

# HOME Smart Home

Life under control

## OH-SO-MAGNIFICO!

A Mexico City condo with brains and beauty

## A FUNNY THING...

It's all about creative control in Beverly Hills

## THE ULTIMATE

Make your dream home theater a reality



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Simon Oré just doesn't conjure up characters in his head. He is one in real life. See what we dug up when we played Q&A with this part-time Beverly Hills resident.



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Some say magic happens in threes, which makes perfect sense with this third issue of *Home Smart Home* taking us on a journey to several continents of this planet in exploration of how automation continues to transform both people and places—in everyday life and, it turns out, even in the most unusual of work places.

Our cover story lands us in Latin America, where we got a personal tour of the Mexico City condo that surprised judges in a coveted competition that's all about interior design. It's truly as beautiful as it is smart.

Swinging through southern Europe, we couldn't help getting all lit up when we happened upon a holiday home that is as colorful as it is brilliant—and entirely on command. (The truth is even reflected by a Buddha in its garden!) Thanks to a historic home in Australia, we were also able to learn a thing or two about making the grade with retrofit projects.

And back home, we managed to squeeze in quite a workout before touching base in Beverly Hills, which I would dare argue, is a world unto itself. Its people are certainly very interesting!

Speaking of truly out-of-this-world experiences and yes, I'll say it—alien—I'm especially thrilled to present to you the first-ever Control4-inspired comic, *Mars Retreats!*, found in the centerfold of this issue. Please let us know how it lands!



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# HOME Smart Home

Life under control

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# WHAT'S NEW?



## Controllers—a world of options

Control4 kicked off the year with two blazing fast controllers—the HC-250 and the HC-800—providing a powerful, high-performance brain for all of your automation needs. Now, we present Sony ES receivers that integrate Control4® smarts—giving you a world of control options to choose from! Create your ultimate home theater with stunning audio and video quality, streaming music and video services, or enable whole-home control functionality.



## Something to blog about

The new Control4® blog has been unveiled, and we have a team of contributors offering up a surplus of stories for your reading enjoyment. We're here to give you knowledgeable tech stories, fun and light-hearted opinions, real-life experiences, and an inside look into the Control4 company and culture. We invite you to follow us, drop us your comment, or just visit from time to time. You can find us at [blog.control4.com](http://blog.control4.com).

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# YOU ASK. WE ANSWER.

*Paul Williams, VP of Support Services, answers your questions.*



**Q. What role do mobile devices like the iPad® and the new Nexus 7 play in a smart home?**

**A.** I wish I had purchased Apple or Google stock early on! We are deep in the age of mobile computing devices. If you have any doubt, look around you right now it's a safe bet there is a mobile device within arm's length, even if it's not your own.

Mobile devices play a significant role in the smart home. With the Control4® app for your Apple® or Android tablet, you can use that

device to control your home. For instance, let's take the home theater experience. Using the app, you can browse your movie library, and then select and start that movie. The smart-home technology can then take over by dimming lights to provide the ultimate movie-watching atmosphere.

From that same device, if you determine that the room isn't quite the right temperature, you can

lower or raise the temperature. The device also becomes the remote control for your entertainment system, so when popcorn calls, you can simply press a Pause button on your mobile device, and exactly as the movie pauses, the lights come up slightly so you don't trip over the dog. Once you return to your comfy seat, press the Play button on the mobile device and you're back into the movie.

These are just a few of the things you can do today with your mobile device in a smart home. Stay tuned. This category is moving fast, and there is little doubt that the role those devices play in a smart home will increase over time. And with that, I have a movie to get back to!

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# MEXICO CITY MARVEL

A STUNNING URBAN APARTMENT THAT WINS HEARTS—AND MAJOR DESIGN ACCOLADES

**H**omeowners have long been enthusiastic about home automation's ability to simplify their lives. But for every eager early adopter there's usually an architect or designer worried about a complex home-automation system marring their beautiful work. So when we heard that a Control4®-equipped condominium in Mexico City had taken the grand prize in the AMDI (Asociacion Mexicana de Disenadores de Interiores), Mexico's most prestigious design

competition, we knew that we had to feature it in *Home Smart Home*. "Last year, the prize went to a museum," says the condo's owner. "I still can't believe they're comparing my home to a museum!"

It may not be the size of a museum, but this unique home is certainly a work of art. With a sleek, modern profile, glass enclosures, expansive city views, and richly textured stone and wood walls, the owner and his wife have created an elegant, yet comfortable space that's made



The living room offers a sweeping view of Mexico City—with programmable blinds that keep the space cool during the day, *left*. Another view of the living and dining room, *above*.



PHOTOS COURTESY AMPLIAUDIO



The owner, a Miami Dolphins fan, enjoys watching his favorite team on the 119-inch anamorphic screen in the home theater, while simultaneously catching two other games on smaller screens above the bar. Off-season, on any TV in the house, you'll likely catch him watching an episode of *Friends*.

for entertaining. And that's before their guests witness what's going on behind the scenes.

"It's a regular apartment in Mexico City, but it has more automation than a very big home," says the homeowner, as he shows us the wealth of Control4® creature comforts he's built into the 350-square-meter space. The key, he tells us, was finding an architect who shared his passion for home automation from the start, and was willing to work with him to conceal everything from

speakers and adjustable lighting to a home-entertainment center within its walls. The results are stunning: Almost everything in the home is automated in one way or another. But aside from a few cleverly-placed touch screens, the entire system is tucked away within ceilings, walls, and closets.

Our tour begins in the owner's pride and joy—his home theater—which boasts a 119-inch anamorphic retractable screen on which he projects a 2:35:1 aspect ratio similar to that of a movie theater. To add

to the fun, he's also installed two smaller retractable screens on top of his personal bar. A die-hard Miami Dolphins fan, he's able to spend his Sundays watching his favorite team on the big screen, while two other games play simultaneously on the smaller screens. After the final touchdown, one tap wirelessly retracts the screens, automatically adjusts the lighting and turns on the Rhapsody music system, setting the mood for a chat over drinks.

The family's viewing options

originate in a closet near the kitchen, where a hidden rack conceals a formidable entertainment arsenal. A video distributor wirelessly streams HD content from a DirectTV box, Apple TV, and a 400-disc Blu-Ray changer, with crystal-clear sound pouring from the eight audio zones' worth of JBL speakers concealed in his ceiling. "All the dimmers and switches are hidden in cabinets, and we only have keypads in the walls. All the speakers are in the ceiling and very discreet—you can't see them. You won't see any amps, DVD players, speakers, cable boxes...everything is hidden!" he tells us.

With HDTVs in the kitchen and in the master suite, the couple is never too far from their favorite entertainment. During the week, both enjoy watching movies or TV shows from the comfort of their bathroom tub, thanks to a television concealed within their bathroom mirror. The lady prefers "chick flicks," he tells us, while he's partial to *Friends* reruns (Ross is his favorite). The dining room remains off-limits, however, so the couple can enjoy quiet dinners together.

Energy efficiency is another highlight of this home, and the owner believes it was the defining factor in garnering the design prize. With integrated thermostats, Card Access sensors for the refrigerator and freezer, and e-gauges installed in the circuit board, the family can monitor every kilowatt of energy they expend and adjust their behavior accordingly. "If we're using the washer and dryer during peak hours, it will recommend better, non-peak hours to use it. It lets you know if you're spending too much on lighting or air conditioning. It gives you information so you can program

PHOTOS COURTESY AMPLIAUDIO



The bathroom mirror conceals a television, perfect for catching up on a show or two while soaking in the tub, top. Integrated thermostats and card-access sensors for the fridge and freezer allow the owners to monitor and adjust their energy use, bottom.

your home and save energy." Best of all, their home is programmable from anywhere in the world, even while they're traveling. "We have

tablets in the wall, we have wireless tablets, we have iPads and iPhones, we can do it online, we can do it from my office, we can do it with a



## BEING A CONTROL FREAK HAS NEVER BEEN SO STYLISH!



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button in the wall. But the best way to do it is to ask your wife to do it," he jokes.

Home automation has also proven helpful for the couple as they enter a new phase of life. Earlier this year, the couple welcomed their first son. Though the baby is only a few months old, the owner has already made some clever adaptations to the home-automation system that help make new parenting a little easier. "We just got a new Control4® 7" in-wall panel with a camera, and put it in the baby's room," he tells us. The camera and microphone in the panel are connected to the entertainment system, allowing the couple to check in on the sleeping baby while they chat in the living room or catch up on their favorite shows. The new mother can also turn on soothing lullabies or Baby Einstein CDs over the speaker system when the baby settles down for a nap. As their son gets older, the couple's plan is to beef up the apartment's security features, which already include automatic locks on the main entry and service doors, to ensure their son stays safe.

Though the condo may be small by the standards of most automated homes, the Control4® system allows the owners to make the most of the space, and to create an environment that effortlessly flows from childrearing to couples' time to entertaining. With more and more families worldwide deciding to settle down and raise children in the city, the home may serve as a roadmap for a green, family-friendly urban space that doesn't sacrifice comfort. "I'm very glad the design jury loved my home," he tells us with a smile. "Because we love it, too." ■

## AN AUTOMATED OASIS IN MEXICO CITY

In the upscale Samara Shops in Mexico City's trendy Santa Fe neighborhood, a window display featuring a kitschy 70's living room might seem somewhat out of place. But the shag carpeting and wood paneling provide the perfect setup for a big surprise: a 50" touch screen built into the window, projecting the Control4® Navigator menu, allows passers-by to control everything about the room, including turning the TV on and off, changing channels, opening and closing the blinds, and dimming the lights. Needless to say, it's a bit of an improvement on the home technology of the Carter years—and what's inside this unique store provides even more insight into home automation's exciting future.

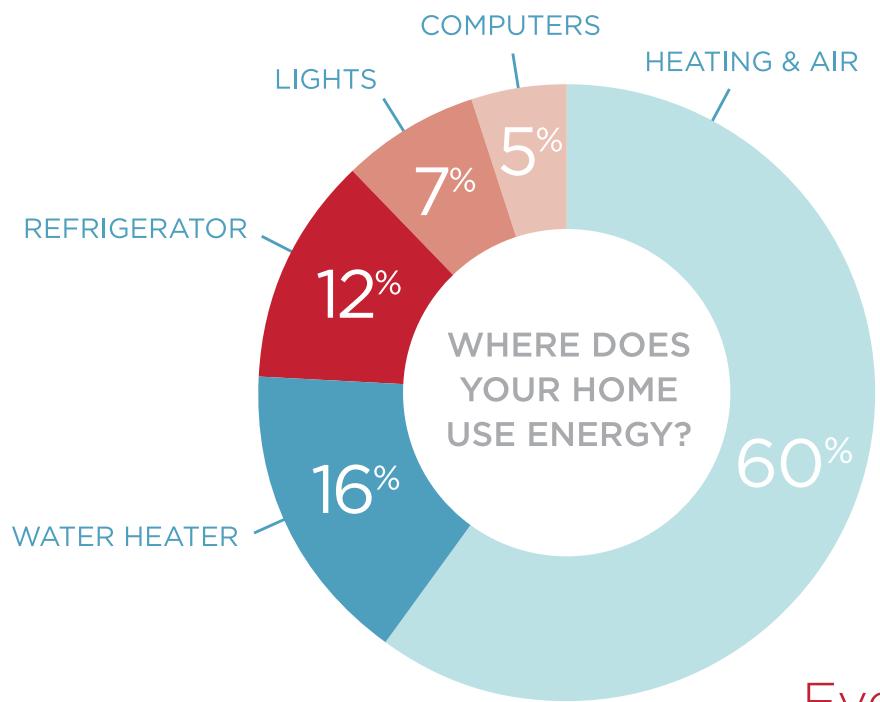
The structure of the Control4® experience center is laid out

like a house, with a "game room" (complete with pool table) welcoming guests into the space, and providing information about key Control4® systems—lighting, audio, entertainment, security, and energy efficiency. Once visitors have absorbed some general information, a staff member will hand them an Apple® iPad and take them on a tour of the rest of the "home," allowing them to take the wheel and fiddle with any system they like in every room along the way. It's a fun, immersive experience that reveals how far home life has come in just the past few decades—and the amazing possibilities that automation can bring to the homes of today. If you're visiting Mexico City, be sure to stop by and see it for yourself!



# BITS & PIECES

For big laughs &  
little-did-you-knows



Imagine a building that will last 250 years with no monthly water or electricity bills. Scheduled for completion in November of 2012, the \$30-million Cascadia Center is a "Living Building" project that will produce as much water and electricity as it consumes.



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the world with  
technology.

- Bill Gates



## Bright ideas

In 2012, the US began phasing out the inefficient incandescent light bulb that dates back more than 125 years. New bulbs are required to use 25-30% less energy. With more than 4 billion screw-based sockets in the US, this translates into electric bill savings of more than \$10 billion per year—equivalent to 30 large power plants.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COPYRIGHT 2012 NYSERDA - NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ([WWW.NYSERDA.NY.GOV](http://WWW.NYSERDA.NY.GOV)); PHOTO: TIEDOSTO; NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL ([WWW.NRDC.ORG](http://WWW.NRDC.ORG)); THE BULLITT FOUNDATION ([WWW.BULLITTF.ORG](http://WWW.BULLITTF.ORG)); "COMPUTER KEYBOARD" BY ANDREW FORRESTER; "TELEVISION" BY PIERO BORGIO; "RADIO" BY MICHAEL GLUZMAN, FROM THEONUPPROJECT.COM COLLECTION.

## Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Atari!

On June 27th, 1972, Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney formed the video arcade and console gaming company known as Atari. Five months later, their first game "Pong" was released. Despite the primitive graphics, it was an immediate hit.



# \$374,500

That's how much an original Apple I motherboard sold for on June 15th, 2012. It had a 1mHz processor, 8kb of RAM and yes, still worked! For the same amount, the buyer could have purchased 750 entry-level iPads, 1,880 iPhones (with a two-year contract to match) or around 650 shares of Apple stock.



## SHOCKING!

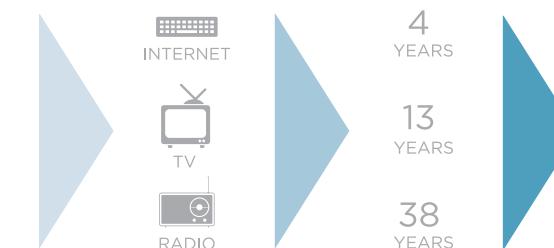
The most powerful electric eel can produce a shock of up to 650 volts. That's 5 times the shocking power of a household electric outlet.



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PEOPLE?

# A HOLIDAY FOR EVERY GENERATION

IT'S ALL-IN-THE-FAMILY AUTOMATION AT THIS SPANISH BUNGALOW

**A**mongst the holiday homes of Spain's cash-rich expats, it's hard to inspire envy. But that's exactly what Control4® dealer Future Lifestyle helped their client Ted do with his Costa del Sol bungalow. Ted, a semi-retired British developer, wanted to fully automate the holiday home he bought for himself, his wife, their two daughters and grandson—from security to audio, video, climate and the hypnotically-changing colored lights on his Buddha statue.

Outdoor living is a big part of Spanish lifestyle, so integrating systems like lighting and audio to work in harmony means the very best can be made of time spent outside.

PHOTOS: KEVIN HORN PHOTOGRAPHY



"For Southern Spain, this is an unprecedented installment," says Jason Wild, Future Lifestyle's Operations Director. "It's very rare to have everything under one control system." When all was said and done, the install included HVAC and floor heating; automated shutter blinds and oscillating

fans; changing-color LED lighting throughout the home, including the garden and pool area; and integrated audio and video with drop-down cine screens, surround sound, built in-wall TV screens and high-definition distribution in three of the four bedrooms.

"We've had quite a bit of inquiry

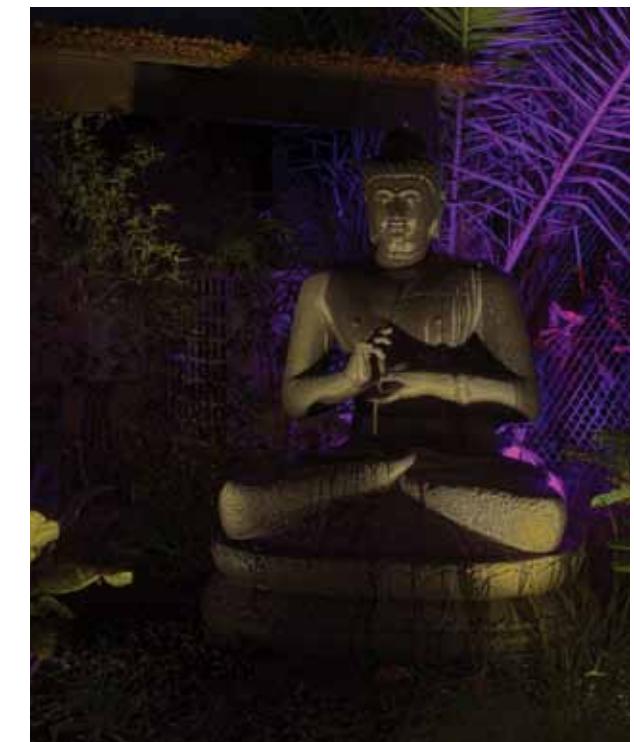
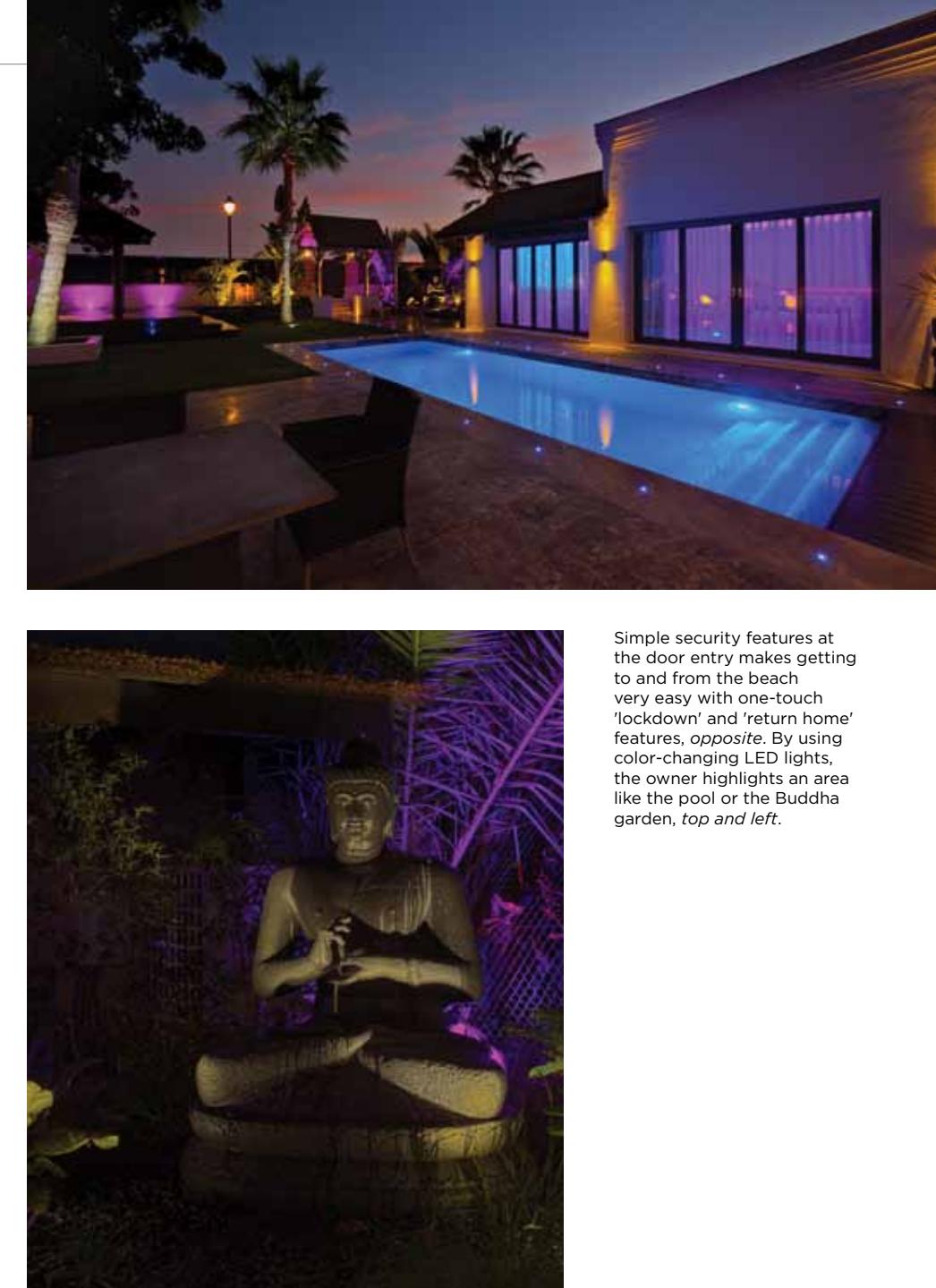
from the surrounding properties to do the same for them," said Jason. Along with the sense of luxury home automation adds, it also offers perks that are particularly well-suited to the holiday home: it accommodates the often multi-generational nature of a vacationing family, the priority on

PHOTOS: KEVIN HORN PHOTOGRAPHY

relaxing and entertaining, and the security needs of homes that are not a primary residence.

### TOYS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

While Ted's daughters use the music system to play the



Simple security features at the door entry makes getting to and from the beach very easy with one-touch 'lockdown' and 'return home' features, *opposite*. By using color-changing LED lights, the owner highlights an area like the pool or the Buddha garden, *top and left*.

art from album covers.

"I love the music library we have managed to build up. It is a joy to use," gushes Ted. "There's so much information, and it's very easy to navigate. I can see at a glance the cover art, metadata information, track listings, and search options."

At the other end of the family age



Ready for a movie, anytime. At night, the Control4® system automatically dims the lights for a movie. During the day, a blackout blind is activated.



The family can easily access music or movies from a tablet with the Control4® app.

range, Ted's two-and-a-half-year-old grandson pays little attention to the music system. What he favors is the lounge, where he can watch his

cartoons on either the drop-down screen or the LED screen built into the wall. If he decides to watch a film on the big screen at night, the system automatically dims the lights. If it's during the day, a blackout blind is activated to block out the outside light for a perfect movie-watching experience.

"My grandson loves the big screen for watching his kids' stuff," observes Ted. "The quality of the content is not something we are used to, even now, but the football on such a big setup is excellent fun. The sound adds a new dimension

to the games. This is especially true when watching films. The surround-sound is very powerful."

While these features make the gadget-savvy swoon, they also offer a key to happy vacations: the capacity for all three generations to indulge their taste in music and TV simultaneously and in complete harmony.

#### VACATION MODE? THERE'S A SETTING FOR THAT

Going on holiday often means trading your climate for a radically

PHOTOS: KEVIN HORN PHOTOGRAPHY



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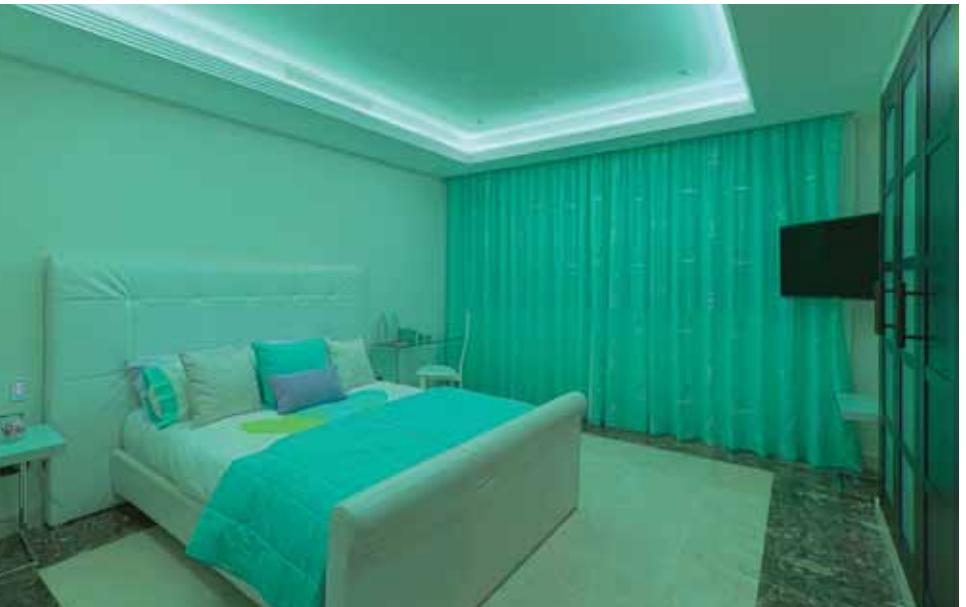


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different one. "Northern England is a much different temperature than Puerto Banus, Spain," laughs Jason. "The first thing most people do here is throw on the bikinis." Thankfully, Control4 has all kinds of tricks to help with the transition. Along with being able to turn the air conditioning on from the airport, floor heating like the one Ted had installed in his bungalow keeps otherwise cold marble floors warm at night.

The system also caters to a holiday home's focus on relaxing and entertaining. "My wife and I enjoy socializing, and we like nothing more than coming back here to relax. It's the main reason we bought the place," says Ted. "The lighting control is so clever, and I am impressed every time I use it. Not only can you dim the lights, but you can change their color as well."

Ted often entertains guests in the chillout area, which is under a white, wooden, pitched-roof, looking out onto the deck and



Unique LED lighting control dramatically changes the way rooms like the chillout room or bedroom can look or feel. All by the touch of a button or via a timed program.

pool. From there, guests can also wander into a covered pergola in the garden that features a Buddha fountain where you can hear the waves of the sea. Wherever they go, Ted can control the lighting and music and ensure the perfect ambiance.

"All we have to concern ourselves with is what music to queue on our playlist for the evening and what lighting scene we want to indulge in," describes Ted. "Sometimes we will have friends come over, as they seem to enjoy it here as much as we do."

#### SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE ARE THEIR OWN VACATION

As is typical of most holiday homes, Ted's is unoccupied for most of the time. Jason estimates that among the fifty or so million-dollar holiday homes in the development that Ted's bungalow is in, the residents are only in their homes for about 25% of the time.



Home automation offers an easy way to gain a little extra peace of mind for these residents, whether they are onsite or what might feel like a million miles away.

Contact sensors on the doors and windows alert owners as to when an area has been accessed and warns of anything left open. A person's presence can be simulated by having lights turn at random inside the house at night. Along with countless other additional security measures, the Control4® system also marries security with convenience.

For example, with the ocean right behind him, Ted also enjoys being able to run out of the house unencumbered. He simply puts in a code and the whole place locks and turns off. No need for a key that could get lost at the beach, and no need to run around everywhere and turn everything off. "However," points out Ted, "if there is someone still inside, there is another code we use that just activates the door mechanism for entry and exiting purposes. It's very practical."

If Ted and his wife are leaving for the evening, he can hit the "Going Out" setting, which locks down the house, but leaves the air conditioning on plus some lights inside and out to illuminate the way when they get home. "If we have been away some time, it reactivates all the equipment back into life," says Ted. "It's like it knows we are home, opening shutters, turning on the cooling/heating system, so that everything is ready for use."

When it's time to go home until the next holiday, Ted can hit the more permanent "Going Away" setting, which shuts down everything from the TVs, lights, water features and climate control to the shutters and pool cover—

everything except the kitchen equipment, and of course, the control system.

#### KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES—AND CONTROL4

When the development that Ted's holiday home is a part of was built seven or eight years ago, it was considered very modern. "But this bungalow is taking it to a whole new level," says Jason. "We are now getting asked by many other owners to modernize their system too."

Future Lifestyle anticipates a quick rise in the proliferation of home automation in holiday homes. It provides equal parts comfort, convenience, peace of mind and security—exactly what people require in a 'home-away-from-home.'

"It has to be simple to use though," remarks Ted, explaining that a system like this, for him, is "made more of a challenge by my age and the fact we are not here all the time, so things get forgotten. But it all comes back to me after I spend a few minutes with the system," he smiles.

In this respect, Jason cites Control4 as the optimal solution. "What we like about Control4 is that it's integrated and has the ability to control climate, lighting, audio and video—all in one system."

"Additionally, because Control4 is so easy to program," Jason adds, "Everyone wins. We save time and the client saves money."

"It's also easier to expand upon. It's possible for a client to just do one or two rooms initially, and add more later, whenever they like."

"Control4 is a forerunner in this industry," surmised Jason. "We look forward to working with them more in the future." ■



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## STAYING SMART ON THE VEGAS STRIP

This hotel knows that the top VIP in Sin City is you

**B**ack in the day, there was only one way to do Las Vegas: the Rat Pack way. You drink a lot, you gamble a little. Or vice versa. But today's Vegas is full of options, depending on your style: stage shows and world-renowned chefs, big nights out with the guys, ladies who take on the town, and of course, Martinis and blackjack. In other words, Sin City can be entirely what you make it, starting with the very hotel you choose to stay in—especially if your hotel is a smart hotel, like

the Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas.

The Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas is a plush, triple-Forbes five-star hotel, spa and restaurant, right in the heart of City Center on Las Vegas Boulevard. But what is extra-tantalizing about this luxurious lodging is that it is decked out with some undeniably cool bells and whistles, giving its guests the ability to personalize every aspect of their stay. And it all starts the moment you enter your room for the first time.



In the Emperor Suite, you can bring your room to life with the touch of a button. One remote controls everything from lights to music to shades.

## GREETINGS, VIP

After swiping your key card, your room comes to life to welcome you. The TV switches on, the volume comes up, the lighting fades in, and the curtains open. "That is really a 'wow' moment," says Max Tappeiner, Director of Rooms for Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas. "It certainly sets the tone for the experience to come."

Once you've settled into your room, the Control4® hospitality system lets you adjust all kinds of elements according to your

own liking—lighting, temperature, music, curtains, Privacy/Do Not Disturb settings—all available to fine-tune or edit entirely from the TV remote, the portable bedside touch screens, or the keypads on the walls throughout the room. Hurrying out the door? One touch of a "Master Off" button and the entire room powers down. Entertaining? Help set the scene with the "mood settings" feature, which adjusts the sights on the TV and adds the sounds of the ocean to your surroundings. And, any personalization you enter will be

saved for the duration of your stay.

## THE MORNING AFTER

After a big night out, some Vegas guests are, tender, to say the least. The last thing you want is to be shocked from your slumber by the shrill ring of the bedside phone. At the Mandarin, guests can customize a much smoother wake-up experience: the TV comes on to your favorite channel and at the volume setting of your choosing. The curtains open (just as far as you want them to), the lighting in

the bathroom can come up, but the rest of the room can stay dark; in short, the perfect easing into the morning after an epic night on the town. What Happens in Vegas...

Here's a cool feature that ensures whatever happens in Vegas really does stay in Vegas. Each room at the Mandarin is equipped with a valet closet. It's accessible from both inside and outside the room, so hotel staffers can leave deliveries for the guests without disturbing them. And, rather than a knock on the door, an alert pops up on your TV screen notifying you that a delivery has been made. Hi-tech has never been so stylishly discreet!

## INVISIBLE TOUCH

Some of the coolest features of a notable hotel-automation system are the ones you'll never see. For example, Control4 utilizes two-way communication between hotel rooms and the staff. So, when the batteries in the TV remote control get low, the hotel staff receives a real-time alert, and a staffer can replace the batteries before you would ever be inconvenienced. The Mandarin also uses a nifty system called trayTracker to keep their hotel clean and clutter-free. Notice how, in a typical hotel, you'll see used dining carts scattered around the hallways? In the Mandarin, sensors outside each room detect when a guest pushes a cart out the door. Through the Control4 system, the staff receives an immediate alert and can immediately go collect the cart before it starts to collect dust in the hallway.

Benefits of the Mandarin's automation system go beyond the guest rooms. "We love to surprise and delight our guests," says Jennifer Lynn, Spa Director, "and that also includes our technology."

**For a spa treatment, you can set your music, lighting levels, and temperature. It's magic at your fingertips as your therapist's fingertips work their magic on you!**

For a spa treatment, you can set your music, lighting levels, and temperature. It's like magic at your fingertips as your therapist's fingertips work their magic on you!

## WIN-WIN

The guests aren't the only ones who benefit from such a smart system. It's good for the hotel, too. The Control4® system saves the staff a lot of running around, since many features can be operated remotely. "From my desk, I can restart a room," says Antonio Sosa, the Mandarin's IT Director. Not only that, Antonio can pre-set air conditioning, test the drapes, even

receive alerts if a hotel room door is ajar, all from his office.

And, as Las Vegas continues to grow and dazzle with new designs, places like the Mandarin know, no matter how smart and sexy a hotel's interior design may be, the ultimate allure for visitors is being able to add their own personal touch. "How do you define luxury in the 21st century?" asks Max Tappeiner. "It's all about tailoring and customizing the experience."

So, whether you're a Vegas night owl, a sophisticated show-goer, or an after-party-in-my-room hoster, be sure to stay in a hotel that lets you enjoy Vegas your way. Sinatra would be so very proud. ■



Help set the scene with the "mood settings" as seen here in the stunning Mandarin Suite.

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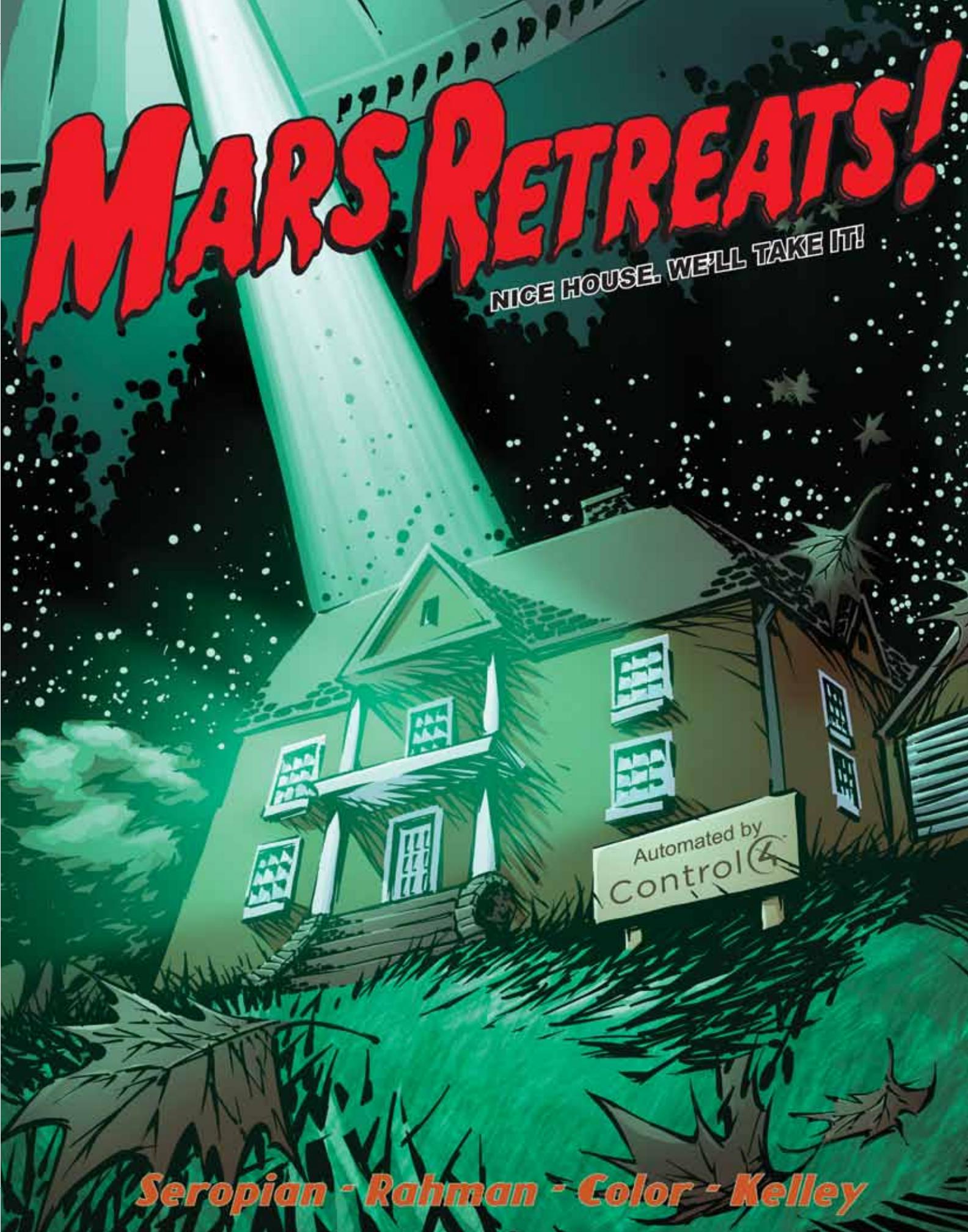
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PHOTO: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

More people than ever before are learning how to build their dream room

# ULTIMATE HOME THEATER

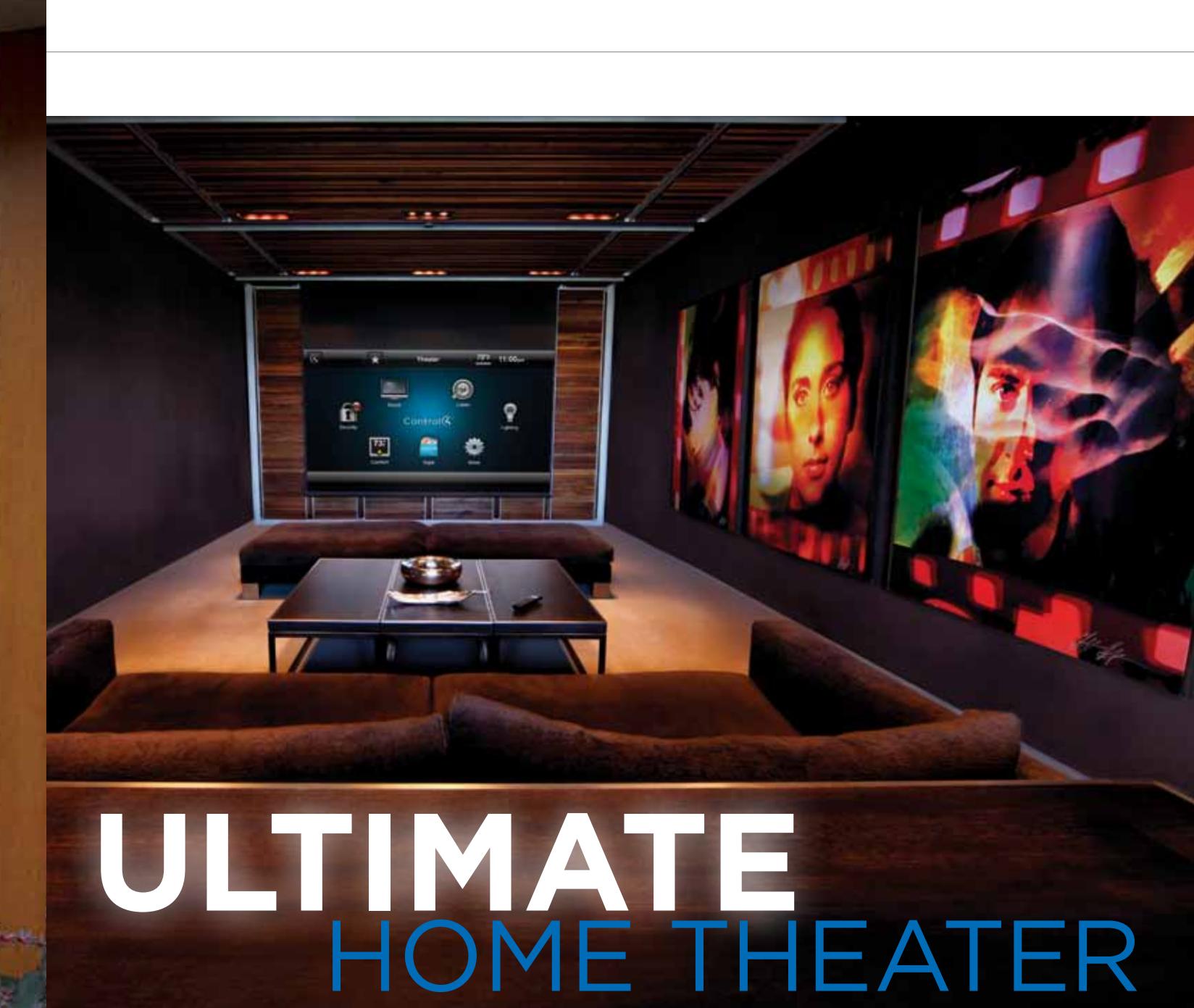
## Game Time!

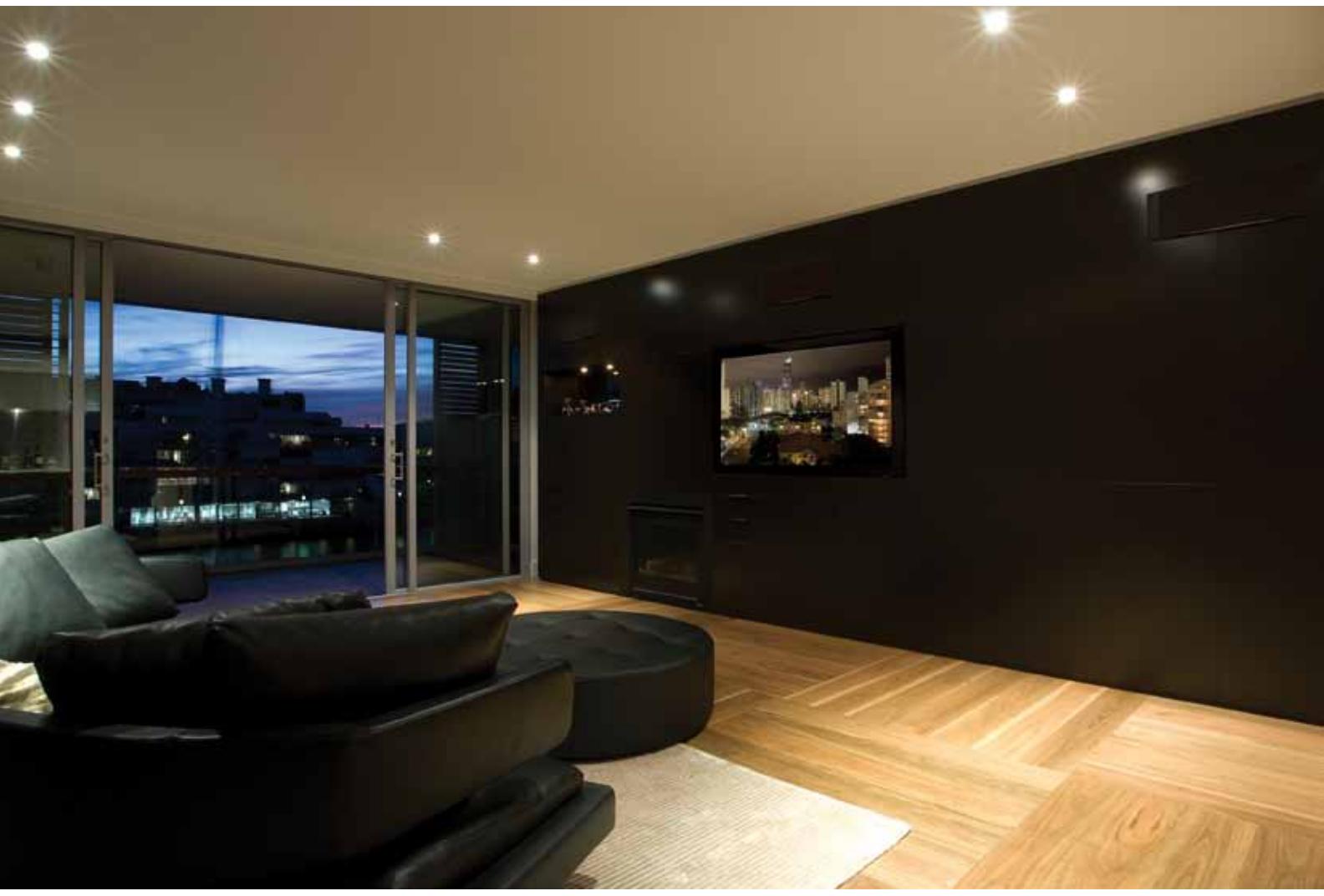
You make this announcement to your guests who are tossing a ball around the yard. Now they begin to filter indoors, and make their way to what you lovingly call your "screening room," the ultimate home theater.

Mounted on the wall is a gorgeous 100" projection screen that displays the HD picture with dazzling

sharpness. Facing it in neat rows, like loyal subjects, are twelve plush leather recliners upon which your guests now park themselves. You take your seat, place your hand over the one remote control in the room, and—here's your favorite part—you tap just one button.

Immediately the shades begin their graceful descent over the windows as the lights in the room fade down and





There are a million different ways to design a dream home theater. While some prefer theater-style seating, others enjoy a lounge-like environment.

the LED star-studded ceiling glows like moonlight. The DLP projector powers on, automatically switching to HDMI1 while the cable box tunes to ESPN. The audio processor boots up, flooding the room with luxuriant sound from seemingly everywhere, including inside each leather recliner. The thermostat boosts itself up a couple of degrees, catering to the notion that everyone will be sitting still for a while.

The ball is kicked, and the game soars into play. Somewhere, near the end of the first half, the doorbell rings, and from your

portable touch screen you see the pizza has arrived. You hit the Pause button, and the lights in the room automatically ramp to half-brightness. You tip the pizza guy at the door, return to the screening room, tap a button, and the room returns as it was while the game continues.

Your guests are duly impressed with the technological wizardry so thoroughly integrated and easily used. And not a wire or cable in sight! What they may never believe is that it was all set up in a single afternoon.

#### BETTER TOGETHER

"First we need to give credit to the manufacturers that make the great video and audio components, then we make it magical with the user experience," says Will West, Chairman and CSO at Control4. "Once you have what you consider to be good stuff, once you've made a choice about what's right in your home, we can give you that truly ultimate experience."

It's a bit surprising that smart TVs have only been around since 2011, yet already 38% of US

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households currently own one. If nothing else, this proves that Americans surely do care about their home entertainment! It's projected that 53 million smart TVs will ship in 2012. And with the top manufacturers in the home-entertainment industry working with Control4 to be certified as "highly controllable" and to interface well with the Control4® system, specifically, home-theater wizardry is indeed easier than ever before.

Whereas once upon a time it would have taken weeks of having builders in your home to construct and wire an automated home-theater system, now it takes considerably less time thanks to "drag & drop" programming with Control4. And with a starting price at around \$1,000 MSRP, it's never been so easy or so affordable!

## "THE BABYSITTER TEST"

Homes with broadband have an average of 4.5 remote controls on their coffee table. In this day and age, it can be frustrating to figure out how to watch a movie after the kids have been playing a video game. Control4 puts that frustration to bed with their one-button solution.

Your Blu-ray player, DVD player, Apple TV, stereo, television—whatever you have in your home theater—are all controlled with just one very intuitive remote. You can even program a different lighting scene to accompany each console. Sound confusing? It's not.

Control4 has a simplicity standard Will West likes to call The Babysitter Test. "You can hand the Control4® remote to the babysitter, and she can handle the whole-home theater fully without one word of explanation from you. No



You'll never notice the brains behind this smart room. The Control4® HC-250 controller hides behind a TV.

headache of too many buttons. And if it's easy enough for the babysitter, it's easy enough for anyone in the home."

## CENTRALIZED CONTROL

And that universal simplicity is not only thoroughly satisfying for any user, it's also quite addicting. Once a family realizes the unlimited power of Control4 technology, they can't help but add to it. They extend the controller's reach from just movies and music to the lighting. Soon afterwards, it seems natural to add a smart thermostat. Then shades. Then the rest of the house.

The beauty of the Control4 automation is that it can be as great or small as you want it. "It doesn't matter if you live in a New York apartment or a Scottish castle, the Control4® controller can conform to any function you are trying to achieve," says Will.

All the software needed to run everything sits in the controller, which can be easily tucked behind

the TV. The Control4® HC-250 Controller is the one-room solution, and the more powerful HC-800 Controller is the whole-home solution. Now, however, there are exciting new pieces of hardware on the market—the Sony STR-DA 2800 and 5800ES Receivers. They are each a receiver AND a controller all-in-one, with powerful Control4® software built in. [See sidebar]

This combination offers amazing sound quality and a host of audio and video streaming services. And this centralization of software is at the heart of the Control4® philosophy. With all of the separate aspects of a home theater centralized and processed in one place, there are fewer opportunities for something to go wrong.

## CONTENT MANAGEMENT

Of course, this goes for content too. All your media is centralized, giving you easy-breezy access to your favorite Internet radio stations and streaming music services,

## BEST OF WILL WEST



The Control4 Chairman and CSO lets us in on his personal favorites.

### MOVIE:

*Mary Poppins* and the *Lord of the Rings* series

### MUSIC:

Country (Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks), jazz, classical piano

### TV SHOW:

*The Big Bang Theory*

### NEW GADGET IN THE LAST 5 YEARS:

iPad

### CONTROL4 INNOVATION:

The amazing products being launched over the next 12 months!

as well as your own personal music collection. Same for your digitized movies—with third-party integration, you can flick through the selections of your membership-based streaming content as simply as you can your own library of titles.

And speaking of content, Control4® technology gives you all the power. Control which hours of the day the kids can watch TV. Control how many hours a day, total, they can watch TV. The system can even send you an email when you're at work letting you know if the kids are watching TV during homework time.

Content management gets even simpler when you're controlling your entire home with an app. Using the Control4® app, you have all the automated functions in your home right on your Apple or Android device!

## THE TIME IS NOW

Will West can tell you about some of the coolest and craziest Control4® home theaters out there,

like the one where the entire room transforms into a theater as the pool table hydraulically sinks into the floor. Or the fancy double-decker home theater, where the family has seating both upstairs and downstairs, equidistant from the screen. Then there's the one built by the drive-in fan who acquired a lot across his street, set up a giant screen, and parked his antique cars there, creating a drive-in HOME theater!

Whatever your vision, the tools are out there to help you make it a reality, and it's as easy as 1-2-3.

Step 1: Let your imagination run rampant and daydream about your wildest home-theater fantasy.

Step 2: Contact your Control4® dealer.

Step 3: Watch your dream come alive! With technology more sophisticated and simpler than ever before, there's no need for anyone these days to be shy about enjoying a home theater that is truly state-of-the-art.

Or, more appropriately... state-of-the-smart. ■



## COMING THIS FALL, 2012 FROM SONY

Now you can enjoy a best-of-class receiver and best-of-class home automation system in one easy-to-use product. Sony is introducing a new line of ES receivers with Control4 automation built-in, so you can enjoy a stunning audio and video experience in your home theatre, while being able to dim the lights, lower the blinds, control everything in your cabinet—and more, thanks to Control4.

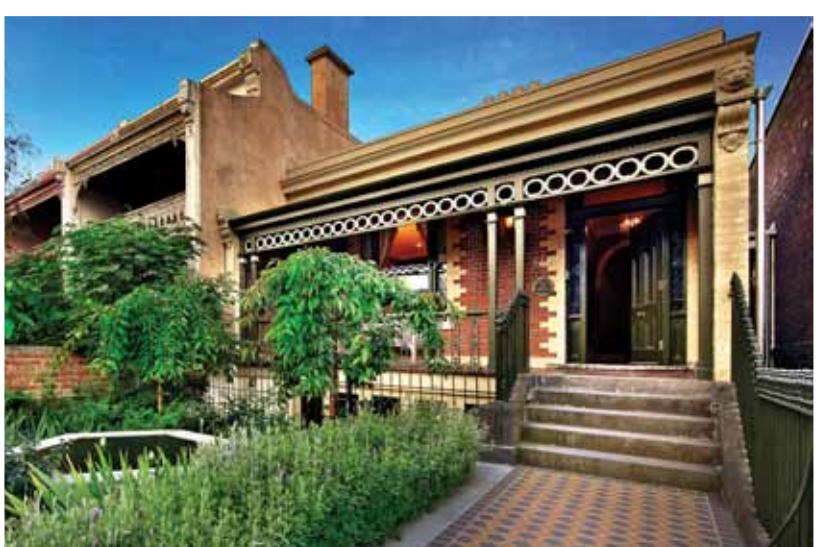
Sony's ES receivers come ready to stream audio and video from over 30 services, including Netflix®, YouTube™, Hulu Plus and Pandora™ along with a variety of other media which can be easily accessed from your home network. Additionally, these new ES models feature advanced A/V technology, including 4K upscaling/pass thru and high resolution multichannel playback of PCM/WAV/FLAC files. They also offer up to nine HDMI inputs, which lets you connect virtually every compatible component in your system. Now, that's the ultimate home theatre.



# AUSTRALIAN HIDEAWAY

The past and the future intertwine in a historic (and highly automated) Melbourne home

Dennis and Caroline Carron's East Melbourne home, *inset*, was built in 1867, but a modern addition has transformed it into a luxurious retreat with amenities like an indoor/outdoor kitchen above.



PHOTOS KAY & BURTON

**F**rom the exterior, Dennis Carron's house looks much like the other historic homes that dot his charming neighborhood in East Melbourne, located just minutes from the city center of Australia's second-largest metropolis. Built by Duncan and Burley in 1867, the house was originally constructed for the headmaster of one of Melbourne's first schools, nearby Trinity Grammar School. (A small plaque on the exterior marks its historic status.) Over its 150 years, the house has been beautifully

preserved, and its tuck-pointed terrace, brick exterior, and beautifully detailed fireplaces are marks of its early Victorian heritage. But while the house may seem tiny from the outside, its historic façade conceals a big secret: on two levels beneath the original historic dwelling, Carron, a mechanical engineer who owns his own concrete company, has constructed a handsome glass addition that takes this historic home to the next level.

"We purchased the home nine years ago, but since

# BALDWIN®

it's a heritage-listed home, it took three years to get the permits in place," says Carron. "We had to rebuild the old home structurally, and then we did suspended concrete and glass curtain wall additions." The resulting space boasts a home theater, separate passenger and car lifts, pool, a sizable garage, and much more—and with three children under the age of four, including two-year-old twins, Carron and his wife Caroline needed a convenient way to organize it all.

Control4® dealer Peter Vassilopoulos and his firm Alpha Electronics were up to the task. Though the home's unusual layout, the bluestone construction of the original building, and the newer concrete walls all made wireless transmission difficult, Vassilopoulos was able to get the Control4® system up and running by carefully spacing out and cleverly concealing the wireless repeaters. "Considering the size of the house, and the attenuation you get through concrete, it works extremely well," says Vassilopoulos. "It's amazing." The homeowners agree. "When Peter came into our lives, we actually saw all the benefits for the first time," says Carron. "From there, we got quite excited about creating all the extra facets that made it a seamless system."

From the moment they pull up to the curb, visitors to the Carron home will see automation at work everywhere they look. External lighting can be activated to its fullest to welcome guests into the home, or kept at more subtle levels when the family enjoys a quiet evening in. Even the small goldfish pond out front is automated, with a programmable water feature and interior lights and filtration. Upon entering, one of the first things



Getting the necessary permits to transform the heritage-listed home took Carron, a mechanical engineer, nearly three years.

guests notice is a glass viewing window into the garage, which displays two of the three vintage Corvettes that Carron enjoys restoring on weekends. All the family cars are kept on motorized lifters, which Carron can control remotely (along with the garage's lighting).

The heart of the home is the spacious outdoor kitchen and

pool area, which the Carrons can enjoy year-round, thanks to Melbourne's balmy climate. Vassilopoulos automated the pool's swimming jets, spa, and gas heater, and a number of lighting scenes and display fountains allow it to double as a decorative statement piece when not in use. Though the Carrons' own children are too young to swim

PHOTOS KAY & BURTON



Shown: Soho Keyless Entry Deadbolt with Soho Sectional Handleset



Also available: Boulder Keyless Entry Deadbolt

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From the rooftop pool to the home theater in the basement, nearly everything in the Carron home is automated, above. With three children under the age of four, both Carrons enjoy an occasional retreat to their glass-walled soaking tub, below.



PHOTOS KAY & BURTON

unsupervised, a camera system allows Dennis, Caroline, and their guests to remotely monitor older children and teens as they swim. The adults can dine at the outdoor kitchen table or sip drinks at the built-in bar, while their favorite wireless music service plays the hosts' favorite 70s and 80s tunes over one of four surround-sound systems.

With three small children, keeping everyone entertained so the adults can have a bit of quiet time is a must. One of Carron's favorite features of Control4 is the entertainment system. "We download all our DVDs to the hard drive, so the kids can't damage the DVDs, which is great. When we allow them to, they love using the iPad to scroll through the movie

covers and pick a movie," he notes. "If they're watching a cartoon or movie in the home theater and it's dinner time, they can finish watching it right where they left off in the kitchen or living room. The same goes for my wife and me: we can start a movie in the cinema, and if we get a bit tired, we can finish it in the bedroom." The Control4® lighting system also comes in handy when one of the kids wants mom or dad in the middle of the night. "If one of the twins wakes up and comes to us in the night, we can push the low lighting, allowing the lights to come on really slowly," Carron says. "Once they go back to bed, there's enough light to get them back to their bedrooms, but not so much that it wakes them up."

The Carrons travel frequently as a family, and rely on the Control4® system even when they're away from home. "It's great for traveling," Carron says. "I can just get the iPhone and unlock the home for the cleaner and the gardener. When we're not at home and the cleaner comes, she just pushes one button, and that gives her the lighting she requires throughout the entire home." Carron can also remotely control the external lighting of the house, making the family appear to be at home even when they're out of town.

As an engineer who elegantly solves challenging construction problems every day, Carron has high standards. Though he's tried other home-automation systems, Carron says the Control4 system is his favorite by far. "It's much more economical, gives you much more function, and the graphics are so much better as well—it seems to be, by far, the most user-friendly interface out there," he says. "It's quite an exciting system." ■

# HI-TECH FOR HARDBODIES



Coach Craig Belanger gets ready to cue up the perfect playlist for his class, *left*. The facade of the Evolution Sports Performance facility in Easton, MA, *right*.

PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

At this New England gym, Control4 does the heavy lifting



**P**icture this: you're halfway through a killer workout at the gym. The instructor turns to change the music, and...fizzle. Technical difficulties kill the momentum. Your sweaty shoulders sag.

Music is the life-blood of workout classes, but that can spell disaster at old-school gyms, where each instructor is at the mercy of notoriously unreliable audio systems. That's not the case at Evolution Sports Performance in Easton, MA, thanks to a facility-wide Control4® system that keeps the energy—and muscles—humming.

"Every trainer has their own method of training," explains system installer James Shapiro of Audio Video Intelligence. "The trainers want to be able to choose multiple types of streams of audio, and be able to customize it to their liking."

In a traditional gym, the owner will often need to buy separate sound systems for each room in the

facility. At Evolution, the Control4 system runs through eight separate audio zones—covering every inch of the facility, from the yoga studio to the indoor and outdoor fields to the Spin room. And via touch screens in each audio zone, instructors can access all kinds of music—their own iPod playlists, plus, online services like Rhapsody and Pandora.

And, even though the gym's automation system is world's beyond the old boom box in the corner of the workout room, it's relatively simple to learn how to use. "Anybody that can use an iPhone or iPad," notes Shapiro, "can go over to the Control4® touch screen, and actually turn on what they want to be able to use."

It's a breath of fresh air for instructors like Patty Bangs, who use different rooms during her classes. Instead of unplugging her iPod and setting up again every time she changes rooms, Patty can access her music from the touch



The music follows instructor Patty Bangs from her spin class to her TRX class with one touch of a button.

screen in whichever room she's in. "I can just hit a button and it streams music from upstairs down to here. I don't have to pick up my iPod, come back down, and plug it in. It's already all done for me," says Patty. "I don't have to worry about my music, and that's huge when you're an instructor because you're worried that the system the gym has isn't going to be loud enough, or it's going to be broken that day. It's night and day compared to the other gyms that I've worked at."

While Patty works her TRX class to the beats of Flo Rida in the adult fitness room, Head Sports Performance Coach Craig Belanger,

**JJ**  
It's very user friendly. I'm not a huge tech guy myself, and it's been very easy to learn.

uses his iPhone to cue up some fast-paced techno for his varsity-level class doing running drills on the outdoor turf field. "It's been phenomenal," says Craig, of the

PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

Control4 system. "It's very user friendly. I'm not a huge tech guy myself, and it's been very easy to learn."

But wait, there's more. In addition to seamless control over the eight zones of audio, the Evolution trainers can also control video, lighting, and temperature, all from the touch screens in each room. "The trainers all love the system," notes installer James Shapiro of Audio Video Intelligence in North Easton, Massachusetts. "They love having the options. It happens to work beautifully, so they're very pleased." The owner seems to be pleased as well—he's ordering



Control4® system installer James Shapiro of Audio Video Intelligence, above. One of the gym's several workout rooms, minutes before a class. No extra audio equipment needed—just a 5" Control4® touch screen on the wall, right.

similar Control4 systems in his next five fitness facilities.

Training facility staff members know that working out is way more



fun with a great soundtrack. The automation system at Evolution—and more and more facilities like it—helps ensure that, whether

you're pumping iron with Pitbull, or sprinting with Soundgarden, you might break a sweat, but you won't break your stride. ■

## Rip, Tag, Play



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Side orders anyone?

My Movies

# CREATIVITY, CONTROL & CARTOONS

Simon Oré uses Control4 to inspire his animation work—and avoid the Hollywood runaround

If you've seen *The Beckhams Come to LA*, you've seen Simon Oré's family home. You also could have chanced upon it in *GQ Magazine* or recognized the pool from a Ford Modeling Agency swimsuit shot. Perched on a cliff overlooking San Fernando Valley, the 7,000-square-foot modern industrial home can, as Simon puts it, "swing with the best of them." Along with hosting the professionally beautiful, the Beverly Hills home is Simon's preferred

place to "get as much inspiration flowing as possible"—which he attributes largely to its Control4® features. The five-year-old system offers house-wide AV automation and a customized theater with a drop-down screen measuring 120 inches. We recently caught up with Simon—owner of Flamingoshoe, a company that produces content for networks like Comedy Central or Nickelodeon—to learn how Control4 frees him to follow his creativity down any rabbit hole that calls.



PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY



**Q.** Tell us about your work.

**A.** I work in animation. I'm a producer and a writer. I work with original content; I do different shorts and commercial work. I have a regular office and one that I work at from home—which I do whenever possible.

**Q.** What are some of the animation projects you've worked on?

**A.** Most of them are in the process of being made. Animation takes a long time. Toy Story took 12 years. We aren't Disney, so we don't have a hundred animators. But we do work with Comedy Central and Nickelodeon.

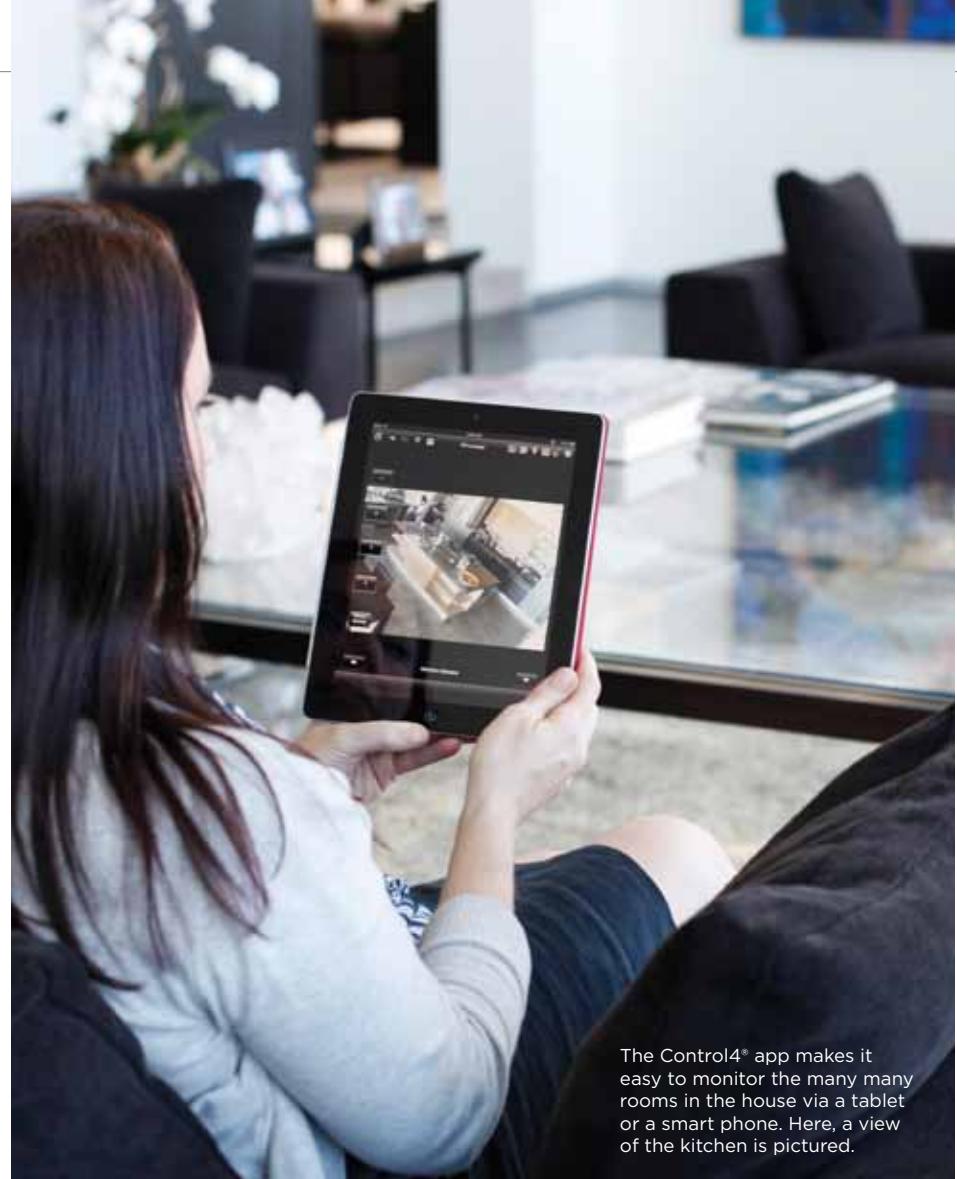
Right now we are working on something called *Space Fish*. Have you ever heard of "*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*"? It's by the guy who wrote *Brazil* and *Shakespeare in Love*, Tom Stoppard. It's about...well, as the creator puts it, it's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Fear and Loathing in Wonderland*.

**Q.** Can you take us through a typical day?

**A.** Normally, I get up very early to start digging the graves for the dead prostitutes from the night before. And then I shower (laughs).

Actually, it's a lot of emails, a lot of phone conversations, and a lot of reading manuscripts and books. Lots of lunch meetings at the house. I have tele-animators in Reno and Portland, so I spend a good amount of time communicating with them too.

Ultimately, it's different every day. Though, really, it's a lot of watching things and reading things. Other than that, it's driving from point A



The Control4® app makes it easy to monitor the many many rooms in the house via a tablet or a smart phone. Here, a view of the kitchen is pictured.

to point B. It's very boring, but you deal with interesting people and interesting things.

**Q.** What is it like working from home?

**A.** My home office is very Control4-centric. The whole house is wired. Everything from heating to lights can be remotely accessed and used.

We've got the system to handle five different people watching five different media on five different systems. My mom can be watching something in her bedroom and something completely different in her bathroom. We don't have

to have twenty boxes and twenty DVD players.

Also, I have the TV hooked up to the Internet. Without leaving the room, I can pull up a movie anywhere or showcase a scene that I'm working on. We have over a hundred DVDs in the system, including ones that I've made. It makes things so much easier.

**Q.** How else does Control4 technology help you do your work?

**A.** I have everything that fuels my creativity—everything that I love—at my fingertips. I feel lucky that I work in an awesome

PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

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- Deadbolt: Motorized tapered bolt helps align door during locking

**As part of your Control4 system**

- Remotely lock and unlock doors from any web-enabled device
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- View transaction history in real-time
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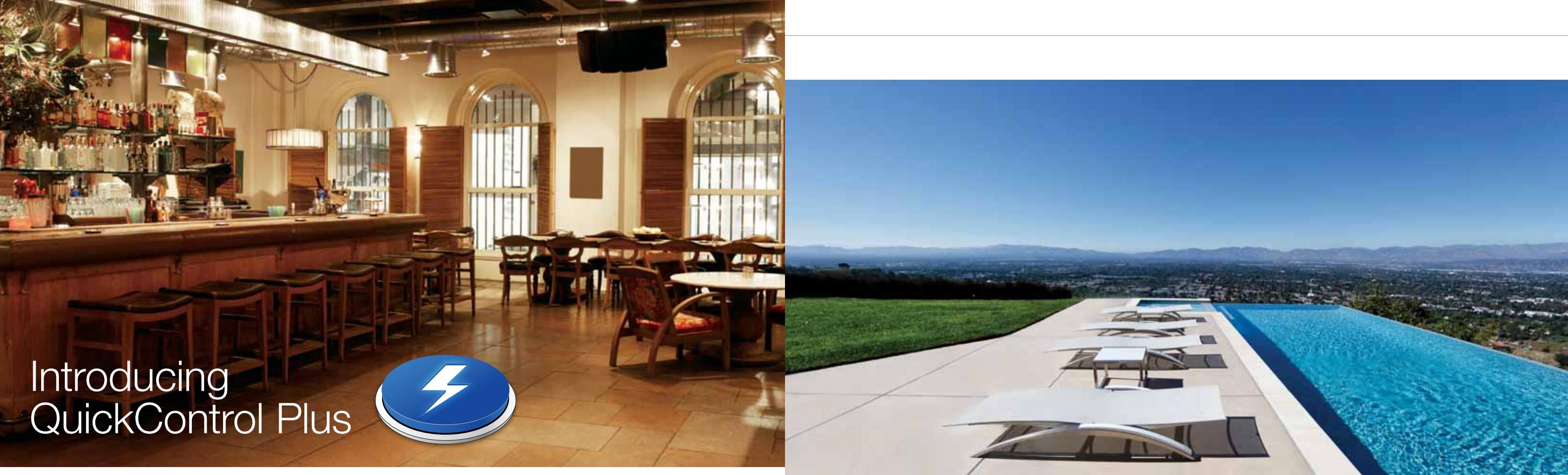


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## Introducing QuickControl Plus



The premier instant control application for simple management of your Control4 system in a business, restaurant, bar or residence.

### Key features include:

- **Native DirecTV integration** – Display the current source, volume feed back and DirecTV information when using the included DirecTV driver.
- **Custom Icons** – 23 custom icons included with additional icon sets coming in future updates. Icons are individually assignable per source.
- **A streamlined, simplified interface** – Select and control all of the AV sources in your Control4 project
- **Custom Buttons** – Create and program unlimited buttons tailored to your specific needs.
- **Expanded UI** – Adds 20% of newly usable real estate on the Control4 touch screens.
- **Zones Status page** – Display and control the current source, volume level, and DirecTV information for all of the zones in your system.
- **Source Control** – Virtually every button for your source is in one easy-to-use touch screen interface.

**BlackWire Apps** – Audio Conference Control, Custom Actions, Flip Clock, QuickControl Classic, QuickControl Plus, QuickControl Pro, Remote Finder, Video Conference Control, Video Wall (3 and 5 TV)

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### Additional BlackWire Apps

**Video Conference**  
Next gen video conference control from your touch screen.



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PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

A stunning view from the backyard overlooks San Fernando Valley.

smart house where I can pull up a spoken-word album that inspires me or a DVD with a great scene—just like that. If I had to do it the normal way, I might lose the thread that I was so excited to follow.

### Q. Can you give us an example?

**A.** Say I'm in a meeting and someone says, "Have you seen the movie *Putney Swope*? It's with Robert Downey Senior—Robert Junior's dad. Well, when you see it, you realize that when Robert Downy Jr.'s doing the whole

blackface bit in *Tropic Thunder*, it's basically a recreation of what his Dad did in *Putney Swope*.

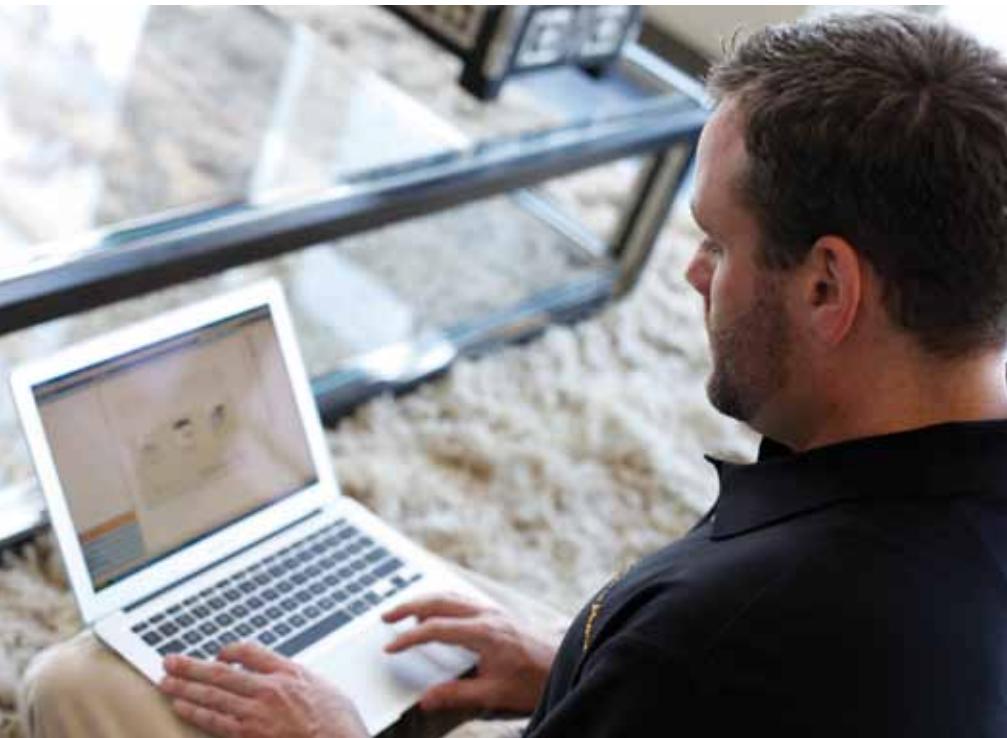
Now, normally, I'd lose 25 minutes just finding this. But instead I can pull it up within minutes and not derail the creative direction of the conversation. In the middle of a business meeting, I can pull it up. That is awesome.

Look, I try to get as much inspiration flowing for me and my writers from as many sources as possible. The fact that Control4 helps me do that is awesome. It's a total boon and a total asset.

**Q. Are there other benefits to being able to work from home?**

**A.** At this point, most of my meetings are at home. It's cheaper and you get more stuff done. In LA, you have to have four lunches before contracts are signed. I don't like that. It pisses me off. I don't like wasting time.

We do have an office in Beverly Hills South, in Wilshire. We do a lot of production stuff there and sometimes I take meetings there. But I have to tell you, when you are used to living and working in



Installer, Matthew McKenna from Semaphoric Smart Homes, makes a few updates to Simon's system.

**Q** In the Control4® environment, you feel it when you don't have it.

**Q** What do you miss the most when you don't have it?

**A** When I have to go looking for a DVD, and then physically hand it to someone and say watch this when you get home, it just doesn't help my case enough. It's nowhere near as powerful as pulling up the scene or the character on the spot to illustrate my point.

**Q** Do you use it exclusively for your work?

**A** I use the hell out of the Control4® system during the busy hours of the day, which are from lunch till about four or five. I'm in meetings, jumping from one movie to the other, referencing things. Although I have to say, I use it a lot when I come back in the evening, too.

**Q** For leisure?

**A** I will listen to music by the pool. We have lights there that make the pool look different colors—red, green, blue—whatever suits my mood. I'll turn that on and blast They Might Be Giants. Often, my sister will be watching her shows upstairs around this time. But if she's out of the house when I come home, I'll think to myself, hmmmm, I'm by myself... and I'll blast my music through every room in the house.

Basically, Control4 plays a big part in how I work and how I unwind.

**Q** Do you host a lot of parties?

**A** I, myself, try not to have parties. But I'll tell you, the house gets used a lot for stuff like that. Big parties and dinners. Sometimes for photo shoots. GQ

did one not that long ago. The Ford Modeling Agency did one for a bathing suit shoot. When Victoria and David Beckham first moved here, they used the house too. They filmed The Beckhams Come to LA here.

The house is built for big events. My mom's birthday party had a hundred-something people here. I personally prefer when it's calmer, but this place can swing with the best of them.

**Q** Does Control4 technology help with big events?

**A** Control4 makes it easy because you can preset music mixes and set the volume just right and have the lighting that you really like. Like, I know that I like the dining room lights at 75%. Well, you can preserve that perfect formula. And with a push of a button, I have a dinner party! Or a pool party with the perfect lights, music and everything—it remembers everything.

We have lots of guests stay with us, too. It's really helpful for that. My mom and sister joke that it's a hotel. They're always saying we should have monogrammed bathrobes.

**Q** Out-of-town friends?

**A** My mom is from Mexico and me and my sister grew up in Canada, so we have a lot of friends and family who come and visit us from out of town. There are two rooms that people are always staying in. Mostly family members, friends, people driving all the way from Orange County and needing to stay the night. Sometimes people in LA have an irrational fear of driving. It's windy; there are hills; they've been drinking.



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**Q** How does Control4 help with guests?

**A** If guests want music or they don't want music, if the lights are too much or not enough—whatever it is, I can do it from the remote control. If a guest is in the kitchen and can't find the lights, I can just turn them on for them with the remote. I love that ability—to be able to control my whole house from a remote control.

What I love about the Control4 system is that it's very self-explanatory. Whatever they want—comfort, music, TV—they can pretty much figure it out on their own. And clearly, that's nice for me. Instead of constantly answering questions—and the same ones especially—it's so easy, they can figure it out on their own.

I mean, when I stay at friends' places, sometimes there are just so many remote controls—and half of



PHOTOS: REBECCA HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY

Simon loves the notion of having a remote for every room in the house. And not just to manage his media clips but also to control lights, drapes, temperature and more.

them don't even work. But here, it's really like staying in a hotel. Some of our guests only speak French. Well there's a touch screen for

people who don't speak English. It's completely self-explanatory because it's in images.

It's so easy. ■

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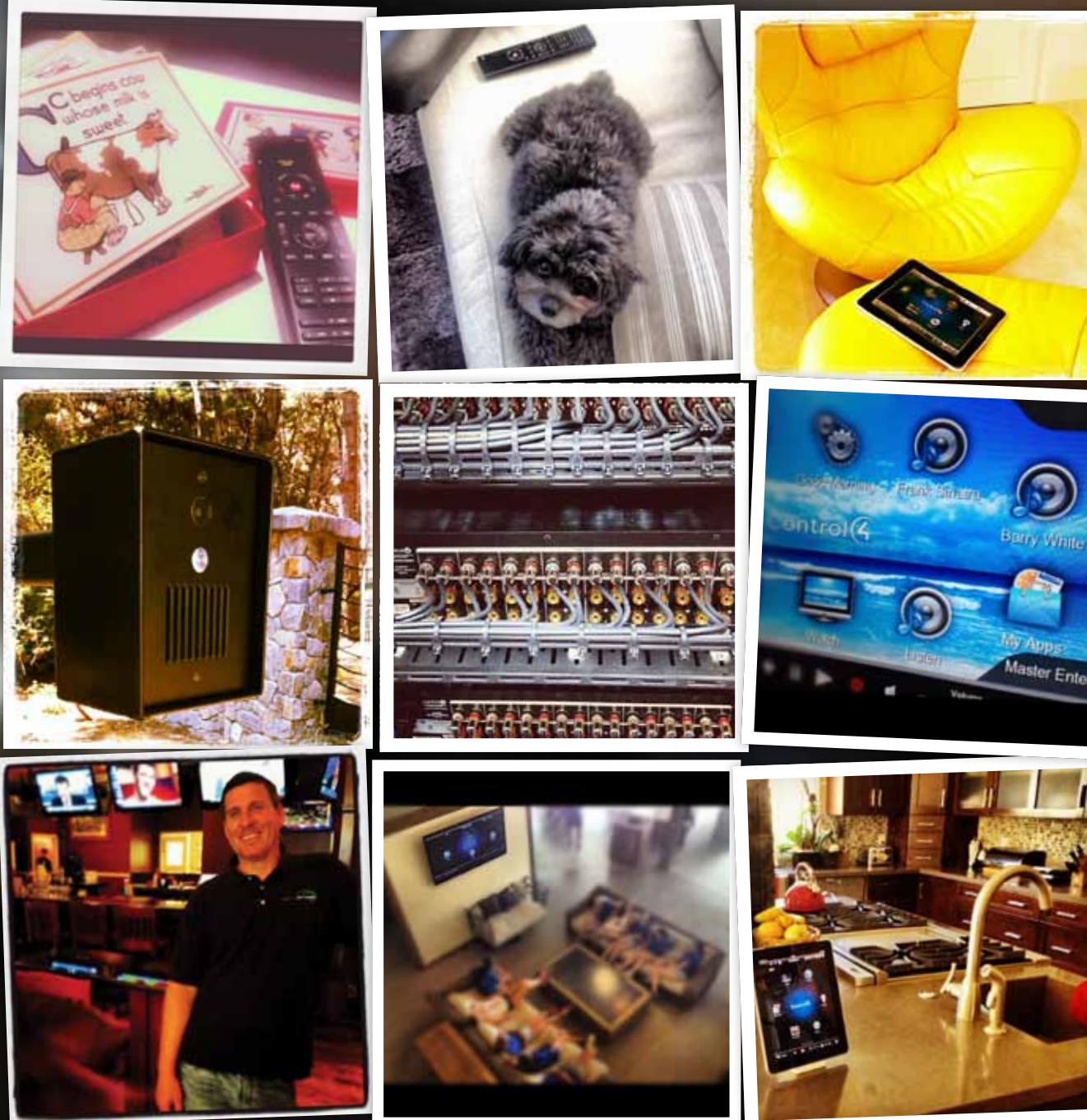
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