

HOME Smart Home

Life under control

AHHHH-SOME AUTOMATION

Inside the sea and
out-of-the-world smarts

REVVING ENGINES

What drives this showroom?

CONTROL, COMFORT, CONCRETE?!

Unusual architecture in Johannesburg

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We were sitting at a dinner party when suddenly—power outage!

Wind caused a total blackout on my friend's block. But rather than dimming our spirits, this unforeseen event gave new dimension to our get-together. The first half of the party was bright, cheery, and loud. The second half, however, became mysterious, exciting, even magical. As we dined by candlelight, it struck me just how influential lighting is to our moods and actions.

Bright morning sun on the lawn. Red beams of sunset at the beach. A candlelit dinner. Each of these scenes inspires a different feeling in us or evokes specific emotions. That's why the right light can make all the difference.

With that in mind, check out this issue's light-tastic features. One of our resident experts lays out some key tricks of the trade for using smart lighting to optimize a staged home. We also visit an art gallery where smart lighting helps create the most brilliant colors you'll ever see on a canvas! And in Dallas, take a hotel elevator all the way to the top to experience a presidential suite with no less than seventeen lighting zones.

We shine a light on two incredible residences in London: one a house with impeccable interior design and the other a condominium complex where every unit comes with automated VIP treatment. Then, explore the unique architecture and design of a three-level South African home, marvel at the jaw-dropping beauty of a resort at the very tip of the Baja California peninsula, and scope out the new showroom at the hottest custom car garage in America.

Whew . . . Those are quite a few highlights! Okay, I'm tail lights. Shine on!



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WHAT'S NEW?

I'm Home, Alexa!

We've all been there—walking through the door into a dark house, arms full. Wouldn't it be nice to tell your house to offer a helping hand? Now you can. A simple voice command—such as "Alexa, turn on Welcome"—lights up the hallway and kitchen and fires up your favorite Pandora station, while the door locks itself behind you.

With support for nearly 10,000 consumer devices, only Control4 can create immersive, whole-home experiences, personalized to exactly how you live. When the devices and

systems you use regularly work in unison—such as smart locks, lights, entertainment, security devices, garage doors, and more—life gets a whole lot more comfortable and convenient.

This is Control4 Home Automation with Amazon Alexa. Now available in UK English*.

Amazon recently started selling Alexa-enabled products outside of the United States in Germany and the UK, but currently, our Control4 Smart Home Skill for Alexa is certified and available only in the United States and the UK and requires a Control4 4Sight subscription.



Experience Brilliant Possibilities

Smart lighting adds elegance, ambiance, convenience and energy efficiency to your home. Make your house appear occupied while you are away. Raise or dim any light in the room or the entire house with a single touch or using just your voice.

Control4 recently released an expanded line of smart lighting products that now includes Square Wireless Lighting products. Now homeowners in Europe and Asia have a cost-effective solution enabling independent

control of two lighting loads and a variety of products (LED, incandescent, halogen, and low-voltage lighting) from a single device.

All Control4 Smart Lighting products offer customizable, backlit engraving with beautiful color options for faceplates and keycaps to match any décor.

For homeowners with modern design aesthetics, the brand-new Matte Stainless Steel and Chrome additions are sure to be a hit!

Get More with 4Sight

With a Control4 4Sight subscription, you'll have access to and control of your home—at any time, from anywhere using the Control4 app on your Apple or Android devices. 4Sight offers a convenient way to manage and control things at home, while providing you with a peace of mind that all is safe and sound while you're away.

At home with 4Sight, you can use Amazon Alexa integration to control all your lights, lighting scenes, and thermostats using just your voice! And while you are away, alarms, alerts, and push notifications from your Control4 system will instantly notify you if anything at home needs immediate attention.

If you are a Control4 customer, you can now renew your Control4 4Sight subscription directly from your customer account—without needing to call your dealer. Remote access is just a few taps away!



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NICK SPRINGETT

CONTROL THE ENTIRE HOUSE WITH JUST YOUR VOICE



Control4 and Amazon Alexa. Now Available in the Queen's English.



Visit Control4.com to learn more.

Our Control4 Smart Home Skill for Alexa is certified and available in select countries and requires a Control4 4Sight subscription. We will announce the availability of Control4 integration with Alexa in any additional countries upon Amazon certification.

Using Smart Lighting to Stage a Home

Written by Bryn Huntpalmer from Modernize

When you're trying to sell a home, it's often the smallest things that make all the difference—a table with a bowl of fresh hydrangeas, or a charming entryway rug that really sells the space. In fact, even the way you light your interiors can turn a “meh” into a “how much?” While we tend to think of ourselves as invulnerable to such things, lighting can have an intense effect on our mood, changing our overall perception of a space.

Homebuyers are most amenable when they're feeling bright and happy, so generally, flooding your interiors with warm, yellow light really gets them in the mood to sign. However, with a smart lighting system, you can use programming to cycle through various scenes that a buyer might go through in their day-to-day lives, helping them project themselves into your home's spaces.

Here are several ways to do it.

SET TWO DIFFERENT SPEEDS FOR KITCHEN LIGHTING

More often than not, modern kitchens serve several purposes at once. They're not only the place for focused culinary endeavors, they're the place we gather with loved ones to enjoy that hard work, too. That means you need to show off two different types of kitchen lighting—ample, bright light for cooking and subtle, gentler light for mealtimes. Get the first with brilliant overhead lights and under-the-counter task lighting. Then, when you're ready to switch modes, use a “Dining” scene to opt for low lights over the dining area.

HIGHLIGHT THE VERSATILITY OF LIVING AREAS

Living rooms also have to play different roles. A stunning hearth space, hand-carved bookshelf, or unique and alluring portrait deserves some directed up-lighting to draw attention to such a statement piece. However, if this room



is also used for watching TV, reading, or entertaining, intense accent lights can really detract from the mood. Here again, cycle through two automated scenes to display your interiors' dual functionality. Let potential home buyers envision themselves living in these four walls, giving

visitors their own tour down the line, or snuggling up for their next Netflix binge.

USE ACCENT LIGHTS TO ADD DRAMA TO HALLWAYS

You can achieve a very dramatic effect in a hallway using two-way lighting with wall sconces, which is perfect for an after-work tour. Just have your realtor utter the magic words, and let homebuyers enjoy the dazzling light show on the walls. Or use an action—like motion detection—to switch on hallway lights for you, ensuring that your tours go as smoothly as possible.

SWITCH BETWEEN EYE-LEVEL AND OVERHEAD LIGHTS FOR BEDROOMS

A workspace, a sleep area, a place for romance—bedrooms probably do some of the heaviest lifting in our homes. When you're showing your master bedroom, allow potential homebuyers to witness

the flexibility of an automated lighting schedule in their homes. Create a scene with low overhead light and directed task lighting using recessed can lights installed over the bed, perfect for reading. Program another with gentle, dim light from bedside lamps for more mellow times. And lastly, plot a new scene with bright overhead light for more general work. Then, when it's time for bed, show them how easy it is to switch off every light in the house, right from bed with a “Goodnight” button—which also locks the doors, turns down the thermostat, and arms the alarm.

AUTOMATE OUTDOOR LIGHTS TO PREPARE FOR DRIVE-BYS

As soon as you list your home for sale, the eyes of the world are upon you. Your home could be subject at any time to buyer drive-bys—so it needs to look just as cheerful at night as it does throughout the day. Use timed settings to switch on lights on porches, walkways, and over doors, offering



a visual welcome to anyone scoping you out.

I hope you're ready to start packing your things—with a few deftly programmed scenarios, it won't be long before the offers start rolling in. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY MODERNIZE

“With a smart lighting system, you can use programming to cycle through various scenes that a buyer might go through in their day-to-day lives, helping them project themselves into your home's spaces.”



A KEY TO THE COOLEST PAD

Whatever you do, don't call them light switches.



PROJECT INSTALLATION:
Chameleon Technologies

Control4 wireless keypads can certainly control your lights, but that's just the beginning of what this customizable hardware can do.

"The Wireless Keypads are without a doubt my favorite addition Control4 has created in the last six years," declares Joe Mancuso, Control4 dealer at Chameleon Tech in Los Angeles. "Any light switch can become a keypad, and suddenly you have global scenes instead of just a single switch."

These "global scenes" are so called because they utilize all the automation in the room, or the house. Tap a button on the keypad and you've got a customized party scene where the lights dim 25%, the blinds lower, and your favorite Pandora station begins flowing from your speakers. Then, perhaps, a double-tap on that same button switches the Pandora station. Anything and everything is programmable, with the only limit being your imagination.

Joe goes on to tell us the most imaginative use of a keypad he has installed. A home in Beverly Hills has a semi-circular room open to the backyard. It serves as the perfect complement to gorgeous SoCal weather. But should you want privacy, a tap on the keypad causes five giant wrought-iron steel doors inlaid with glass to rise out of the ground and close up the room to the outside, the steel doors perfectly blending in with the rotunda's walls and completing the room's circle.

With a dozen stylish colors and finishes, four button sizes, optional up and down arrow buttons (for volume), and the ability to have each button labeled, it's impossible to list every combination you can create. So let your imagination run wild and keypad your home into the 21st Century.

Garage doors, gates, computers, TVs, fountains, music—anything that can be automated can be controlled by the wireless keypads.



With the colorized LEDs, you can see the state of things in your home at a glance. For instance, when the alarm is armed, you can have the LEDs glow red.



Control the current in a swimming pool, and warm a towel rail for when you get out of the pool. With a tap on the keypad, you can get your wet towel warm and dry on demand.



Buttons can be programmed to handle virtually any non-lighting task. Fire up a movie or your favorite Netflix® show or start your music and control the volume.



THINK INSIDE THE BOX.

HEOS, a wireless multi-room music system that lets you play any song in any room, is now built into the new lineup of Denon® audio video receivers.



A LEGACY OF AMAZING SOUND MEETS THE POWER OF HEOS.

For more details on Denon AVR-X4300H and AVR-X6300H, visit HEOSbyDenon.com





This dazzling 16-foot drop chandelier is designed by Rocco Borghese and automated by Control4.

A STONE'S THROW FROM CAMELOT

Past meets future in the north of London.

It's a chilly day in northern London and you're walking at a brisk pace to keep yourself warm. You're on your way to an affluent neighborhood called Hadley Wood, and though it would probably be faster to take Ferney Hill to Cockfosters, you cut across Trent Park instead. It's your first time in the park and you are not prepared for its autumnal beauty: The red and yellow leaves on the trees beg you to slow your pace and admire their splendor. You comply. The sun is in the west, its fading light rosy where it kisses the earth. Towering sycamores cast long shadows, ancient and majestic. It is the magic hour.

A shimmer of light on an unexpected body of water catches your eye, and you are drawn toward it. Near a split rail fence, a municipal placard informs you that you have discovered Camelot Moat, the location of a moated settlement dating back a thousand years, which some locals like to fancy was once the location of King Arthur's fabled Camelot.

You pass through an opening in the fence and move toward the water. Across the moat stands a small island, overgrown with trees. The water encircles it completely; the settlement that once stood here would have been accessible only by drawbridge.

You approach the moat's edge and silence falls as a mystical timelessness enfolds you. In your mind's eye, the battlements of a mighty fortress rise up above the surrounding fields: Camelot, its white masonry reflecting the setting sun so that the entire castle seems to glow with a golden radiance. Here, perhaps, was the capital of King Arthur's kingdom, home to the legendary Round Table, where the greatest knights of the age—Lancelot and Percival,



PHOTOS BY HOWARD BARTROP

A custom, copper-plated gas fireplace/television cabinet is the centerpiece of the living room.



The luxurious home theater has everything from Control4 automation to fresh popcorn!



Galahad and Gawain—gathered with Arthur in a brotherhood of chivalry.

The guttural caw of a raven snaps you out of your trance and you check your watch. Thirty minutes later you reach your destination: a gorgeous house in Hadley Wood that stands like a proud exemplar of contemporary style and grace amid the sturdy Georgian homes that clutter the neighborhood. Newly constructed and perfectly manicured, the home seems to refract the last rays of the setting sun like a square-cut diamond, spilling prismatic beams across the driveway where a red Jaguar F-Type coupe crouches, ready to spring.

In unison the doors of the Jag pop open, and out step two dapper gentlemen in their thirties—the men you have come here to meet. They are Adam Forrest and Samuel Howarth, the Managing Directors of Limelight Automation, a company specializing in high-end audiovisual and home automation. Limelight is a premier Control4 Dealer—Platinum Level—highly regarded in Britain for their outstanding work on commercial and residential properties. When the owners of this lot decided to build a new home from the ground up, one that takes advantage of all that 21st century technology has to offer, they hired Limelight to design and install

the definitive audiovisual, lighting, and home automation solution. Of course, Forrest and Howarth used Control4. Their work on this project, in conjunction with lighting designers InLighting and interior design firm Orissa Design, has produced one of the most prestigious new homes in London, which explains your presence here: you are about to take a tour of this gorgeous residence, with Forrest and Howarth as your guides. (By prearrangement, the homeowners are out to dinner.)

The two men greet you cordially, and you follow them up the path to the front door. As you approach, you hear the deadbolt turn as the

door unlocks itself automatically. Familiar with the automation features of Control4, you are not surprised that the door has been outfitted with a smart lock, but you smile nevertheless. Doors that unlock themselves on cue will always seem magical to you.

Forrest and Howarth throw open the double doors and usher you across the threshold. You find yourself in an elegant lobby with high ceilings and a white marble floor. A grand staircase curves down from above, but what catches your eye is the incredible drop chandelier overhead, which is like no chandelier you've seen before.

It resembles nothing so much as a glowing, glittering, sixteen-foot icicle.

"Wow!" you hear yourself say. "You like the chandelier?" Forrest asks, grinning. You nod, never taking your eyes off the glittering crystals. "It's Rocco Borghese," he continues. "They're an Italian company known for creating exquisite works of *luce arte*." You make a mental note to put one on your dream list.

"Check this out," says Howarth, moving to the wall, where a Control4 touch screen control pad has been embedded, flush, in the wall. He taps the UI and the chandelier gradually dims down. The shift in light completely changes the atmosphere

of the lobby, making it somehow more mysterious. "We worked with the interior decorators and lighting designers to create multiple lighting scenes for each room," explains Howarth. "We programmed those scenes into Control4, so any of them can be activated with the tap of a button, or automated to engage at a certain time of day."

"The owners travel a lot," adds Forrest. "They love the ability to program the lights to go on and off even when they're not here, so it seems like they're always home." You nod, well-acquainted with the benefits of the Mockupancy lighting features in Control4.



The cleverly concealed AV rack, courtesy of Limelight Automation, packs enormous functionality into a tiny space.

Burglars are less likely to target a home that seems to be occupied, and Control4 makes it easy to present that appearance.

You follow Forrest and Howarth into the living room, which is light and spacious. There's another Rocco Borghese chandelier overhead, but what stands out in this room is a copper structure that seems to defy gravity. It's a bespoke television cabinet that houses a large Ultra HDTV. Below the TV, there's a negative space that seems to make the structure hover. Beneath that, there's a bioethanol fireplace its dancing flames warming the room. Howarth notes that the fireplace, like everything else in the house (music, lighting, climate control, security), is controlled via the simple Control4 interface, which is currently displayed on the TV screen.

As Forrest and Howarth continue the tour, leading you from one stunning room to the next in this 12,000-square-foot

neoclassical house, you can't help but compare this mansion to King Arthur's castle. Camelot was a symbol of hope, an idyllic place, shining with light—the original beacon on the hill. The comparison is apt, because the lighting in this house surpasses anything you've seen before, and the Control4 system that automates it seems nothing short of magical.

Forrest and Howarth lead you into the showpiece home theater, which is located on the top floor of the house. It's a custom screening room that can comfortably seat up to eight people, with cinema-style lighting and Velux windows and blinds—all controlled by Control4. The theater boasts an 85-inch Samsung 4K Ultra HD TV and a Sonance 5.1 surround sound audio system, with a ten-inch subwoofer that makes the room quake during action sequences the way Camelot must have trembled at the rumbling approach of Mordred's army.

You're tempted to request a screening of *Excalibur* (your favorite King Arthur movie), but you know there isn't time—the homeowners will be returning soon.

As a matter of fact, you run into them on the way out. The homeowners are an intelligent young couple, with a beautiful seven-year-old daughter. You thank them for allowing you to tour their lovely home, then ask how they feel about the Control4 system. The father smiles quizzically.

"Are you kidding?" he says. "We love it!" He simultaneously pats Forrest and Howarth on the back. "These fellows did a phenomenal job. Limelight came to us very highly recommended, and they exceeded all our expectations. The Control4 system they installed does things we didn't even know were possible."

The little girl nods in agreement. "It's like magic," she says.

Merlin would be so proud! ■

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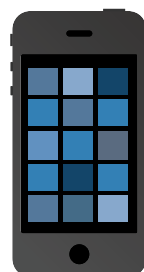
BITS & PIECES

For big laughs and little-did-you-knows.



Highly irregular, Dave

Ever wonder why Siri, Alexa, and most navigational equipment have female voices? Many tech companies avoid using an automated male voice because they don't want to remind consumers of HAL-9000 from *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



Makes cents

An October 2016 survey published by Google showed that 50 percent of users have never paid for an app.

Electric Avenue

Wireless phone chargers use resonant inductive coupling. Tesla tried using this same energy system to provide wireless electricity, and someday it may be used to create roads that can charge electric cars.



SOURCES: BBC.COM, BOINGBOING.NET, CRAZYFACTS.COM, COMPUTERWEEKLY.COM, HEALTHYMATION.COM, LONDONIST.COM, MARKETPLACE.ORG, THEFACTSITE.COM, THINKSTORAGEGOOGLEAPIS.COM, USELESSDAILY.COM, ZDNET.COM.

Humongous HDDs

1,024 Kilobytes	=	1 Megabyte
1,024 Megabytes	=	1 Gigabyte
1,024 Gigabytes	=	1 Terabyte
1,024 Terabytes	=	1 Petabyte



One petabyte can hold 13.3 years of HD video. NASA's Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC) used about 74 kilobytes to bring our first spacecraft to the moon.

Cell Phone Phantom Vibration Syndrome

Researchers at University of Michigan conducted a study on "ringxiety." They found that those insecure about their friendships are most likely to believe their cell phone is vibrating when it is really not.

No Check?!

Amazon has revealed plans for a grocery shop without a checkout process, where customers will instead pay for the goods they have selected via an app. The first shop is expected to open to the public in Seattle in the US in early 2017.



(Virtual) reality bites?

Just Eat, a UK-based online food ordering and delivery service, is experimenting with augmented reality using Microsoft HoloLens to give customers a taste—or at least a view—of what their potential meal looks like.

A foolish idea

The idea for Pokémon Go, released to celebrate Pokémon's 20th anniversary, was conceived in 2013 by Satoru Iwata of Nintendo and Tsunekazu Ishihara of The Pokémon Company as an April Fools' Day collaboration with Google.



Maxwell's Bar and Grill in Covent Garden, London, reported a 26% increase in revenue since they started trading as a Pokestop.

Eye see the future

Hugo Gernsback, the man who coined the term "science fiction," invented the "teleyoggles," featured in the July 1963 issue of Life magazine. There was a separate screen for each eye and it could display stereoscopic images—much like today's 3D virtual-reality glasses.



PHOTOS: WIKIPEDIA, PEXELS.COM, THESHIPPINGDEPOT.COM.

Route on time



UPS-created technology, ORION (or "On-Road Integrated Optimization and Navigation"), uses a complicated algorithm that crunches data on the packages for a given route on a given day to come up with the most efficient order of delivery. The software program is on track to save UPS 100 million miles and \$300-400 million a year in fuel and personnel costs.

PROJECT INSTALLATION:
iHomes London



LONDON CALLING

Take a tour of The Chilterns,
where luxury reigns.

From Buckingham Palace in the heart of London, it's just a short trip on the Tube to the newest destination in upscale living: The Chilterns, an exclusive, 44-unit condominium that represents the very essence of English elegance. Riding on the train that will take you there, you use your smartphone to research the trendy neighborhood where The Chilterns is located: Marylebone. You learn that Marylebone is one of the most desirable districts in all of London—a lifestyle all its own, bursting with restaurants, shops, and parks. Then, a tidbit of trivia catches your eye: the most famous historical resident of Marylebone is one of your favorite literary characters—Sherlock Holmes! The celebrated address where Holmes and Watson rented their bachelor apartments was 221B Baker Street, which is just around the corner from The Chilterns. In fact, your Tube stop is the Baker Street station.

No sooner have you emerged from the Tube station than you are confronted with a towering bronze statue of the man himself. Sherlock Holmes, larger than life, stands tall in a classic Inverness cape, wearing his trademark deerstalker cap and holding his calabash pipe. He has a long, stern face that reminds you



The Chilterns building brings modern living to a storied neighborhood.



The lobby of The Chilterns has the elegant feel of a modern art gallery.



Every apartment features full Control4 integration and multiple touch screens.

of Basil Rathbone, whose portrayal of Holmes in the movies of the '40s helped make the character into a worldwide phenomenon. Catching the statue's eye, you try to stare him down, but fail; he's too dignified for you. So you head toward The Chilterns, which, in this neighborhood of predominantly Georgian and Victorian architecture, makes a bold statement with its modern style and pastel colors. Designed to honor The Beatles' legendary Apple Boutique (a short-lived music and fashion shop once located nearby), The Chilterns building has the retro look of a home record rack: shelves lined with LPs and CDs, their vertical spines a variegated array of hues and patterns.

At the front entrance you are warmly greeted by Sean Daly, the man you've come to meet. Daly is

the Director of iHomes London, the audiovisual and home automation company contracted by the developers (Galliard Homes and Frogmore) to create and install the superlative automation solution. Of course, the optimum solution is Control4, and Sean Daly knows it—that's why iHomes London has achieved the prestigious status of a Control4 Pinnacle level dealer. And that's why you are here: to interview Daly and take a tour of The Chilterns.

"T'anks for coming," says Daly with a charming Irish brogue. You take his measure as you shake his hand. He looks to be about 50, with shrewd eyes in a round, friendly face; he's wearing an immaculately tailored wool sport coat and slacks. He ushers you into the lobby of The Chilterns, where you are immediately captivated



by the exceptional interior design. The room has the high ceilings and contemporary architecture of a modern art museum, its spacious walls hung with oversized paintings and photographs. Daly leads you past the concierge and down a long hall like an art gallery, which showcases a stunning exhibit of photographs by David Bailey, England's foremost fashion and design photographer. Bailey was hired by Galliard Homes to shoot Marylebone, and these extraordinary images are the result. Daly tells me there's a coffee table photo book, as well, and every resident gets a signed copy, along with their own Bailey photograph from the 46-image shoot. *Très chic!*

It turns out the stunning pictures are only a taste of what's to come. Over the next sixty minutes, Daly leads you from one staggeringly

gorgeous apartment to the next, all the time telling you about the incredible Control4 automation and AV solutions which have been seamlessly and often near invisibly engineered into each domicile. You learn that award-winning interior designer Rabih Hage created several visual motifs for use in various apartments, so there are multiple fashion styles to choose from. But every apartment in The Chilterns boasts multi-room Ultra HD video and surround sound audio (courtesy of a Leaf 4K switch), plus full lighting and shade control, central air and heat, a gas fireplace, underfloor heating, security, and CCTV—all controlled through the Control4 interface found on strategically placed remotes, keypads, and touch screens. Throughout the apartments, hidden panels and cabinet doors of

PHOTOS BY HOWARD BARTROP



Residents of The Chilterns can use Control4 to program lighting scenes for different times of day.



superb craftsmanship roll back at the touch of a Control4 button, revealing cunningly concealed fixtures, appliances, and video displays within. Even the huge vertical louvers outside the windows of each apartment (the ones that look like LP albums from the street) can be repositioned via Control4, placing unprecedented control over the environment in the hands of each resident.

When asked which aspect of the installation he is most proud of, Daly responds, “How fast we got it done! The whole project was executed with military precision. The installation schedule was very tight; we had fifty-two weeks to install Control4

in all forty-four units, plus the common areas, and we had to slot in between the other tradesmen. So we had less than a week to finish each apartment. But we pulled it off, and the results are phenomenal!”

Shaking your head in amazement, you ask Daly what qualifies as the most awesome automation feature of The Chilterns. “The building is entirely hands free!” he crows. “With Control4, everyone who lives here has a fully automated, totally customized living experience. From the moment they pull up in their car, Control4 takes over. The security door on the auto lift opens automatically, and the resident drives onto the lift, which

takes them straight to whichever floor of the garage they park on. Then, as they approach the elevator, the door opens like magic—and the lift takes them directly to the floor where they live. Their front door unlocks as they approach, and inside they are greeted by their own custom Control4 welcome scene. The lights, the music, the fireplace—everything is just the way they like it. And from the moment they arrived, they haven’t swiped a card, turned a key, or pushed a single button!”

Your mind reels, even though you know perfectly well that Control4 is more than capable of delivering this kind of astonishing convenience.

Even the under-floor heating in the bathrooms has been automated with Control4.



This place, The Chilterns, surely represents the quintessential urban luxury lifestyle of the 21st century. You wonder what Sherlock Holmes, master detective from a bygone era, would have thought of it. Would he not have admired the impeccable decor, even as he uncovered every hidden mystery, and marveled at the astonishing technology that made it all possible? Of course; it was elementary! In a place like this, you don't need a magnifying glass to appreciate the attention to detail, nor a pipe full of tobacco to set the mind at ease. Surely Holmes would have been keen to live here—or maybe that's just you?

Coming to your senses, you realize that Daly is now telling you about

the common areas, where residents share exclusive access to lavish amenities. The Chilterns boasts a hi-tech fitness centre a sauna and spa with private masseuse, and a temperature and humidity-controlled wine cellar. Naturally, all of them are completely automated (lights, music, climate, and security) by Control4. There's even a luxurious, nine-seat movie theater featuring a 150-inch projection screen and next-generation Dolby Atmos ultra surround sound.

"Movie theater!" you say with sudden enthusiasm. You are a notorious movie buff.

"Yeah," says Daly. "Want to see it?" You nod and follow him downstairs to an extravagant screening room in

the belly of the building. Like every other space in The Chilterns, the cinema embodies the epitome of excellence. From the plush seating to the softly glowing lights, every single detail is perfect. You stare in awe at the huge projection screen which takes up the entire wall. It is currently displaying the Control4 user interface in all its cobalt glory; the sight of it nearly brings a tear to your eye.

"Care to watch a scene from a movie?" Daly asks. "Just to see what the system can do?"

"Absolutely!" you say. "What have you got?"

He smiles wide. "Everything. What do you want?"

You only have to think for a second. "Got any Sherlock Holmes?" ■

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Control 4™

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TRÉS INTELLIGENT!

A charming LA home with European flair is automated and ready to party.

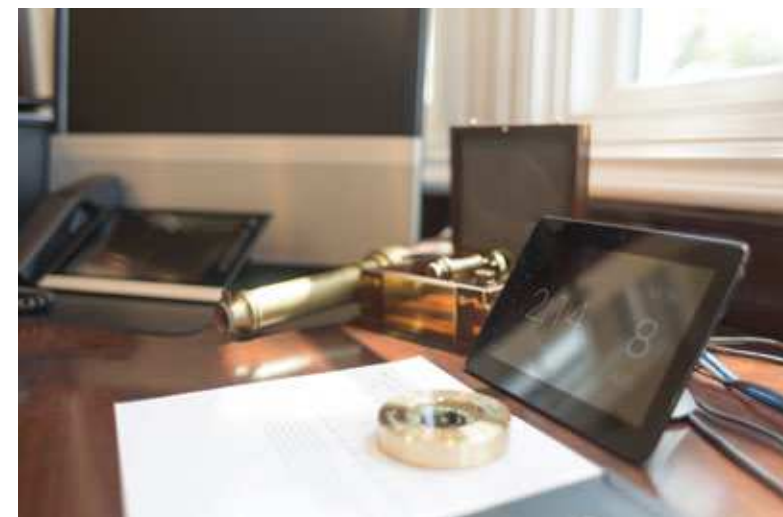
Looks can be deceiving: The lavish European decor hides all sorts of smarts. Case in point: the mirror in the living room is also a television.



Although this delightful and spacious family home is located in West Los Angeles, it could easily be found in Paris or Florence. The look is very Euro, from the furniture to the lighting fixtures to the carefully placed accents in every room. Even the walls of the elevator feature vintage French posters. The owners are unabashed Europhiles, but they're also tech savvy, and that's why their house has been automated from day "un"!

When Alan Buckelew and his wife decided to build a new home in LA, they knew they wanted automation. But even with backgrounds in technology, Alan and his wife didn't realize how much of their home could be integrated. "I was surprised by the depth of the capabilities," he remarks. So, they hired Patrick Coleman and his company Future Automation & Design. Patrick opened the owners' eyes to all kinds of possibilities, from automated shades to customized features for their outdoor space. The owners were open to Patrick's suggestions ("that's what made them my dream client," Patrick says with a smile). But, the owners had a focused

PROJECT INSTALLATION:
Future Automation & Design



and unabashedly old-world vision for the interior design, too: “We knew what we wanted,” Alan says. So, the challenge was set: Could Patrick and his team design the system of their dreams within the rigid limitations of the home of the owner’s dreams? In a word, “oui.”

Patrick knew this project—the most detail-oriented system his company had ever been tasked with building—was perfectly positioned for Control4. Knowing how many individual systems needed to work in harmony (and how tedious it can be to custom-program each of those separate systems), Control4 was the obvious solution. “It’s just our go-to product to automate a house, to give the customer full reign of their home,” he says.

What started as a system covering basic needs (communication and AV distribution) soon expanded—drastically. Automation now incorporates 24 zones of audio,

Panic proof: If the homeowner feels at all unsafe, one button lowers external security shades and cuts off certain parts of the house from intruders.

The automated home office can be controlled locally or from Asia, where the owner frequently travels for work.

three surround-sound rooms with in-ceiling speakers, eight zones of distributed video, and thermostat and HVAC control. The “man cave” even features a motorized TV. “Every square inch was really covered with automation,” Patrick notes.

Because the owners are extra concerned with security, the home features a “safe room” in the basement, which Patrick was able to equip with phone, data, internet, and video. In a time of crisis, the owners can activate a security mode that would impress the guards at The Louvre: at the press of a button, 35 motorized interior shades, as well as 28 exterior security shutters close automatically. If someone were able to break into the house, the owners can cut off certain rooms from the rest of the house.

The owners use touch screens and apps to control the system. It has proven to be a major time saver, especially regarding the lights. “Every



last light, every single dimmer, every single switch, is all Control4 wireless lights,” Patrick says. “Even outlet dimmers that control lamps are included.” Alan the owner concurs. “It saves something like a half-hour in the morning and evening, going around adjusting shades,” he notes. The owners’ children also know their way around the system. “They probably use it more than the owners,” Patrick says with a laugh.

And yet, despite the broad scope and complexity of the system, the look and feel inside and outside the home remains decidedly old school. “We just had to have a focused attention to detail,” notes Patrick. He picked vendors and products that precisely matched decor. The install team ordered mirrored TVs with golden frames that match the look of the living room and master

bedroom. Every detail, from molding to cabinetry, was chosen to blend seamlessly with the surrounding design. “We were able to get really creative with the owners,” Patrick says. “The objective was to not see any electronics, but have every single option possible in each room.” The house is only 4,500 square feet, but Patrick says he and his team spent the same amount of time ironing out details as they would on a house twice the size. The owners, particularly the wife (second-generation French), approved of the blending of high-tech and old-world charm. “The switches and features don’t bring attention to themselves,” Alan notes.

Outside, the rear courtyard is built to entertain. There are two outdoor TVs, audio, a very cool Neptune fountain with koi pond, lots of lights,



The installer chose vendors and products that would match the distinctive look and feel of the interior design.

and motorized awnings, all of which are integrated in the Control4 system. Owners can cover nearly every inch of outdoor living space with shade at one touch. Even the fountain boasts several automated features—a waterfall, timers, and lights—all included on the Control4 system. Guests can play their own playlists through the house speakers from their phone. And when the owners (or their children, or their guests) want to show off some pictures from their latest trip, they can beam their slideshow to the outdoor TVs and add live commentary through an integrated wireless mic system. Now that’s fancy!

Despite the complexities of the system, the owners were able to get up and running on it right away. “The learning curve was small,” Patrick says. “The owners tried it out and

loved it.” Alan, the owner, agrees. “We found it quite user friendly. It’s very intuitive.” The system’s benefits began to pay off immediately—instead of running around turning on and off lights and closing blinds, the owners can do everything from their phones or the nearest touch screen. And, as the owners became comfortable with the system, it sparked new ideas that Patrick was ready to implement. As Alan remarks: “It’s a product that keeps evolving...we’ve been very pleased with that.”

The owners particularly love the multimedia scenes that transform a room (or rooms) depending on the event, whether it’s a party or an intimate dinner. There’s even a “tour scene” built specifically for showing off the house—as the owners lead their guests through the property, specific lighting accents and music



Weather or not: Motorized awnings can provide sun shade (or rain shelter) for backyard party guests.



playlists are triggered to specifically highlight various sections.

Because the owner travels extensively to China for work, the remote accessibility has quickly become a favorite feature, as well. "The owner can be in Shanghai and unlock the side gate for the gardener," Patrick notes. They can also check security cameras remotely or make sure no lights or AC was left on when nobody's home. Additionally, they can put the house in "vacation mode," in which various TVs and lights turn on and off, making it look like someone is home. "It's a great safety feature," Alan notes. "We can rest

assured by pulling our cell phones out that our shutters are down and the house is safe. It gives you a peace of mind."

And so, Future Automation & Design was able to meet the challenge: combining new-world tech and an old-world decor. "We're very pleased with how everything turned out," Patrick says. "It's a very robust system." The owners agree. "We couldn't be more happy. It has created a convenience we have gotten used to. In fact, it would be very hard to go back to our previous life. We've definitely moved into the 21st century." "Trés bon!" ■



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THE WONDER OF WYECLIFFE

On the corner of Queens and York Roads in the town of Weybridge stands a midnight blue art studio called the Wycliffe Galleries. Passing within, you discover that it's actually a series of interlocking studio spaces, each with its own unique ambiance. Penetrating deeper, you realize there's something TARDIS-like about this building: It's as if the inside were bigger than the outside! There are four galleries altogether, and the last, most capacious, and most superb of these spaces

is a recently converted and modernized warehouse known as the Studio. What makes this place so special is the lighting—and what makes the lighting so special is Control4.

When Wycliffe owner Benjamin Fry renovated this warehouse, he wanted to do something remarkable: create a lighting system that could illuminate the artwork with light of varying color temperatures: warm indoor, cool outdoor, or any combination of the two. To design and install that system, Fry turned to Ian Myles of Konexions, a firm

PROJECT INSTALLATION: Konexions Ltd.
The Wycliffe Galleries in Weybridge, England.



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY LEWIS AND BEN FRY

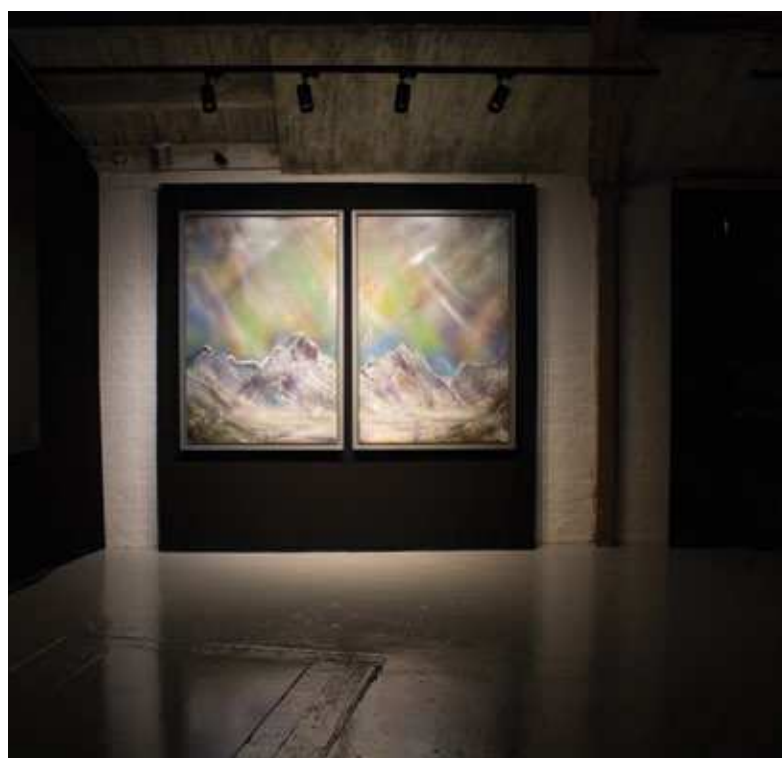
specializing in home design, lighting, and automation solutions.

Says Myles, “The different color temperatures pick up different colors in the paintings. Using the tungsten setting, which mimics indoor light, gives the art a warm, tactile ambience. The sunlight setting, which is a much cooler light, completely changes the atmosphere of the artwork. And it’s particularly stunning when you use them both at the same time. But the best effect is when all the lights are off, except for the spotlights on a single painting. When you’re standing in that vast darkness with just one huge picture floodlit—it’s quite dramatic!”

Fry agrees. “The way Control4 enables us to utilize that space has been excellent. You see, the Studio isn’t always open. But sometimes we get a client in the main gallery who says, ‘I need some oversized pieces for a new property. Do you have anything on that scale?’

“Those kinds of larger paintings are showcased in the Studio. And that’s where Control4 comes in. While I socialize with the client on the way back to the space, I can pull out my iPhone, and with the push of a button, the Studio comes to life. We have an “entry” scene already programmed in Control4, so Sonos starts playing music, the lights on the paintings activate in a perfect tableau, and the heaters have warmed the place up by the time we walk through the door!”

Standing in the Studio, watching the shifting lights illuminate paintings in ways you never thought possible, you marvel at the genius of utilizing Control4 to exhibit art in this way. For a gallery owner like Fry, the ability to show a customer from painting to painting, and adapt the lighting on each piece to suit the client’s tastes, would be invaluable. This is Control4 at its best: breakthrough technology employed in the service of the sublime. ■



The Studio at Wyecliffe has become Surrey’s premier gallery space, thanks to its cutting-edge lighting system and Control4 automation.

FAMILY FORT

A new home in Johannesburg pushes what's possible in appearance and automation.

PROJECT INSTALLATION: BNC Technology



This unique, 1,000-square-meter family home sports three levels and features an indoor swimming pool.

If fortune favors the bold, this ridge-top residence will become the luckiest locale on earth. It's an unorthodox experiment in unusual materials (concrete facades?) and daring details (four-ton garage doors?!). But the break-the-mold brashness of this brand-new house isn't limited to looks; it also boasts a super-stunning automation system that's breaking new ground, as well.

When the homeowner was ready to build a new home, he wanted to stretch the boundaries of possibility in all regards—the look, the materials, and the smarts. For the look, he brought in renowned South African architect Nico van der Meulen. And for the automation, the owner approached Nick Caripis of BNC Technology. It was a dream team of sorts, a collaborative coalition ready to break out of the box to build a smart home like never before.

So, Nick and his team collaborated with the homeowner and the architect to design a future-forward house that dared to go where no house had gone before. "It was a big project for us, one of our top projects," says Nick. And though it was a gamble, this collaborative effort has paid off big-time.





The home features 13 televisions, 16 separate audio/video zones, and unusual touches in every corner, including “off-the-wall” wall lighting in the billiards room.

The three-level home sits on a ridge overlooking the city of Johannesburg. It features an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor bar/firepit entertaining area, and a bold layout of reticulated floors. Nothing in the home is standard. Unique features, you ask? This house has more than its fair share. It was the architect’s idea for the entire exterior facade of the home to be concrete. Additionally, the home features a pair of unique, four-ton concrete garage doors that were manufactured on site. The owner’s name is spelled out in Morse code lights on the driveway. As far as taking aesthetic leaps and risks goes, this home is tough to beat. “Everything here is the ultimate form of design,” Nick tells us. But the boldest high-tech highlights of this home just might be the far-reaching features of the automation system.

After being originally approached by the homeowner, Nick quickly realized that the owner’s wish list would take a large-scale automation solution. “The client wanted a quality product. Within the first five minutes I realized he wanted far more bells and whistles than his original plan called for,” Nick notes.

Knowing how many different independent systems the owner wanted to control, Nick knew a Control4 system was the right choice to oversee the automation network. “Control4 just offers a ton of value,” notes Nick. “It really was a no-brainer. I think any other solution would have been way more expensive. Functionally, this owner got a lot for his money.” The BNC team seamlessly integrated a huge variety of options, including blinds, lighting, and 16 zones of AV. Skylights can be accessed via the Control4 system, as can the intercom system and a home theater. Automated lifts in the bar and master bedroom raise and lower the televisions. A high-end fire detection system triggers alarms and alerts a security company at any sign of fire in the home. Also, by choosing Control4 as the operating system rather than a more expensive option, Nick was able to add snazzy extras to the home, like underwater speakers in the swimming pool. “This owner got more bang for his buck with lots of extras,” Nick adds.

Not to say the system was a snap to install. The complex layout of the house, with its



The homeowners needed only a week to get familiar with the system, including specialized scene settings for areas like the home cinema.

PHOTOS BY NICO VAN DER MEULEN



multiple reticulated levels, added major challenges to Nick and his team. And solid concrete walls, while cool to look at, aren't very accommodating to wires and cables.

While the laundry list of features on this system is extensive, it wasn't difficult for the owner and his family to take control. "It was so easy for him to use, he was up and running within a week," Nick notes. "It works well, it's easy, there's no rocket science involved for the client. Control4 is so self-explanatory."

For this owner, the uncertainty of expanding his home's automation system has paid off too. "He was blown away," Nick notes. "He absolutely loves all of the features we gave him." The owner and his family members are all now system-savvy: they can remotely unlock the front



The project was a harmonious confluence of visions, from the architect to the homeowners to the automation installers.





“Outside the box” solutions blur the line between indoor and outdoor and provide additional comfort in every area, including the outdoor patio bar and firepit.

door for visitors or use a phone to open the skylights. An appropriate ambience for entertaining is easily triggered from a touch screen in the bar area. And those massive concrete garage doors? They’re integrated, too. Both the owner and Nick’s team access the system remotely, to check on security cameras and to tweak systems as necessary. Nick is confident the owner is pleased with the system. “He’s over the moon with it, he really is.”

It takes grit to choose the road less traveled, but if you’re successful, the rewards are all the more rich. The design team behind this project dared to try new things, and the homeowner and his family will savor their efforts for many years to come. ■



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Amazon Alexa's Sweet Skills & Hidden Gems

Alexa—the female personality inside of Amazon's Echo—isn't just smart. She's fun, too! Here are some hidden commands and cool capabilities to try at home.

TECHNOPHILES, GET YOUR TECHNO-FILES

When you ask "Alexa, what's my flash briefing?" you'll instantly receive a news-style rundown of recent trends and top tech coverage from award-winning journalists, and in a very entertaining way.

SKILL: This Week in Tech

ENTER A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOOR

This interactive, choose-your-own-adventure type of game, is complete with sound effects and storytelling. Simply say "Alexa, Open the Magic Door" and keep the kids—and likely yourself—entertained for quite a while.

SKILL: The Magic Door

THE STEVE JOBS PICK-ME-UP

We all need a little inspiration and motivation from time to time, and who better to deliver it than one of the most monumental innovators of our time? Just say "Alexa ask Steve Jobs Quotes for a quote."

SKILL: Famous Quotes by Steve Jobs—A Tribute

THE STRANGER THINGS ABOUT STRANGER THINGS

Did you know that Winona Ryder wanted her character's hair to be modeled after Meryl Streep's in "Silkwood"? There's a plethora of fun facts to be heard about the big Netflix hit—if you can actually make it through this tongue twister, that is: "Alexa, ask Stranger Things Fan Facts for a fact."

SKILL: Stranger Things Fan Facts (This Skill is not Netflix endorsed)

ALEXA, WHERE'S MY CAR?

Perhaps you have a connected home. But do you have a connected car? When you purchase the Automatic Car Adapter on—you guessed it—Amazon and load the respective Alexa Skill, you can ask for information about gas mileage, car location, and the distance you've driven. Whether you've misplaced your car (for whatever reason), or you want to track the whereabouts of the new driver in the family, Echo makes it a reality.

SKILL: Automatic

Easter Eggs from Alexa

Simply ask "Alexa..." and follow with these 15 phrases and questions. She'll offer up some assistance or respond in her own, witty way. No Skill necessary. What other Easter Eggs will you find?

ALEXA TALKS BACK...

"Alexa...
More Cowbell."
Where is Chuck Norris?"
Surely you can't be serious."
How much does the Earth weigh?"
What's the score of the [team] game?"

CAN LEND A HELPING HAND (OR VOICE)...

"Alexa...
Set a timer for 15 minutes."
How many ounces are in a pound?"
Wake me up at 7:00 in the morning."
What new movies are out this week?"
What's the weather going to be today?"

OR SIMPLY ENTERTAIN YOU.

"Alexa...
Roll a die."
Flip a coin."
Tell me a joke."
Tell me a fact."
Play Rock, Paper, Scissors."

"Alexa, Turn on My Home."

Just a few short months ago, Control4 unveiled full integration with Amazon Alexa—with the ability to control your entire home by voice. Now you can tell your house to offer a helping hand and a warm welcome home.

A voice command—such as "Alexa, turn on Welcome"—lights up the hallway and kitchen and fires up your favorite Pandora station, while the door locks itself behind you.

Explore the many possibilities of whole-home voice control with your Control4 Dealer.



Our Control4 Smart Home Skill for Alexa is certified and available in select countries and requires a Control4 4Sight subscription. We will announce the availability of Control4 integration with Alexa in any additional countries upon Amazon certification. Please check with an authorized Control4 Dealer to see if Control4 and Alexa integration is available in your country.

AHHHHHH-some!

A luxury Cabo resort gives guests complete control.

What can you say about a place that takes your breath away? If words cannot accurately capture the beauty and tranquility of a property, how can you describe it? Ask anyone who has been to the Hotel Mar Adentro, located in San Jose del Cabo, and you will likely receive a series of deep sighs, fond faraway gazes, and wordless smiles. What kind of place leaves people so speechless?

The Mar Adentro is an otherworldly and enchanted luxury resort on the outer rim of Baja California, at the very southern tip of the peninsula. It's a coastal serenade of the senses, from the vivacious visuals (modern, sleek, mesmerizing) to the soothing sounds (painstakingly picked playlists). It's a shoo-in for any "Must-visit Resort" bucket list. And, from its very inception, this heavenly hotel has been as smart as it is serene.

The property is the realized vision of renowned Mexican architect Miguel Angel Aragonés, who has a long resume of visually striking



Miguel Angel Aragonés

PROJECT INSTALLATION:
Amplioaudio Mexico

Sleek white exteriors reflect an ever-changing spectrum of color from the surrounding clouds, sky, and sea.





As day becomes night, music playlists and lighting scenes automatically transform as well.



creations. And, in every one of his future-forward homes and apartment buildings, automation has played a major role. “He’s always been very in touch with home automation,” notes Albert Mizrahi, Control4’s chief distributor in Mexico. A true visionary, Miguel would often “road test” his properties first, living in a newly constructed home himself for a year or two, using the automation system, tweaking the relationship between technology and living space, until everything worked in satisfying harmony. Then, he’d sell that house, buy a new lot, and build his next design—an immersive process he’s

successfully modeled many times. “He’s been involved in automation since forever,” Albert says. And then, Miguel discovered his dream property: an empty lot in Cabo, right on the water’s edge. Inspiration took hold, and Miguel went big. He designed a hypermodern space in which every structure seems to float on water. Lorena Shelley, Real Estate Sales Manager for the property, describes Miguel’s vision: “He wanted to bring the sea into the hotel, into every area. So he started working on this crazy but beautiful idea of floating boxes.”

The bold architecture flies in the



The restaurant Nido is a latticework structure made of recycled twigs by local craftsmen.

PHOTOS BY JIM STONE

face of the traditional regional style of stucco and adobe, and instead features large, sleek, minimal geometry. Lorena notes that Miguel ignored even current fashion trends in Cabo by going so modern. “This is a very particular project. It’s unique in its whole perspective of what Cabo is,” she says. “You’re never going to find another hotel like this in Cabo. There’s magic in this project.”

Parts of the property feel like other planets, like the indoor-outdoor restaurant that looks like a bird’s nest on Mars. It’s a stunning site, and, like Miguel’s previous projects, it’s also entirely automated. A seasoned user

of automation, Miguel chose Control4 to drive the property’s system. Once again, Control4’s versatility, price, and ease of use made it the winning option. “What Control4 could offer us was amazing,” Lorena says. Miguel incorporated automation in his earliest designs for the property, and that pre-planning has paid off. “We’ve been involved from the beginning,” Albert says. “It’s not like he designed the rooms and then we came in. Instead, he designed the rooms considering our technology, so everything fits perfectly.”

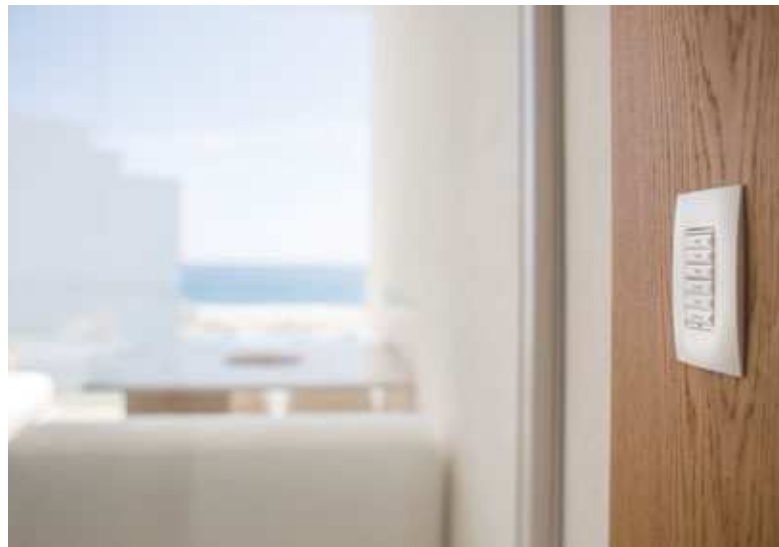
“This is a very large project,” Albert notes. There are multiple towers on



Guests have total control of their rooms (lights, blinds, audio, video, and more) via an easy-to-use tablet.

the property, two of which are hotel rooms; the rest feature apartments for sale. There are also 22 villas, individual high-end units that sell for 3-8 million dollars a pop. Two of the villas are built right on the sand, “so you can open your window, and you’re on the beach,” Albert notes. All of these spaces (both hotel and residential) are loaded with automation—in each unit, lights, AV, home theaters, thermostats, and blinds can all be controlled via Control4.

The hotel just celebrated its grand opening in November 2016. Currently 157 rooms are available. Each room is a private piece of paradise: sleek white design, huge windows with ocean views, and private sun decks complete with sun bed and outdoor bathtubs. The rooms include “bathtub service,” in which you simply request a bath is prepared for you at almost any hour. “The rooms



The private balconies are the perfect place to take in a sunset. While guests are at dinner, they can request the outdoor tub to be prepared for a hot soak.

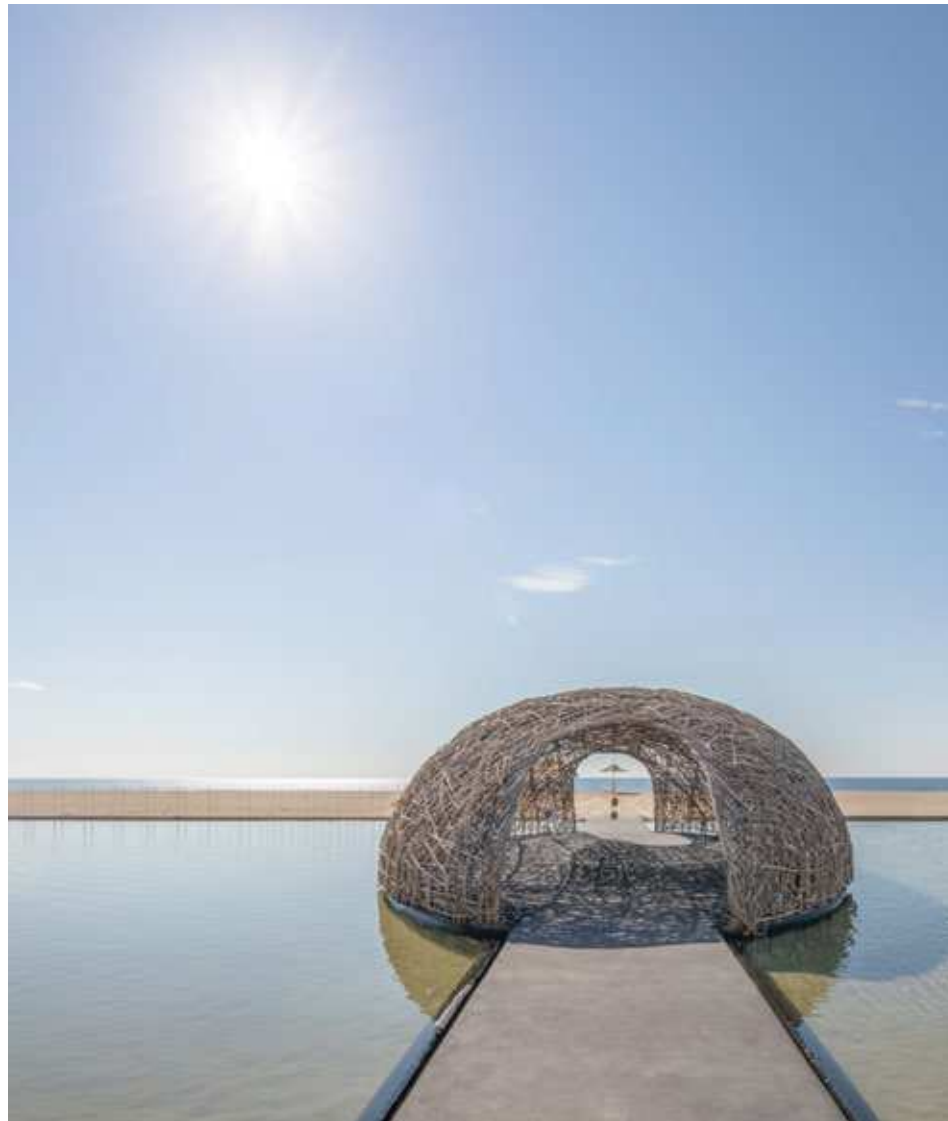




Automation spans each of the three levels of the property: the hotel, the apartments, and the villas, which open directly onto the beach.

are spectacular,” Lorena says. “You feel like you are somewhere special, and you also don’t feel like you are anywhere in the world.” The rooms are built for top-notch comfort, and that includes guests relaxing with and without technology. “When you travel,” Lorena notes, “you want a beautiful place, a beautiful room, but you want access to all the technology we have today. When we think of resting, we think of just grabbing a tablet and doing everything with it.” Here at Hotel Mar Adentro, guests can do just that—grab a customized tablet in their room and control their environment just how they’d like: ignite music in the shower, lower the curtains, turn the TV on, or turn the lights down. (Not just ordinary lights, either—these rooms feature an LED rainbow of colors, so you can choose your hue, based on your mood.) And, to create even more customized comfort, the hotel staff will change the languages on labels, so if a guest from China will be staying, the staff can put Chinese in place of Spanish.

Automation extends to the property’s public spaces, too. In the 21-person professional cinema, Control4 lowers the lights when the movie starts and brings the lights back up at the movie’s end. Lights come to life on the pathways leading



Have a margarita or two at Roca bar, then take in a movie in the super-smart cinema featuring a 161-inch screen.



to the cinema room. The soothing music, which drifts through all the common spaces, is also automated on the system. The playlists are carefully chosen and are customized for morning, afternoon, and evening. Control4 automatically plays the proper playlists throughout the days and nights, and a soundscape it is. The lobbies, restaurants, bars, spa, gym, and children’s center are all incorporated into the system. In fact, the only area that isn’t on the system is the beach and the ocean—that area, naturally, remains pleasantly gadget-free.

Thus far, feedback from guests on the automation system has been overwhelmingly positive. “They give great reviews,” Lorena notes, “And that is, in part, because of the technology.” Albert agrees: “Guests really like it. The system works really well.” Apparently, other hotel owners are also taking notice and want



In addition to automation, the rooms feature natural materials, simple yet elegant decor, and custom-made Italian furniture.



similar systems in their properties. "This is like a giant showroom," Albert says, smiling.

The hotel staff loves the system, too. "It has been really easy for our staff members to learn the system," Lorena says. Part of the check-in process includes staff showing guests how to control their room with the tablet. And, because the guests take control of their environment, "the staff is now focused on the pampering of guests instead of the details," Lorena says. "Control4 takes care of everything for us."

And since mere words and pictures just won't do this place justice, and because you now know the hotel is beautiful, modern, and loaded with automation, there's really nothing more to say, except for this: Get on the next plane out and go to Cabo! ■



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PROJECT INSTALLATION:
Show & Tell AV Solutions

WE KINDIG-IT! KIN YOU?

A custom car showroom goes the extra mile!

PHOTOS BY LANE PETERS

When a custom design business enlists the service of custom design automation, the result can only be unique. Welcome to Kindig-It Design, not only the hottest custom car design shop in Salt Lake City, but also the star of Velocity's reality series "Bitchin' Rides," which follows the creativity and craft that goes into their most jaw-dropping accomplishments. Now in its third season, "Bitchin' Rides" follows Dave Kindig—president, designer, and owner of Kindig-It Design—and his staff of mechanics and fabricators as they make dreams come true for car owners all over the country.

The projects run the gamut from souping up a classic 1929 roadster to redesigning a 1955 Ford F-100 to decking out a 2014 Audi R8 for a BYU alumnus. If you can dream it, these guys can build it. Check out the episode

Kindig-It Design's new showroom with custom autos in the spotlight and custom automation behind the scenes.



where Dave and team transform an ordinary golf cart into a super-powered off-road vehicle that is, no doubt, the envy of the entire country club.

Custom design met custom design when Kindig bought the building that houses his shop. With the purchase, he decided to finally upgrade his showroom and offices to better reflect the high standard and expert proficiency his team puts into every one of their custom creations.

“We had been here for 17 years and really just made the best of a bad situation,” admits Kindig. “Well, after buying the building, I set up a budget to put together a brand-new, state-of-the-art, architecturally fantastic showroom. Control4 was the perfect solution for that.”

The new showroom gleams with light glancing off the chrome, the glass, and the perfect paint jobs that, of course, have been meticulously



Dave Kindig's redesigned office, above, has built-in touch screen, distributed video, and a commanding view of the showroom, left.

“...they pay a lot of attention to detail in the customization of their cars, so to go along with that, we've paid special attention to the customization and the fit and finish of our installation.”



The Kindig-It Design logo, above, informed the aesthetics of the entire Control4 installation. Johnson's team hid the wiring out of sight for all the lighting, right.





Owner Dave Kindig hand-draws his creations before bringing them to life, *left*. Distributed video plays throughout the showroom and offices, *below*.



waxed. To install the system that would complement such detailed finishes, Control4 Dealer David Johnson from Show & Tell AV Solutions in Bountiful, Utah, rolled in.

“One of the things I really like about this particular installation,” confides Johnson, “is that they pay a lot of attention to detail in the customization of their cars, so to go along with that, we’ve paid special attention to the customization and the fit and finish of our installation. All the wiring, all the products that are installed, all match the fit and finish and quality level that they put into their cars.

“Using the Control4 brand along with Control4 partner products, we were able to directly address all of their showroom needs. This included networking, distributed audio, distributed video, lighting control, security integration, surveillance cameras, climate control, remote

access, and network-attached storage for photos and videos.”

Johnson and his crew installed four zones of distributed audio and video (the showroom itself, the conference room, and two offices), five wall-mounted touch screens, lighting throughout the showroom and offices, security cameras, and a Pagedge network to tie it all together.

In order to seamlessly blend into the environment (one of Control4’s greatest superpowers), Johnson had his team painstakingly stage a clean look, tucking the wiring out of sight so it’s not visible against floors, walls, or the exposed steel beam ceilings. They hid all of the hardware in a back closet, and everything is operated through the intended user interfaces. For consistency in color, Show & Tell AV matched the style and feel of the Kindig-It Design logo by incorporating its particular shade of red into the LED lighting and the



The king of custom in action, designing his next showpiece, *above*. One wall of the showroom displays Kindig’s artwork, *left*. Control4 touch screens double as showcases, cycling through various artwork like wallpaper, *below*.





backlights.

Part of the showroom's purpose is to display not only actual vehicles, but also special artwork and videos that showcase other amazing projects they've finished. The artwork has been loaded onto their servers and, thanks to the Control4 system, it can now be used as wallpaper on the wall-mounted touch screens and the televisions. Johnson's team situated at the front desk a Blu-ray player, which can distribute video throughout the showroom and offices.

"It's a whole new world for us," laughs Kindig. "The guys are able to come in and with one touch—boom—turn on the lights, turn on the AC, get everything moving and rolling. It really works out great."

Employee efficiency is definitely a plus, and Kindig acknowledges that it boosts productivity, but as with the best custom cars, form is just as important as function.

"Yeah, the efficiency is there," Kindig says, "but for us, it's really about the ambience. It's about controlling everything. We can dim the lights, we can change the lights, we can have party settings. One touch of a button changes the mood of the entire room. With the music, the visuals, and everything built right in,

Employees find it much quicker to open and close the shop each day with the tap of a touch screen, *above left*. Dave Kindig's crew can focus on taking cars to the next level. Fabricators and mechanics now have more time to focus on the tasks at hand, *right above and below*.



This 1960 Cadillac Coupe DeVille is one of Kindig-It Designs award-winning projects and is kept in impeccable condition in the showroom.



Dave Kindig's crew focuses on taking cars to the next level, *above*. Meanwhile the cream of the crop is showcased in true car-lovers' style, *left*.

it's pretty incredible."

With top-shelf equipment, trade secrets, and priceless creations all under the same roof, the Kindig-It crew can rest easy now that their external and internal security cameras feed into all the office TVs, as well as their phones.

Opening the shop is a one-touch operation, closing the shop is a one-touch operation, security is tighter, and showcasing has never been simpler. "Control4 has definitely brought us up to the next level," Kindig says with a satisfied smile. "I'd definitely say to anybody out there—if you have the means, I highly suggest you get a Control4 unit. ■"



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