's 15 horses receives fresh water via an automated system, as do the pigs, goats, and guinea pigs (oh my)!

creatures that benefit. The watering and feeding mechanics for the animals are also automated. That's great news for Rose, Crystal, Desperado, and the rest of the non-human residents on the ranch. Seems you can bring a horse to water, and make him drink—if it's on the Control4 system, anyway.

Automation really steps in as an extra ranch hand when there's an event, and there's no shortage of those at Davie. "We entertain 24-7," Edwin explains. "We need to be ready when people come over—the music, the lighting—so by the time the visitor's car comes in from

“ We entertain 24-7. We need to be ready when people come over—the music, the lighting—so by the time the visitor's car comes in from the front gate to the back we can have everything set up with a push of a button. ”

the front gate to the back we can have everything set up with a push of a button.”

As a home theater installer, Edwin is a seasoned user of automation systems. But his ranch



Young city slickers learn to walk, trot, and canter their four-legged friends in the horse arena. Automated sprinklers keep the dust down.

staff isn't always as tech-savvy. So, it was essential that whatever system Edwin installed here had to be very intuitive and easy to use. "This is what I do for a living," notes Edwin. "It's very easy for me to use, but I have volunteers and children that are here. Control4 has been a godsend. The staff embraces it. It's very easy for them to use the system, to get the lights ready, to put the happy birthday song on when it's time to do that."

That peace of mind, knowing the system works, makes everyone's job at the ranch easier. Especially Edwin. "There's so many moving

parts, feeling sure that you have something that's reliable, that's going to work, so that when you push the button the song is going to play, the lights are going to turn on, that everything is working, Control4 really has simplified what we're trying to accomplish here."

And, as widespread as the automation system is here at Davie Ranch, the average visitor would scarcely notice it. "All the electronics, they just complement the whole thing, it's not the primary focus," explains Edwin. And, as the ranch expands (they're currently adding some 23,000

square feet of construction, including a main house and guest house), so will the system. Edwin quotes a piece of ancient cowboy wisdom: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

As frightening as Edwin's battle with cancer must have been, it was also a gift, allowing him to focus on what was really important: spending time with his family, and turning his vision of a kid-friendly working ranch into a reality. "This is where I dreamed of always being," he notes. "It's almost surreal to find myself in this situation." ■

PHOTO CREDIT RIGHT

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From high-end developers in the U.K., to a new generation of architects and design firms in Spain, to the builders of the MainStreet America project in the state of Texas, home automation is catching on. But while many are recognizing its value, many others remain unaware or misinformed of what exactly it entails. A recent informal survey of developers, dealers and architects in London, San Francisco and Puerto Banus reveals just how wide-ranging public perception is about home automation, what the most common myths are—and the actual facts of the matter.

THE MARKET IS BACK AND HOME AUTOMATION CAME WITH IT

“New build is back,” says Jason Wild, Operations Director for Future Lifestyle, the leading home technology installer on the Spanish coast. “New build means new ideas.”

Jason believes the building industry is starting to embrace home automation much more so

WHILE MANY ARE RECOGNIZING ITS VALUE, MANY OTHERS REMAIN UNAWARE OR MISINFORMED OF WHAT EXACTLY IT ENTAILS.

than in the past. Specifically, he sees automation becoming part of a new build and even being introduced into the syllabus of some architecture programs. “We are now working with a lot of forward-thinking companies who are embracing this concept, at

least at the pre-installation stage.”

This makes sense. If a network is “wired” ahead of time, it gives the end user—regardless of who that may end up being—the opportunity to make up their mind when they buy the house. “For a very small investment, they can be set up for later. If architects are doing their job, they should at least suggest it,” says Jason.

As a matter of fact, he believes that in five years, this will be the norm. “People want things hidden away; they want clean lines. They don’t want a box in every room. Many architects stick to what they know, but the younger, more progressive ones are starting to incorporate home automation into their building plans.”

Rob Sutherland, Managing Director of Inspired Dwellings in West London, says he has also seen a rise in developers incorporating home control in new builds. “Developers are using technology to differentiate their products. They want to add technology and automation because it distinguishes them from the next guy. Also, they

can tell a client that the home is ready to be moved into.”

Rob just completed a project with a high-end developer GM Development,

based in West Wimbledon. The modern Putney West London residence, which encompasses 7,500-square-feet, six bedrooms and two floors, now also comprises a cinema and multi-room audio and control system for the television, integrated lighting

controls, and ventilation controls.

“We believe the perfect house requires seamless integration that tailors the environment and ambience to suit every mood or occasion,” said GM Development. “Inspired Dwellings helped us plan an array of technically complicated systems from entertainment, lighting, heating and security and ensure they work perfectly and unobtrusively at the touch of a button.”

The company plans on doing a similar project every 8-12 months, wherein full automation is included and designed for the client to move in at a moment’s notice.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON HOME AUTOMATION

In an informal home automation survey, one architect responded, “What is meant by ‘home automation’? The building of homes? Lights that go on and off? Refrigerators that make sandwiches? I have no idea what the term references!” Another commented, “I have no interest in systems that allow Larry Ellison to turn on his home theatre and switchable glass entry-door while he’s still hopping out of the helicopter.”

While home automation technology is rapidly gaining favor with many homeowners and every segment of the home building and design industry, these responses typify what many think and know about home automation, if anything. Here are the most common myths about home automation—and the truth behind each one.

MYTH:

Home automation is expensive.

FACT:

Because the sky is the limit with home automation, it is entirely possible to invest a significant amount of money. But is it required? Not at all. Control4 offers options that can get you up and running with an automation solution for what it would cost to install a new HD TV.

MYTH:

Home automation is only for celebrities and professional athletes.

FACT:

That *used* to be the case—because in the early days, getting a smart home would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars/euros). Control4 introduced a wireless approach eight years ago, radically reducing the costs of installation. As more and more connected products come into the home, more and more of us want an easy way to control everything.

MYTH:

Home automation interferes with great design aesthetic.

FACT:

If less wiring, fewer boxes, and fewer remote controls is how you define attractive, then home automation is an upgrade in the attractive department. One user said that before installing a Control4® system, he had a receiver, a Pioneer surround sound, a Blu-ray



With home automation, you can tuck every tuner, player, and HDMI switch away in a closet.

player and a DIRECTV receiver. “It was a tower of black boxes—taller than my TV!” Now all he has is a TV and one remote control from which he can watch anything. “All those boxes are completely hidden. My family room is now clutter-free.”

MYTH:

Home automation is hard to learn and even more complicated to use.

FACT:

It often doesn’t take more than a few minutes of explanation to understand most Control4® systems. Built for ease-of-use, the intuitive interface streamlines the user experience and by reducing five remote controls into one, makes learning it pretty quick.

MYTH:

Home automation can only be implemented in new construction.

FACT:

Home automation is actually more often retrofitted into existing homes than it is built into new ones. As a matter of fact, Control4

was designed so that homeowners could add automation to their homes and continue to do so over time and at their convenience.

MYTH:

Home automation only works when you’re at home.

FACT:

With the advent of apps and mobile technology, there are in fact myriad ways that home automation can be controlled and leveraged remotely. Whether it’s from a phone or computer, people can do everything from setting their thermostat to making sure the garage door is closed and that the lights are out—or to finding out if their kids are watching TV when they should be doing homework.

MYTH:

Home automation requires the latest gear, and it all has to be the same brand.

FACT:

You do not have to buy all your gear from a single consumer electronics vendor for home automation to work. Your devices don’t have to be a certain brand or even the newest, latest and greatest. And as for how you control it all, you can even use your current smart phone, tablet or touch screen. Needless to say, there are, of course, apps for that.

What are some of the myths you’ve heard about home automation? Were you surprised by any of the myths debunked here? Join the conversation on Facebook to discuss!

A modern, multi-story house at night, illuminated by warm interior and exterior lights. The house features a prominent entrance with a covered porch and large windows. In the foreground, a swimming pool is lit with a cool blue light, and a paved walkway leads towards the house. The garden is landscaped with various plants and small, recessed lights. The sky is a deep twilight blue.

BRIGHT HOUSE, GREAT CITY

How a homeowner in Macedonia became
a master of his own amazing domain

Garden lights, house lights, pool temperature
and cover—all automated by Control4.

Project installation by Zvonko Rosic, System
Integrator, Rosic, Croatia



A living room that proves "high-tech," "glitzy," and "cozy" can all work together, *left*. The majestic front doorway lighting scene, *top*. Inventive lighting scenes are the trademark of this posh home, *above*.

Proudly situated in the heart of southeastern Europe, Macedonia is a region famous for its storied history. At one time an ancient kingdom that dominated Europe for centuries, the land still resonates with a sense of high nobility. Perhaps this can be traced back over 2,000 years to Macedonia's most historically renowned son, Alexander the Great.

This illustrious king grew his empire by having the courage to apply new ideas, to attempt

the unexpected. In modern day vernacular, he thought outside the box. Every school kid has been taught the mythic story of Alexander and the Gordian knot. The challenge was to untie an impossible jumble of twine. Alexander stepped up to the knot and studied it. Unable to discern the ends of the cord, he calculated the only solution and brandished his sword. With one bold and surprising move, he literally sliced right through the problem.

Today, we spotlight another

Macedonian who has built his kingdom upon innovative ideas and simplistic solutions. In this case, the kingdom is a newly-built super-modern four-level house located at the top of a hill with a panoramic view of the city below. The Gordian knot here was how to make this large, majestic house a cozy family home.

"When we learned how much lighting, blinds, AV, and other equipment must be installed to make it look good and comfortable, we were very worried

about controlling all that," confides the homeowner.

And then, like Alexander the Great drawing his sword, the inventive homeowner drew his phone, and called Zvonko Rosic, a Control4® dealer based out of Croatia. Rosic had the sharp answers our homeowner needed. With his team from System Integrator, Rosic proceeded to enhance the house in an intricate smartweb of creative features, all powered and connected by the Control4® platform.

In no time, our intrepid

PHOTOS COURTESY SYSTEM INTEGRATOR, ROSIC

homeowner and his family found themselves reveling in eight HD video zones equipped with 400 Blu-ray movies, 12 audio zones packed with 30,000 songs, 12 floor heating zones, 12 AC zones, 157 light circuits, 37 automated blinds, closed-circuit TV, the highest standard of alarmed security, and a pool with automated temperature and cover.

There's also a plate of flooring in front of the house that happens to be an automated lift, thanks to Rosic and his team, which takes

you down to the batcave—er, underground garage—where seven motorbikes are stored.

This is one deluxe smart home.

The entire family is exceedingly pleased. Their fear of over-complicated systems and too many buttons was quelled once they were introduced to the Control4® Touch Screen. The lady of the house was overjoyed to learn that for the first time, she can now operate the living room home cinema without another person's help. Even the young



The light under the bed can be programmed to any color the owner chooses, giving this bedroom any "mood" in the rainbow.



To keep every meal interesting, the kitchen lighting also has programmable colors, from "family dinner" white to "table for two" red, and everything in between. Seen here, "late night snack" purple.

child, still in the single digits, is not intimidated by the automation. He uses keypads near his bed and throughout the house, easily controlling whichever audio and video sources he pleases. He also became a quick master of the Control4® remote control.

Instead of building a screening room, the homeowner wanted to adapt his living room to be as close to high-end cinema as possible. A beautiful 65" Panasonic VX300 provided the HD picture, but Rosic had to figure out what to do about the sound. Utilizing a Classe surround processor and amps in conjunction with a B&W 9.2 system, all that was missing was the popcorn.

Even the temperature control was customized to meet the homeowner's specific needs.

"The biggest challenge was to do custom programming for the HVAC systems," says Rosic. This custom request was to give the system three speeds, and program it to blow air in the speed best defined by the difference between wanted temperature and real temperature. Happily, the request was fulfilled.

One of the family's most used

features? One-touch "scenes." They have a "Good Morning" setting, a "Going Away" setting, and the one that makes going to bed a stress-free joy, the "Good Night" setting. Once pressed, all unnecessary lighting turns off, the night lights in the hall turn on, the HVAC system switches to energy-saving mode, the blinds on the ground floor go down, the alarm system activates, the garden doors close, and the garden lights turn on.

But their favorite feature is the most spectacular—the unique outside lighting. They've set it up in such a way that every night of the week showcases a different lighting scene and different colors, making this house on the hill a work of art, prettifying up the landscape of this historic region.

Modern living can give each of us our own Gordian knots—usually located in our shoulders due to stress! But like Alexander's sword, the affordable luxury of a Control4® smart home destroys those tense gnarls. They simply melt away when treated with that same kind of solution shared by the world's most successful conqueror—thinking outside the box. ■



"A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC..."



The minute Colin Scott from ET Home Cinema got an email from Ian Morrish, Sales Manager, Integrated Systems Europe, about an opportunity to build a cinema room at Bluebell Wood, a children's hospice near Sheffield, UK, all systems were GO! All products and services were supplied and installed free of charge. "We've been able to bring the true cinema experience to families

that might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy it together," explains Moorish. "It's just a little bit of magic we could bring to a very special place." At a press of a button on a Control4® Touch Screen, a screen lowers, LED lights, fiber optics and downlighters go to a pre-programmed scene. The kids select a movie from the Kaleidescape server and it's time to grab the popcorn!

PHOTO CREDIT: ET



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