

HOME AUTOMATION//REMOTE CONTROL//ADDED SECURITY//SOPHISTICATED LIFESTYLES

HOUSE
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smart homes

Mohan Palms,
Mohan Group



SIMPLIFY LIFE

With automation you can pretty much control the way you live, says **Shilpa Sachdev**



SUPREME UNIVERSAL

In over three decades, this ISO 9001:2000 accredited company has completed over 50 lakh sq. ft. and currently has more than 15 projects under construction in Mumbai and Pune. Supreme Palladio at Baner, Pune, has been awarded "Best Luxury Segment Residential Property award". Supreme Signature at Chembur has been awarded "Project of the Year Mumbai - 2011" at the National Real Estate Awards - 2011.

● Jayant Gehi

AVP- Business Development
Professionals from various fields are entering the industry and making a career. The level of transparency has increased substantially because things like the home loan explosion and larger corporate entities entering the business.

Technology has become the driving force of the new age lifestyle. The whole world has virtually shrunk into a tablet, where everything moves on just a touch of a button. The concept of 'smart homes' is gaining ground and fast translating in the way we design our homes too.

The acceptability is immense, especially with the buyer being young and technologically savvy. MCHI-CREDAI President Paras Gundecha, says, "There are really two ways to look at the 'smart' label. One is smart in terms of a home's resource consumption - water, energy, construction materials and so on. The other is smart in terms of intelligent systems that control the house."

A smart home entails features such as centralised lighting controls, one-button lighting to change the scene for a room, whole house audio systems, access to phone and internet from any location, and adjusting the heating and cooling for maximum energy savings.

Supreme Universal has smart homes in Vivero at Supreme Palladio, Baner and Supreme Signature at Chembur, Mumbai. The smart home experience helps in better management, security, efficiency and also convenience of operation, especially in larger apartments. Sunny Bijlani, Director, Supreme Universal says, "Who wouldn't love to control lighting, entertainment and temperature from their couch? In larger apartments it is much easier to manage the controls centrally instead of going to each room to check if the A/Cs and lights are switched off or the curtains are drawn. In a smart home, you can also preset timings. This saves a lot of time

and effort for the user. Features like the motion activated lights ensure safety from theft as well as security for children and aged members who may wake up in the middle of the night."

Along with safety, smart homes also result in substantial energy savings. Something as simple as programming the lights on motion sensors in the common areas (that are often ignored) can add up to significant savings.

Elaborating on the advantages of a smart home, Abhimanyu Gupta, Director, Actis Technologies says, "Smart homes offer the flexibility to do things while away. Whether you're at work or on vacation, the smart home will alert you to what's going on, and security systems can be built to provide an immense amount of help in an emergency. They make life easier and more convenient."

Smart homes, with their gadgeted appeal, personify a distinct lifestyle. A Kalpataru spokesperson shares, "Intelligent homes are perceived as the precursors to futuristic lifestyle, which appeals to the rich and status-conscious segment of the market, who are looking to enhance their lifestyle."

Technology offers a bouquet of savings, primarily of time and resources, but that comes at a price. However, the cost of a smart home varies depending on how smart the home is. Gupta explains, "An entry level smart home could cost anything between two to three lakhs. While automation products continue to be expensive, thanks to energy savings, the system pays itself back within a few years."

Talking about innovations in smart homes, Bijlani says, "The next trend will be voice activated controls and

walls which change colour and mood as per your mood and the occupancy of the room, although this will take some time to really be implemented on a commercial scale but experiments are already on to give the user an experience of a new home every time you enter the house or customise it to the time of the day."

Going forward, devices in the smart home chain will have in-built operating systems, making them intelligent devices. And that's just the beginning. Increasingly, everyday appliances and objects are adding Internet connectivity, opening up a world of new possibilities and further altering how we live our lives. Gupta says, "Right now, the focus is on managing energy usage and ensuring our homes are safe from intruders and natural disasters. Wireless technology is already popular on phones and some home control systems, but as it matures, it is expected to be available on larger electronics and appliances."

Gesture control will also transform the way people interact with smart devices. This alternative input technology is the essence of future home automation," Gupta concludes.

Kalpataru Limited - File Photo



“ Smart controls can be integrated with the security system - Sunny Bijlani