



# HOME Smart Home

Life under control

## A HOUSE SMARTER THAN HOLLYWOOD

### **SAFETY FIRST**

Security is...total control

### **HEAVENLY HELL**

Automation cooks in  
New York's 'Kitchen'

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## THE WORLD IS GETTING SMARTER.

Clearly, I don't mean we're all getting more intelligent (US presidential candidates, case in point), but smart homes are increasing in number all over the globe. In this issue we spotlight home automation at its most ingenious, from Colorado to New England, from England to South Africa, and from Canada to the south of France.

As an aficionado of smart home case studies, I've seen one motif again and again: The homeowner calls in a Control4 Dealer for a kick-a home theater or "just smart lighting," then realizes how amazing whole-home automation can be and decides to outfit the rest of the house with all the bells and whistles. In this issue, you'll notice how the magic of lighting shines its beautiful benefits again and again.

You'll see how a couple in the high desert has trained their smart home to light their house per their different preferences come morning, noon, and night, all completely hands-free. You'll experience the exquisitely designed lighting of the hottest new restaurant in the UK, the clean, white light of a house that is itself a celebrity in Ontario, and the sparkling-blue waters of the Mediterranean reflecting sunshine as a smart yacht luxuriously rides the waves.

And how about a little heaven in the center of "hell"? A church in New York's Hell's Kitchen has become a smart home so decked out it practically sings "Hallelujah!"

Now, if I may quote those famous words...Let there be light!



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# WHAT'S NEW?

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*"If you thought the HC-800 was fast and plenty capable, take a look at the EA-5. It will blow your mind."*

—Steve Randazzo

## Smart Watch, Smart Home

The Control4 iOS app now includes a native Watch app. Quickly and easily access your home, right from your wrist. Control the audio or video in a room, access custom buttons, activate a lighting scene or turn on only one light.



### STAY IN CONTROL

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ATLANTIS AV SOLUTIONS, ALLAN INGWERSON

## Smart Home Surveillance





# SMART. SAFE. SECURE.

The FBI reports that in 2014 we had 1,121,416 residential burglaries nationwide. Spacing those out evenly across the entire year gives us one burglary every 28 seconds. But here's the good news: that number is down 10% from 2013. In fact, that statistic has been steadily dropping each year since 2011. Not coincidentally, by 2011, more than 75% of U.S. homes were connected to the Internet. Wireless home monitoring was the new trend. Now, in 2016, that trend is hotter than ever. Industry advancements and enhancements have taken residential security to a whole new level, specifically when it comes to smart homes. Creating a "burglar-unfriendly" environment has never been simpler. (Or more ingenious!)

## SMART SURVEILLANCE

Lilin has introduced an intelligent video solution—a camera that allows the user to define an area within the field of view for motion detection. For instance, one could train the camera on the front face of a house and specify the area directly in front of a window for motion detection. If there is movement within those specified coordinates, it will trigger an alarm. But if the bushes below the window blow in the breeze, it will raise no alarm, even though they, too, are on camera. And with smart homes, everything works together. The camera's function can be tied in with other security tactics. It can be programmed so that once motion is detected in front of the window, the lights inside that very room turn on at full brightness, an audible alarm begins to blare, and push



notifications are sent to the owner and anyone else on the call list.

## SECRET HISTORY

Security systems grow more intelligent each year. In the most recent operating system from Control4, all smart home "events"—motion in an area in the house, doors opening, alarms tripped, etc.—can be indexed and kept in sequence as a searchable history. Seeing all the daily activity in context like this allows the homeowner to better identify false alarms and to create more custom-

tailored security procedures. If the owner receives an alert that motion was detected inside the home, he or she can quickly check the History tab to see if any doors had been opened, window glass broken, or any other sensor triggered before the motion was detected. If they see no previous events, they can chalk it up to the dog moving around the house. If, however, they see a more conspicuous sequence, they know to immediately alert the authorities. At a glance, the History tab shows the homeowner his or her own patterns. The homeowner, in

turn, can then program against it. Say the motion sensor is used as an alarm trigger at night in the downstairs part of the house, but not in the upstairs. If the owner gets up in the middle of the night and goes downstairs to grab a snack, the alarm would be tripped. But the History tab allows sequential "If/Then" programming, such as if motion is detected in the upstairs part of the house just before it is detected downstairs, then it knows not to trigger the alarm.

## ALWAYS OCCUPIED

The Control4 Mockupancy™ capability makes even more practical use of smart home event indexing. It remembers patterns and can be programmed to repeat them. Think of it as a "whole-home" DVR. If the old method was setting lights on timers to give that lived-

in feel to outsiders while the family is away on vacation, the new method is to tie in that smart

*There's no better theft deterrent than a house that seems bustling with life and activity.*

lighting with media and any other automated features. TVs can go on and off, music can play in the back yard, blinds open and close and more. It can all be programmed to mimic the homeowner's actual patterns, and the schedule can be randomized plus or minus a half hour. There's no better theft

deterrent than a house that seems bustling with life and activity.

## ONE TAP AWAY

The advent of wireless security naturally led to full mobile control, as well. Security panels no longer need to be hard-wired into the wall by the front door—now they've been re-imagined for touch screens, tablets, and mobile phones. If one wakes up in the middle of the night to an alarm going off in another part of the house, he or she can now reach over to the nightstand, grab their mobile device, and with one tap, the home security system is dialing the authorities. With more technical capabilities, more versatility, and the holistic connectivity of whole-home automation, the resources are there for anyone to make their castle into a well-defended fortress. ■

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# 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. My, how times have changed!

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

## Blade Runner (1982)



Ridley Scott's greatest film depicts a grim and gritty future of never-ending rain, where a burnt-out cop must track down a band of renegade replicants—genetically engineered androids who are all too human. Moody and atmospheric, the movie showcases several memorable examples of home automation, including dimming windows, motion-sensitive lights and, of course, the Voight-Kampff machine. (Okay, that last one wasn't automated, but it was still awesome.)

With a Control4 system, you can automate your windows and lights, link them to motion sensors, and program them based on your own remembered usage patterns. But are they really *your* memories—or somebody else's?

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BITS & PIECES

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little-did-you-knows

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users  
share over  
70 million  
photos  
a day!



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faces get  
38 percent  
more likes



**Designed by DFRobot, Vortex**  
is a new programmable robot that  
functions as an interactive toy and  
an educational tool. Yes, it plays with  
children, but better yet, teaches them  
the basics of programming, too.



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(AI) system developed by  
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of Informatics is now  
smart enough to pass the  
country's college entrance  
exam, scoring 511 out of  
950 possible points. (The  
national average is 416.)

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times faster than current  
average Wi-Fi speeds.



**Neurosurgeon Phil Kennedy**,  
a pioneer in brain-machine  
interfaces that enable patients  
to control computers with their  
minds, is trying to build a system  
that will translate imagined  
speech into computer speech so  
that severely paralyzed people  
could “talk” just by thinking.

1959

*That's the year Marvin Minsky, along with the computer scientist John McCarthy, founded the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT.*



**An ingestible sensor**,  
developed by researchers from MIT, could  
allow doctors to monitor vital signs by  
listening to the body's gastrointestinal  
tract. The device could help treat “chronic  
illnesses, monitor soldiers in battle, or even  
help athletes train more effectively.



*Microsoft  
HoloLens  
devices are  
expected  
to begin  
shipping in the  
first quarter  
of 2016.*



**Microsoft HoloLens and Volvo** are developing a new  
holographic technology that would let potential car buyers view  
safety feature demonstrations, see car customization options, and  
even take part in virtual test drives without leaving the showroom.



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relationship status after a  
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if they'd like to see less of  
their ex without having to  
unfriend or block them.



# SAFE AND SOUND

Project installation by  
Complete AV



A New England family uses automation to add security and comfort to their home

For any family, the best feeling in the world is of being protected protected at home, and today, homeowners are using smart home technology to make their homes safer than ever. In a picturesque neighborhood outside Manchester in southern New Hampshire, one busy family of four is just beginning to enjoy the added layers of security their home automation system gives them—as well as more than a few unexpected upgrades in comfort and convenience.

Both parents in this family are fairly tech-savvy, so when they were building their new home, they knew they wanted to incorporate home automation. Their architect called in Complete AV for the install. Above all else, the owners wanted to make the home secure. Beyond that, they weren't sure what an automation system could deliver. So the



Every regular visitor has their own entry code, so the owners can keep tabs on who comes and goes on a daily basis.






---

*We've created a very secure home.  
The system provides a complete  
secure barrier around the house.*

---

Complete AV team knew a flexible Control4 system was the way to go. "These customers didn't know 100 percent what they wanted, so we used Control4 to build a system that could be added upon easily as the family settles into the home and realizes the full potential of their system," notes Complete AV owner Jason Hillard.

Today, the robust system features five video zones, 10 audio zones, 60 zones of security, eight security cameras, a full Centralized Lighting system with 60 lighting loads, some 40 window blinds and four door locks. Despite the variety of branded products (TruAudio speakers, Yale door locks and SurgeX power protectors), everything works harmoniously on the Control4 system. "It just made good sense

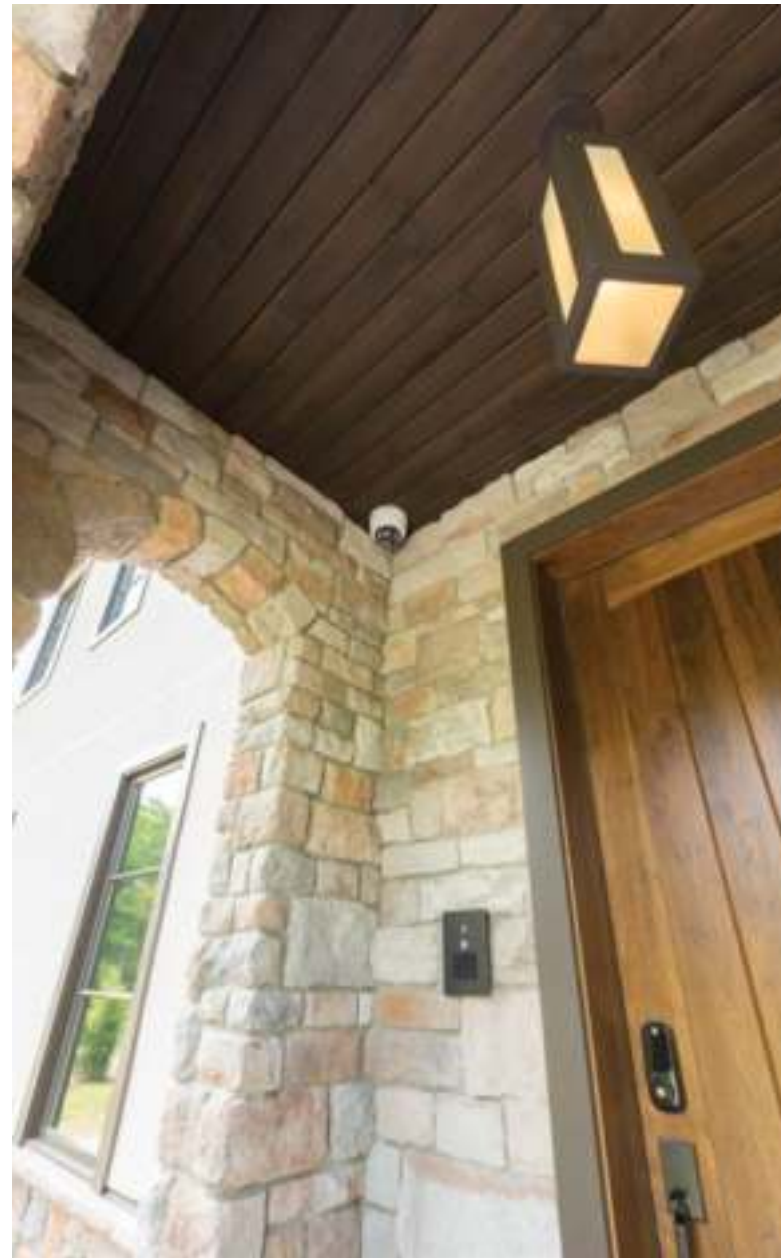
for us to go with Control4," Jason adds. "They're all certified partner Control4 products, so we know they're going to work seamlessly."

And, as promised, the house is now super-safe. "We've created a very secure home," notes Rick Hartley, Complete AV owner. The owners can control the house alarm system from any phone, TV or interface in the house. They can trigger the alarm from upstairs if they see something suspicious on a security camera image, which they can view from any TV in the house. Within the home, certain lights go on when those areas of the house are occupied. "The system provides a completely secure barrier around the house," Rick adds.

Like any home with a garage (and kids), the garage doors are

sometimes left open accidentally, which is an obvious security issue, leaving the home open to theft. But here, during a harsh New England winter, leaving a garage door open can also be a costly mistake, as outside cold air can cause pipes to freeze and make a mountain of damage. Fortunately, here there's an automated fix: LED indicators on the Touch Screens show the owners if garage doors are open (red light) or closed (green light). "They can just look at a keypad and see the status of their doors," Rick notes. "In a large house like this, that's a great time saver." And at night, the system automatically checks the status of the garage doors at regular intervals and closes them if they are open.

In a family like this one, in which both parents work away from the



Images from the security camera on the front porch can be viewed on any Touch Screen or television in the house.

home, having remote access to the house is key. "They both live a fairly busy lifestyle," Jason notes. The owners can operate the security cameras, arm or disarm the house or open doors, all from their offices. The system features unique entrance codes for anyone who needs access to the house: grandparents, the nanny, contractors, and landscapers—even the Complete AV team have their own code. When someone enters a door, the owners are alerted by text. Cameras take pictures of the entrance and email a still picture of the visitor, as well. If someone is coming or going, these owners will know as it happens.

And when the entire family goes on vacation, the system stays home and works. If the heat drops below a specified temperature in chilly New Hampshire, the owners get a

PHOTOS: JIM STONE





text at their beachside vacation in Florida, and they can send a repair person to handle it.

But not every feature of this fine system is focused on security—some features just make life easier. One family favorite lets mom and dad get a little extra shut-eye after the wee ones wake up early. At certain times in the morning, the kids can fire up their favorite TV channels like Disney Jr. or Nickelodeon, with one button press on the Touch Screen in the living room.

With the system complete, Jason and his team are proud of the large number of moving

parts and subsystems, all humming smoothly within the Control4 system. “On this project, we got to show off what Control4 can do in a medium to larger-sized home.”

So, the installers are happy. What about the owners? “They love the system,” says Jason. “It’s really awesome,” one of the owners remarks. “I love having absolutely no wires anywhere.” They particularly love being able to control everything no matter where they might be, and the support and availability of the install team throughout the process. Some features

The alarm system covers every door and window in the 4,600-square-foot home, upstairs and downstairs.

they thought they’d never use have become great conveniences, like being able to open the third garage door from the kitchen for the frequently visiting grandparents. Even with the constant stream of visitors, everyone can use the system. “Nannies, parents, babysitters, everyone can turn on a TV,” the owner continues. The owners also love the ability to customize the system as they learn it and grow with it. “They can make simple changes themselves, or if we need to get involved, 90 percent of the time we can make the changes remotely,” Jason says.

And so, what started as a basic security system has become much more, but the original goal—and result—remains the same: to increase safety and security for this New Hampshire family, whether they’re home or not. “It totally provides peace of mind,” the owner adds. “I love everything about it.” ■



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A new Manchester eatery lights up the town.

Dining out has never been as trendy. Restaurants have stepped up their game in foodie society world. The likes of Yelp and Trip Advisor have given them no choice, really. The competition is thick and the eyes of the Internet are everywhere. No establishment goes unreviewed and no blemish on the silverware goes

unmentioned. It's a foodies-eat-food world out there, and a successful venture absolutely has to stand out.

Tattu Restaurant and Bar opened in Manchester, England in September 2015, and it stands out. Owned by brothers Adam and Drew Jones, and featuring Chinese fusion cuisine, the new establishment prides itself on the exquisite presentation of its dishes, the extensive array





of cocktails, and, more than anything, the unique sensory journey the restaurant delivers to diners. Here are some reviews culled from social media:

*Favorite restaurant in the UK.*

*So individual, food is on point and the atmosphere is like no other.*

*The interior design makes it a truly magical dining experience. Whether it be for food or drinks, make sure you experience Manchester's finest.*

*Stunning décor, great staff, and the nicest meal we have had in a long time! Now my fave restaurant! We've eaten in top places and this place beats them all!*

Notice that every review mentions atmosphere and décor. Tattu's owners,

like all successful restaurant gurus today, understand that ambiance is as key a draw as the menu itself. To bring in the high-end clients, the Jones brothers went with a high-end décor—rich brown padded leather, dark mahogany wood paneling, gold-framed portraits, and 480 light fittings.

Scott Earing, Director at GB Integrated Systems Ltd, oversaw the Control4 installation in the restaurant. “Originally this job came to us as a lighting control job. Every single light fitting in that place is custom. There are 108 control circuits and over 5,000 lamps, mostly incandescent LED—a recreation of those filament-

Diners are treated to unique lighting and striking artwork along with the fine food and custom cocktails.

PHOTOS COURTESY TATTU



The bar area became an immediate favorite amongst the Manchester dating set.

type lamps you see in 1930s films.”

Lighting is the first step to creating ambiance, and Tattu's stylish placement of cold whites, warm yellows, and wide, mellow reds goes a long way to setting the scene. It's artwork in itself.

The biggest piece of “light art” in the restaurant is the 20-foot real indoor blossom tree. It's lit up with RGB color and changes throughout the day, as well as through the seasons. It can be adjusted to complement or contrast the weather outside and can be custom-colored for specific evening events. Its normal routine is to start off cold white in the morning and gradually change through the

day to a red wash by late evening.

“All of the elements within the space have been designed to engage sight, sound, touch and, of course, taste,” says owner Adam Jones. “The design details are as such that with each visit, a customer will notice something different—there will be different aromas, lighting combinations, music, and other aesthetic qualities day in and day out.

“Control4 has supported our ambitions to create a completely unique venue. We can instantly change the mood to suit the transition from day to evening to late night. As a result, our customers enjoy the experience





in surroundings that are tailor-made during the time they spend with us.”

While the Control4 automation in use at Tattu is 99% lighting control, several other functions are utilized in the restaurant’s most exclusive space, a private room with its own entrance called The Parlour.

Already, Manchester’s most notable and noteworthy have spent time in this elite room, from pro footballers to entertainers. The Parlour can host a private party for up to 70 people. Sofas, easy chairs, a private bar, and a performance booth all conspire to create an almost-speakeasy feel, albeit a very high-class one.

“We needed something really special

that no other venue has,” Adam explains. “The automation system allows us to transform the room from exquisite dining parlour to seductive performance space, changing the lighting and opening the performance booth in one seamless transition.”

Indeed, with the tap of a button on the Control4 Touch Screen, a red spotlight beams on, all the lights fade down in a dramatic 10-second dimming, the curtains open, and another spot light illumines the performer in the booth. And the sensory journey continues.

In the history of creative restaurants that feed guests not just wonderful food but wonderful experiences, Tattu is sure to leave a permanent mark. ■

A thick, woven ceiling gives texture to the artful lighting, adding to the sensual ambiance.

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# AS SEEN ON TV

A smart Canadian dwelling gains celebrity status.



Nearly every inch of this 10,000-square-foot home has been automated, including the room closest to the pool, which opens to the outdoors in the summer.

Project installation by Evolve

PHOTOS PETER A. SELLAR  
AND JIM STONE

Driving up to this sleek, modern home outside of Toronto is sort of like approaching a movie star—your heartbeat quickens, you feel a bit of nervous excitement, and you are simply struck with how good looking something can be in person. The crazy thing is, this house is actually something of a celebrity, having already starred in

several television shows (including some you might have even heard of!) And, like many a famous face, this looker made the big time with a combination of beauty, solid confidence....and serious smarts.

Oakville, Ontario is about 37 km south of Toronto. It's a pretty, little burg nestled on the shores of Lake Ontario, and it's the perfect spot for a big name to keep





It's nearly impossible to detect the elements of automation, which work behind the scenes, allowing the home's sleek and modern decor to set the tone.

a low profile. It's also where one family decided to build a new house about five years ago. Their vision? Open, clean, and minimal—an architect's dream...and an automation installer's nightmare. Originally, the owner wanted just the bare basics of automation—lighting and some audio/video. He hired Manuel Furtado with Ontario-based Evolve to do the install. Manuel then collaborated with the architect, designer, and home builder to see the owner's vision through—a truly modern marvel of glass, metal, concrete and steel.

"It's a very modern design," Manuel notes. (The house was designed by Guido Constantino, the firm behind several stylish Canadian restaurants.) In fact, the design

was so minimal, there was very little real estate to add technology. With wide spans of windows and very few walls, installing a network of wires, televisions, and speakers was a major challenge. Manuel used Control4 solutions to load the system with functionality, while preserving the ultra-modern look that the owners desired. During the design process, the owner learned more about the possibilities of automation, and added several hi-tech goodies to the plan. Today, the house boasts a robust automation system, featuring 12 zones of video, 10 zones of audio, a dedicated home theater, lighting, HVAC, and shades. The owners can watch any video source on any TV, or listen to their personalized music in any room—the system





“follows” the owners as they move around the house. As far as smart systems go, this one packs quite the punch. But, aside from an occasional touch screen here or TV screen there, you wouldn’t know the home was anything but museum-quality stylish.

It was those top-notch looks that drew the attention of television producers, who have made the house something of a celebrity by featuring it in several series. It first starred on “Four Houses Canada,” an HGTV series where four homeowners battle for a \$1000 cash prize and bragging rights (yes, it won). That burst of fame caught the eyes of the creators of “Hemlock Grove,” a horror thriller series on Netflix, who then “hired” the house to appear in that show. Not a bad acting career, and one that is certainly not over yet.

While this superstar’s look is very sleek and clean, touches of cozy comfort are in every room. Take the cabana, for instance. In the summertime, this wing of the house opens to become an indoor/outdoor extension of the back yard, where the owners can turn on a TV or listen to music while enjoying the pool or hosting a barbecue. But when the weather changes, so does the room. “We have some harsh, cold winters here. We don’t live in Miami,” Manuel laughs. When the cold sets in, the cabana can be sealed up and transformed into a comfy den, perfect for gathering under blankets and lounging as the snow falls outside.

Meanwhile, hi-tech touches highlight other spaces. Water fountains, heated floors, and other snazzy bits are all



Motorized blinds on the home’s bevy of windows automatically rise and lower to maintain interior temperatures.



---

*We never go out to real movie theaters anymore...  
we've got it all here in our basement!*

---



The home theater sports a 133-inch screen and 11 oversize viewing seats.



included on the system. The gym, for instance, sports two separate AV zones, so that the owners can watch two sources on opposite ends of the room while they work out. When the owners travel out of town, they can let workers or cleaners into the house remotely using the electronic deadbolt locks.

Additionally, several features increase the energy efficiency of the house. If the temperature drops

below a certain point, the shades will automatically rise to allow sunlight to naturally heat certain rooms. Conversely, when indoor temperatures rise beyond a certain point, the shades will lower to cool rooms down.

Plenty of particulars give this residence star appeal, but the biggest billing (and installer Manuel's proudest achievement) is the home theater—a cavernous beauty featuring a three-

tier 11-seat layout, a 133-inch screen, and 9.2 surround sound audio. It's the perfect room to watch a movie, a music video...or, of course, the latest episode of Hemlock Grove.

"We use the home theater all the time," the owner notes. "The look and the sound just keep blowing us away. We never go out to real movie theaters anymore...we've got it all here in our basement!"

And so, a stylish home has become a celebrity sensation, and the former automation-averse owners have become full-fledged fans. "They are very happy with the system," notes Manuel. So happy, in fact, that when the owners bought a subsequent house, they went full-force with automation. In the meantime, we'll have to wait to see what's next for the star house—a feature length film? Dare to dream! ■





# FAIRY QUEEN OF THE HIGH SEAS

Step into a dream on the motor yacht *Titania*.

*Titania* is home to the  
largest Control4 system  
ever installed on a yacht.

Project installation by  
Veritais, United Kingdom





Up to twelve guests can dine in style while ocean breezes kiss their skin and dolphins frolic in the waters nearby.



*Titania* boasts a veritable fleet of tenders, jet skis, waverunners, kayaks, paddle boards, and aquatic toys of every description.

If you were one of the luckiest people in the world, you might find yourself on a small boat just off the southern coast of France, racing across the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean with the wind in your hair and a smile on your face. Looking back over your shoulder, you can see the morning sun reflecting off the landmark hotels of Marseille. Facing forward again, your eyes drink in the graceful lines and curves of a massive yacht directly ahead. She's anchored less than a mile off shore, glittering white and silver on the restive waves, like a luminous pearl in a sea of shimmering sapphires. This magnificent vessel is your destination, and as you get close enough to truly appreciate her staggering scale, you begin to understand why the Motor Yacht *Titania* is classified as a "superyacht."

With a length of 239' (73m) and a beam of 42' (12.8m), capable of housing twelve guests and a full-time crew of twenty-two, *Titania* is one of the largest privately owned pleasure crafts in the world. She belongs to a well-known British media mogul and philanthropist, who named her after the proud fairy queen of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The name suits her—not only due to her regal appearance, but also because there's something magical about this ship: *Titania* is home to one of the most extensive home automation systems ever installed on a yacht, a system powered exclusively by Control4 technology. And that's why you are here: to tour this incredible vessel and see its Control4 system in action. As you step onto the aft deck, you are warmly greeted by the man you've crossed an ocean to meet:

British entrepreneur David Milner. Milner is the founder and general manager of Veritais, the high-end audiovisual and home automation company commissioned by *Titania's* owner to design and install "the ultimate automation solution" during a recent refit of the superyacht. "I knew right away it had to be Control4," says Milner. The yacht's owner, however, was unconvinced—until Veritais installed a Control4 system in his home by way of demonstration. The billionaire was immediately won over by Control4's amazing feature set and ease of use, so he gave Milner the go-ahead to tackle the task of bringing home automation to the *Titania*. Milner admits that it was a daunting project: though his company has installed Control4 systems on numerous yachts, none of them comes close to the scope of

PHOTOS COURTESY VERITAI LTD.



the project undertaken on *Titania*. "My team put in over a thousand man-hours of labor," says Milner proudly. And as he reels off the numbers, you can see why. The Control4 system on the *Titania* uses a 64 x 64 audiovisual matrix to deliver video and audio from scores of inputs to over two dozen Ultra HD televisions and surround sound systems throughout the ship. There are 16 audio zones and 26 video zones, each of them outfitted with a Kaleidescape HD movie player, AppleTV, satellite receiver, Yamaha amplifier, and a 7" Control4 Touch Screen, which delivers one-touch control not only of the AV system, but also of the more than 380 automated lights, curtains, and shades on board, along with six thermostats and ten CCTV cameras. "To my knowledge," says Milner, "this is the largest Control4 automation





The staterooms on *Titania* feature disappearing 65" UltraHD TVs, surround sound audio systems, and fully automated lights, curtains, and climate control—all courtesy of Control4.

system ever installed on a yacht."

And what a yacht it is! Built by renowned German shipwrights Lürssen Yachts, and designed to embody the very pinnacle of luxury, *Titania* has a top speed of 16 knots and a range of 5000 nautical miles. Her amenities include two master staterooms, a VIP stateroom, an elevator, a gym with panoramic views, a massage parlor, a beauty salon, a nightclub, a bridge-deck saloon, a jacuzzi, a sauna, a pool with a swim-up bar, and an indoor/outdoor 75" Sony 4K HDTV (installed by Veritais), plus the services of a master chef, masseuse, and beautician.

On the superyacht's bridge—which is so high-tech it looks like the bridge of a starship—Milner introduces you to the captain of the *Titania*, Will Bagshaw. You ask him what he thinks of the Control4 automation system,

and his face lights up. "It has exceeded all our expectations!" "What was it like working with Veritais?" you ask. "I found Veritais to be a highly professional and adaptable company," says Bagshaw. "During our time together on this project, their ability to problem solve, work within our team environment, and think outside the box allowed us to achieve a huge amount of work in a very short time. It would be a pleasure to work with them again."

Which just might happen: later, Milner confides that after the success of last year's Control4 installation, there's been talk of the owner commissioning Veritais to install a full-size movie theater on *Titania* during her next refit. "That would be brilliant," says Milner, his eyes shining eagerly.

As he leads you through a bewildering array of gorgeously

appointed staterooms and salons, their sumptuous interiors designed by the legendary Francois Zuretti, your senses reel. Opulent beyond imagining, the tasteful decor is dazzling, dizzying. You feel as if you've been dosed with a love potion like the one that bewitched the fairy queen in Shakespeare's play. Your knees grow weak and you collapse into the nearest chair, which turns out to be the stool before a grand piano.

Milner smiles. "Do you play?" he asks.

"No," you say. "Do you?" "No need." His hand brushes a Control4 touchpad, and the piano begins to play itself, the keys dropping as if caressed by invisible fingers. You listen, entranced, as the strains of Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* fill the air like a magic spell. Queen of the fairies, indeed! ■

PHOTOS COURTESY TITANIA MANAGEMENT



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# A LEVEL ABOVE

*Home control and automation are true no-brainers in this “high-desert modern” haven. Hands aren’t required, either.*

When Gordon and Lay Chin Nicholson roam their 3,000-square-foot home overlooking the mesas near Grand Junction, Colorado, they have their choice of 24 in-wall lighting keypads with six buttons each. But, because the house is automated to the hilt, they rarely touch the keypads.

As they stroll through the house, lights automatically turn on in the areas they enter, and to their preferences. If it’s the middle of the night, lights illuminate only to dimmed levels, so the couple can find their way around without being blinded—and without touching a thing. “We sometimes go days without touching a switch,” says Gordon.

Heating and cooling also turn on automatically and to their preferences, depending on where they are in the house, and set back to energy-saving levels when they aren’t present or at home. Motorized shades rise and lower according to the time of day to help regulate temperatures inside the house. And a clever whole-house entertainment system delivers music, movies, and TV programming in highly customized ways.

This level of smart automation is possible with a network of sensors, all connected to a Control4 HC-800 Home Controller and wireless lighting network. Eric Landis, owner of Grand Junction-based All Sound Designs, which specializes in hands-free home technology, reports that 30 tiny sensors help trigger the critical functions of the house—inside and out—without anyone touching a keypad.



Project installation by  
All Sound Designs





The 3,000-square-foot “high desert modern” house appears as if it grew out of the hillside. Lots of windows provide sweeping views and help regulate indoor climate with motorized shades.



**PLEASANT SURPRISES**

Gordon Nicholson is an engineer by trade and plenty tech savvy, but he never expected the level of smart home sophistication he and Lay Chin now experience every day. Surprise after surprise faced the Nicholsons, from the moment a bicycle ride up a bluff near Grand Junction revealed the lot for sale—and at a welcoming price. The couple snatched up the land, hired architect Lancer Livermont of Intermountain Architecture in Grand Junction, and began plans. Nicholson wanted his new home to be technologically equipped with home automation

but also wanted it to be easy to use and to save a ton of energy. He even had elaborate lighting plans with a full range of flexible control. Using energy-efficient LED lamps for all of the home’s lighting and automating the climate control made home automation a true no-brainer. But when the Nicholsons met Landis and heard about hands-free lighting, Gordon was skeptical. Then he experienced it for real. “Touring the other home [Eric] had done, we began to get an appreciation going up stairways and through hallways and seeing the lights go on.” The finished house sits on the brow of a hill with 360-degree

views of the high desert, starring the Colorado National Monument and Grand Mesa. Livermont designed the home in what he terms “high desert modern” style, with its contemporary rock-clad and stucco forms appearing as if they had emerged from the mountain. Slanted roofs mimic the slope, and open decks extend to wide-open vistas. The dining room even opens to the outside. Wood trim adds warmth with Douglas fir ceilings at the entrance and in overhangs, quarter-sawn oak cabinets, hardwood oak flooring and extra wide oak trim. The tops of the steel cable railings are made

PHOTOS COURTESY GORDON NICHOLSON

from ipe, the Brazilian mahogany-toned hardwood, completing a refined natural feel of a place that folds into and complements its rugged surroundings.

**AMBIANCE OF AUTOMATION**

Behind the cowboy country views and comfortable modern decor, sensors and timers work in concert with the Control4 system to light, heat and cool the house, hands- and mind-free. Fifteen minutes before sunset, the home enters “Evening” mode. The outside lights are programmed to come on and then turn off at

10 p.m. At the same time, a selection of lights in the home also come on to 20 percent levels to create an “Ambiance” scene throughout the residence, highlighting the couple’s art collection. The Nicholsons wanted to display art collected from their travels. Glare and the threat of fading from ultraviolet light inspired a gallery that wraps around the walls that frame the staircase, which, of course, lights automatically as one ascends or descends, depending on the time of day. When the home enters “Evening” mode, the motion sensors become active and trigger lights

in key pathways and rooms. If no motion is detected after a set time, the pathway lights shut off to conserve energy. After 10 p.m., the house enters “Late Night” mode and any light triggered by a motion sensor comes on at dimmer levels around 10 percent to eliminate the blinding effect. During the day, most of the lights in the home are not active. Only areas that are naturally dark during the day are active. When the Nicholsons actually need to touch a lighting keypad, button presses always override automation. “If a light switch in





Home and lighting controls are everywhere, but rarely do the homeowners touch a switch or keypad. Sensors trigger automated lighting scenes for energy-efficient LED lamps throughout the home.

the home is manually turned on, it will come up to full power, even if the light was turned to a dim mode by a motion sensor,” says Landis.

Six centrally located thermostats rely on temperature sensors in the house and are programmed with set points for different times of day. In-floor heating in the bathrooms turns on for four hours in the morning and four hours in the evening to warm the floors. The thermostats are also regulated by occupancy sensors, so if no one is in a zone for two hours, the thermostat sets back to an energy-saving temperature.

Other big energy savers include the 30 motorized Hunter Douglas shades, programmed to rise and lower at certain times to control solar gain, which can be a hot problem in the high desert summer. The shades on the east side lower in the morning, and those on the west side in the afternoon. In less sunny areas, shades are timed to display the great views during the day and then close after sunset.

The window shading and energy-efficient lighting complement the 7kW photovoltaic solar system that provides electricity. Livermont says the Nicholsons have achieved a net gain on their electricity bills in their first year there.

“[The home automation] system perfectly dovetails what we’re doing with design,” says Livermont. “Having control of the interior shading helps manage the passive solar design, and automated



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lighting controls save on energy consumption.”

In addition, the garage door sensor ties into the security system and a driveway sensor alerts the house to guests arriving with an audible tone over the house-wide audio system.

Entertainment wasn't left out. Gordon and Lay Chin enjoy his and her Sonos systems over the in-ceiling speakers throughout the house. Apple TVs and a TiVo Roamio, with TiVo Minis behind each TV, provide video on demand everywhere, without employing a complicated and complex video matrix, or switching system. The TiVo Minis are connected over the network to the Roamio, and the audio from the Apple TVs and TiVo Minis are fed into the Control4 amplifier, then to the speakers.

The backbone is a networking system using Ubiquiti access points that allow easy roaming through the house without losing a Wi-Fi signal. “The unified system creates a nice, smooth umbrella,” says Landis.

All of it, of course, is operable from an app—even the ceiling fans, fireplace, and outdoor water fountain. Remote access is a prime feature for the couple, who travel a lot but like to check in on the home front. Water and low temperature sensors can alert them to a problem with leaks or frozen pipes.

“The flexibility of this system is amazing,” says Nicholson by phone, as he checked up on his super-smart home—remotely of course. ■



Entertainment is available on demand via “His” and “Hers” wireless music systems and Apple TVs and TiVo Minis hidden behind each TV, all operated by the Control4 system.

# WHERE WE'RE GOING, WE DON'T NEED ROADS







**HOVERBOARDS!**  
IT'S A POPULAR MATTEL TOY IN THE FILM, BUT THE "HOVERBOARDS" THAT BECAME POPULAR IN 2015 DON'T REALLY HOVER. THE NAME HAS BEEN APPLIED TO ROLLING GADGETS THAT ARE ESSENTIALLY STEM-LESS SEGWAYS. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT COMPANIES LIKE OMNI, HENDO, AND LEXUS ARE ACTUALLY WORKING FAST TO PERFECT THE REAL TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD ALLOW YOU TO HOVER AND STEER OVER LAND AND WATER.

**FLYING CARS!**  
OKAY, ROBERT ZEMECKIS, YOU JUMPED THE GUN BIG TIME WITH THIS ONE.



**SELF-TIGHTENING SNEAKERS!**  
THEY WERE NIKES IN THE FILM AND THEY WILL BE NIKES IN REAL LIFE, TOO! THE FOOTWEAR GIANT IS SERIOUS ABOUT CREATING THIS DESIGN FOR THE MASSES. THEY FILED A PATENT FOR A "POWER LACE," AND THEY EVEN ENGINEERED A PROTOTYPE THAT THEY SENT TO ACTOR MICHAEL J. FOX IN OCTOBER 2015.



**THE SCENERY CHANNEL!**  
SURE, A TV CHANNEL DEVOTED SIMPLY TO PICTURESQUE SCENES MAY HAVE SOUNDED CRAZY IN 1989, BUT ANYONE IN THE 21ST CENTURY WHO HAS AN APPLE TV, ROKU DEVICE, OR THE LIKE, WILL TELL YOU THAT USING YOUR HDTV AS A FRAME FOR YOUR SLIDESHOW OF VACATION PHOTOS AIN'T SO NUTS.



**Z-TIE STYLE!**  
NOPE. THE MIDDLE-AGED MARTY'S DOUBLE-TIE BUSINESS ATTIRE HAS NOT CAUGHT ON. AND, WE DARE SAY, IT NEVER WILL.

**80'S NOSTALGIA!**  
MARTY, YOUR 2015 HIT THIS ONE RIGHT ON THE NOSE! JUST LIKE "CAFÉ 80'S" IN THE FILM, HERE IN THE 21ST CENTURY, WE SEE THE DECADE OF DOUBLE DURAN AS AN ERA UNTO ITSELF AND WE OGLE ITS FASHIONS AND STYLES WITH "WHAT WERE WE THINKING?" DISBELIEF.



**DRONE DOG WALKERS!**  
WHILE IT'S NOT YET AN ACTUAL SERVICE, DRONES HAVE INDEED BURST ONTO THE MASS MARKET. WE RECORD VIDEO WITH THEM, WE GET PACKAGES DELIVERED BY THEM - HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE THEY'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP A POOCH ON A STRAIGHT PATH?

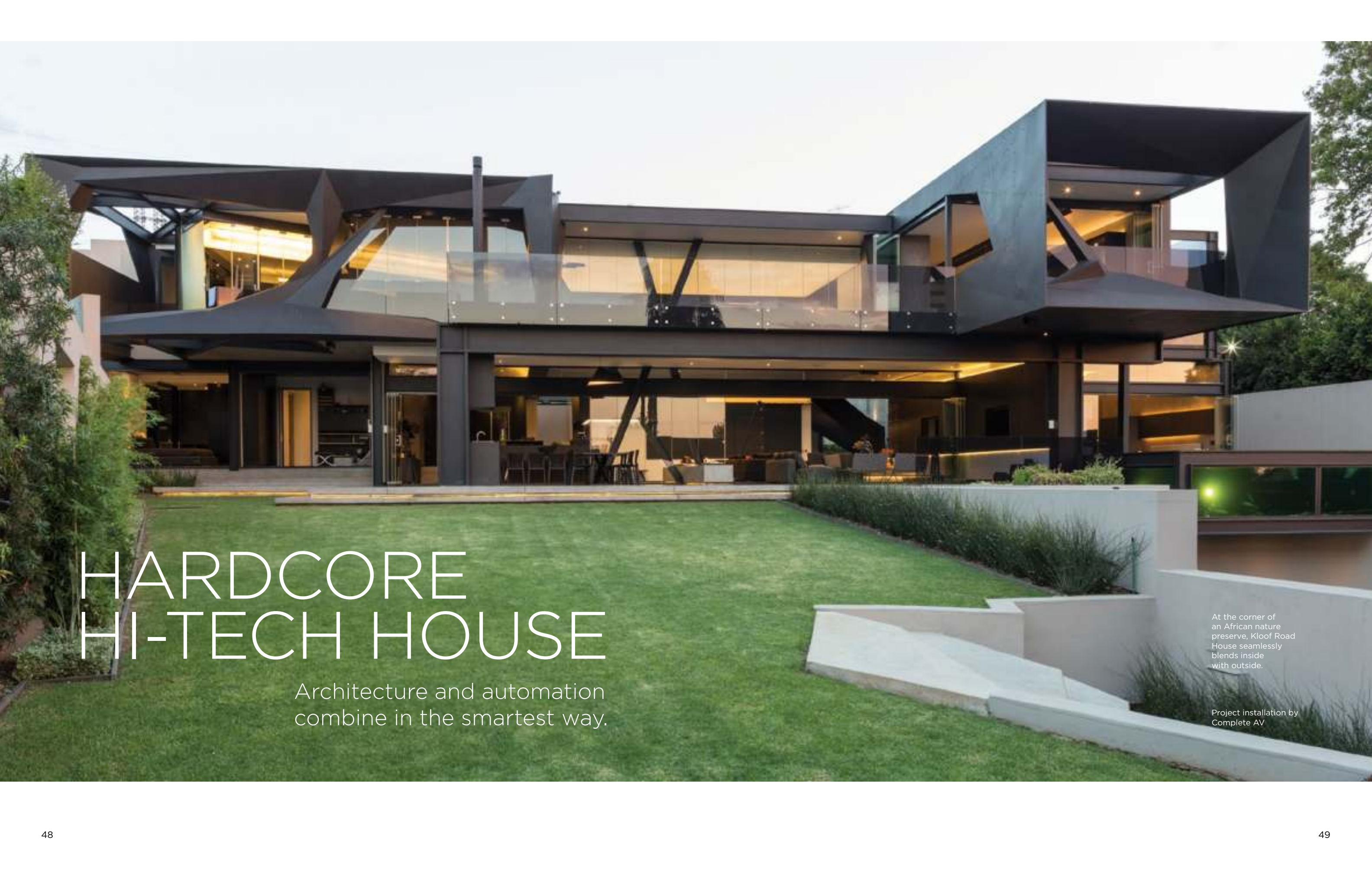


**TRASH-POWERED ENGINES!**  
WELL, WE'RE NOT THERE YET, BUT WE'RE TRYING. MUCH LIKE DOC BROWN'S "MR. FUSION" DEVICE, NASA IS WORKING ON A "TRASH TO GAS" REACTOR THEY HOPE TO IMPLEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.



**SMART HOMES!**  
OKAY NOW. HERE AT HSH HQ, WE'RE PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THIS CATEGORY. WHILE KITCHENS MAY NOT YET BE EQUIPPED WITH FOOD-REHYDRATION APPLIANCES OR "DROID" FRUIT BOWLS, MANY OF THE OTHER "FUTURISTIC" SMART HOME FEATURES IN THE 2015 MAGNIFICENT HOUSEHOLD - FINGERPRINT DOOR LOCK, VOICE COMMANDS, CALLER ID ON ALL SCREENS, TV SWITCHING TO VIDEO PHONE MODE - ARE NOT ONLY REAL, BUT COMMON PRACTICE!





# HARDCORE HI-TECH HOUSE

Architecture and automation  
combine in the smartest way.

At the corner of  
an African nature  
preserve, Kloof Road  
House seamlessly  
blends inside  
with outside.

Project installation by  
Complete AV





A modernist fortress perched high in the hills above Johannesburg, South Africa, Kloof Road House is a marvel of concrete, steel, and glass. It commands the attention of any passing eye with its brutally stunning right angles, sharp edges, and stark contrasts. It serves as a residential home, but feels more like a setting for futuristic sci-fi thrillers featuring advanced technology.

And advanced technology it has! Home automation experts BNC Technology, a full-service systems integrator out of Johannesburg, worked with the South African design firm Nico Van Der Meulen Architects to seamlessly ingrain the necessary technology into the bones of the house. The result is complete WiFi coverage, automated HD AV setups in virtually every room (including a concealed TV that rises out of the kitchen counter), and remote control of over 70 blinds, all without any visible cabling or unsightly wiring. The raw beauty of the home, the iconoclastic sculpture



PHOTOS COURTESY LUXURY BRANDS

A few strategically placed switches and touch screens are all one sees of the whole home automation, *opposite*. Wireless technology allows the architecture to be strikingly center stage, *above*.



The convenient indoor-outdoor flow is made possible by home automation, *below*. Wireless technology allows the architecture to be strikingly center stage, *opposite*.



of the architecture, is unmarred by the full home automation, which is controlled by a few Control4 Touch Screens that have been installed in the most-trafficked areas of the house.

“Too often we find there is a big misconception about when the home technology professionals should be brought in to consult on the project,” says BNC founder and MD Nick Caripis. “We’ve found it commonly (and incorrectly) perceived that the systems designer isn’t needed until the house is built and ‘ready for the equipment.’ On the contrary, the designer should become part of the project at its earliest stages.”

BNC was brought in at the design stage to fulfill all the home automation needs except the lighting. Another contractor was given that task, and unfortunately installed a, what the owners considered, sub-par lighting system. The problem didn’t “come to light,” as it were, until the homeowner moved in and began living with it. Malfunctions of the lights, intermittent reliability, and convoluted programming drove the owner to ask Caripis and his BNC team







The spacious living room doubles as a lanai, rendering the occupant both indoor and outdoor at the same time.

if they could remedy the situation. BNC was happy to oblige, but the project had its challenges. The wiring that needed to be replaced was now embedded under concrete and steel. Add to that the client’s mandate to have it all finished within a two-week period, and Caripis had his work cut out for him.

“It was a rush job, but we knew we could do it using a combination of wireless technology and off-the-shelf controllers,” says Caripis. “In the past we never would’ve been able to do it without breaking the home to pieces to run wires. With this house that just wasn’t an option. Nearly every wall is solid and has an amazing custom finish.”

BNC solved the problem by performing remedial work on all switches, adding some wiring to the

lights, and replacing the electrical bus system. They successfully upgraded the automated lighting to the Control4 system, and got it done within the requested timeframe. The homeowner was pleased, and quickly adapted to the one-tap technology. “Only now that he’s moved into his house does he realize how much he needs it and how valuable it is to his lifestyle,” Caripis tells us.

He adds that he’s seen that same reaction in many other BNC customers. “In fact, clients really need to be able to interact with the systems first, and see how they work. There is no better way to show them how easy and flexible home automation can be.”

To that end, Caripis and his crew built a full showroom in the BNC industrial space on the edge of Johannesburg. This showroom



Organically playing off the architecture, the automated lighting is designed to add to the home’s distinct style.



features a full theater with customizable lighting, an automated lighting system throughout the building, and a display case for the building's electronics rack. Customers are invited to get a feel for the ease of use and the convenient benefits of whole home automation.

BNC is currently working with Kloof Road House's architect on a new home in Johannesburg. Again, the house will be designed and built with a home automation system from the start. "One of the key elements to a successful project is comprehensive and organized design during the planning phase," he says.

The Kloof Road House architecture optimizes its views with floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that open up to the outside in every room. The house is designed to integrate the outside with the inside seamlessly. And just so, the home automation has holistically integrated into the lifestyle of the house's occupants. It's part of the landscape. ■



Floor-to-ceiling windows and doors bring the magic of the evening into the home, *above*. High-tech amenities, high-quality furnishings, and high-end design give the house a mystique like no other, *below*.



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# HOLY HOME MAKEOVER!

A New York City church becomes a smart home, with a surprise interior.



The old adage has never been truer: Don't judge a book by its cover. Case in point? This stunning New York City six-story townhouse. From the curb, this stately beauty in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood exudes classic New York brownstone. But few passers-by know of this property's unusual past life—or of what now lies behind the front doors.

Before the current owner bought it, this property was actually part of a catholic church called The Church of the Sacred Heart. The building served as the rectory, where the Brothers lived and studied to become priests. "My dream was to turn it into a single-family home," notes the owner, who wishes to remain anonymous. So, after purchasing the 110-year old building, he gutted it and designed the home he had always wanted for himself, his wife, and three sons. And, this owner's vision was

Automation shortcuts save unnecessary ups and downs via the stairs, as stylish and modern as they may be.

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installation by  
Kraus Hi-Tech  
Home Automation

The top-most  
floors of the six-  
level residence  
are cantilevered,  
adding 16 extra  
feet to the  
master suite and  
rooftop deck.

PHOTOS REVEN TC. WURMAN





an unusual one: He wanted to keep the exterior in the classic brownstone decor, but inside, he wanted a totally different look. “I wanted a classic facade outside, but when you walk in, you’re in a modern loft.” Outside: all New York; inside: all Miami.

Having experienced the power of automation with a basic system at his Connecticut home, this owner knew his revamped city dwelling would be a smart home. “In such a vertical space, I knew automation was an essential,” he says. “When you’re up on the sixth floor, and you left the radio on on the first floor, it’s no fun.” So, he enlisted Stephen Kraus and team at Kraus Hi-

Tech Home Automation for the install. This is a group that knows automation—they did all 400 rooms at Trump SoHo, the first fully-automated hotel in New York City. At the onset, the plan for the new home system was fairly elementary, just lighting in the staircase and common areas. “But, as the owner learned more about what automation could do, we were able to pinpoint a design for him,” Stephen notes. And to realize the vision of the modern interior, the owner knew high-tech would help. “There’s no way you can recreate that modern look without integrating it with the modern conveniences of technology,” he explains.



Those enjoying the “man cave” on the parlor level can reach people on other floors via intercom, or via a quick elevator ride.



The owner and installer both agreed that Control4 made the most sense to power the system. The owner has a different brand of automation in his Connecticut home, one that has limited his options because only the native brand of components will work on the system. “I was stuck with this ‘gated community’ style vendor,” the owner notes. “Control4 offers a more open platform. It was a flexible, and a cost-effective solution.” The Kraus team concurred. “It was really a matter of value,” Stephen says. “Even though the Control4 control equipment is robust and feature-laden, it’s less expensive, so you can spend more money where it matters... on the displays, speakers, on the stuff you’re controlling rather than the control of it.”

And so, together with an architect, the owner and the installer transformed the former rectory into a future-forward, 8,000-square-foot family home. Some floors were partially removed to create ultra-vaulted ceilings. “We enjoyed the owner’s participation very much in the design process,” Stephen notes. The look is sleek and modern, and it’s laden with smart features. The system includes lighting, distributed video, 15 audio zones, HVAC integration, two door stations, two Wireless

The automated shades on the super-sized south-facing windows lower automatically when house is set to “Away” mode.





From the top-most master suite, the owner can turn off lights or the AC in the kitchen, six floor below.

Music Bridges, motion sensors, and hi-tech goodies on each floor.

“The finished place is gorgeous,” Stephen is proud to say. The entry level is now a modern man cave. “It’s an entertainment space,” the owner states. This inviting space features a pool table, a bar, a home theater and multiple TVs. “It’s pretty sweet,” the owner admits.

Another major highlight of the house is the new giant windows on the southern side. The entire back of the brownstone is now glass—windows over 20 feet high look out onto the back yard. Of course, the owner didn’t want the windows open and exposed at all times; he wanted control over the light, the view, and his privacy. “That was a big component of this job,” Stephen the installer notes. The immense windows

now feature motorized shades (both blackout and sheer) that are part of the automated system. “It’s a really cool experience when you start moving those shades,” Stephen continues. “It’s definitely a show.”

As with any system, it took some time for the owner to learn what features he needed and used, and Stephen helped adjust the system until it was just what the owner wanted. “The ability to dial in, make an adjustment, tell the client to try it now, is really terrific,” Stephen remarks. In the mornings, certain lights in the house automatically turn on. The system also now features several conveniences that tackle the challenges of living in a home with so many levels. Upstairs in the master suite, the owner can hit a button on the Touch Screen marked

“Midnight Snack,” which gently lights a path down to the kitchen. “When your bedroom is on the fifth floor and the kitchen is on the first floor, you’re going down four flights of stairs to have a snack,” the owner notes. “To be able to light your way is awesome.” Another cool feature is so subtle, the family doesn’t even realize it’s happening: When the sun begins to go down in the evening, lights in some parts of the home slowly—very slowly—begin to brighten. Over 45 minutes, as it gets darker outside, the lights increase inside. “It’s so subtle you hardly see it,” Stephen notes. Lighting also helps guests at night, showing the way from any of the bedrooms to the common areas in the dark. The system saves the owner from unnecessary trips up and down stairs in other ways, as well. For



instance, the house features six temperature zones. If someone leaves the AC on down on the lower level, the owner can turn it off from his phone way up on the rooftop deck.

Because this home is located in an urban, metropolitan area, security is key, and home automation delivers. When the owner hits the “Away” button on his way out the front door, the house turns to “unoccupied” mode. The giant shades are lowered, lights are turned off, and if anyone rings the doorbell or enters the home before he returns, the owner will receive instant email notifications. “It’s nice to know that, ‘Oh, someone just came in,’ like the housekeeper,” the owner notes. “When we have guests it’s nice to know when they’re coming and

going, too,” he continues.

Stephen and his team are very happy with how this classic-modern project turned out, and so is the owner. However, as cool as this property is, the owner knows that once his nest is empty, so to speak, it will be too big of a space for just him and his wife. But, he also knows the cost of adding the system will be worth it, when he’s ready to sell. “On the resale, the system will absolutely pay for itself,” he says. And, this owner is so pleased with his smart home, he’s now having Stephen and his team tackle that pesky outdated automation system at his Connecticut home, Stephen notes. “Which is a ringing endorsement, as far as I’m concerned.”

Amen to that! ■



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