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# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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**Feature Story**  
The Façade Factor

POWERED BY

**SCHÜCO**

## UNAPOLOGETICALLY SAMIRA

Unconventional, statement, striking. Samira Rathod carries herself with a minimalism that belies the force of nature she is, and her architecture of poetry is a testament to exactly that. But what lies beyond the veil?

# LIVING SMART

HOME AUTOMATION IS ENSURING HOMES ARE LEVERAGING THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY TO GIVE THEIR OWNERS BETTER CONTROL OF THEIR SPACE.

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO



The automation industry has expanded over the years, and modern homes of today are adopting these technologies to their fullest. Ranging from lighting systems, entertainment and security systems to smart doorbells and HVAC systems, homeowners and the commercial industry have been implementing them all rather intelligently.



## CONNECTION CUES

Smart home gadgets can help homeowners simplify their everyday lives and replicate basic human tasks. Controlling the use of these resources (light, air-conditioning, electricity) through automation allows them to function at the desirable time. Aryaman Jain, CEO, Innovative Lighting Designs Limited (ILDL), explains, "Casambi enabled devices are one of the latest trends in this industry. Casambi collaborates with leading designers and luminaire, driver, and lighting control module manufacturers. It is a Bluetooth based solution using state-of-the-art wireless technology, creating a mesh network and enabling connectivity within larger distances. Similarly, we also have Zigbee and Z-wave which are standard wireless technologies, connecting smart home products and enabling smarter and safer homes. Another interesting new concept is the LiFi, which is a wireless optical networking technology that utilises light for data transmission."

## DESIGN DETAILS

The home designing space is constantly innovating, and homeowners are inclined towards indulgence, exclusivity, and elegant expressions. With this shift, there has been an evolution of technology in the high-end luxury home designing sector which has brought a new era of smart home automation. Narayanan Rajagopalan, Vice President - Design, HomeLane, explains, "Voice Activated Home Automation is a system where different appliances are controlled

1. Digital touch screen controlling the electronics, lighting and security systems in a home are not an uncommon sight anymore.

2. Smart home gadgets can help homeowners simplify their everyday lives and replicate basic human tasks.

3. Aryaman Jain, CEO, Innovative Lighting Designs Limited (ILDL)



by sending a Voice Command. For instance, commands for lights, music, fans that also set the mood and ambience. Security features integrated with Home Automation ping you on your phone automatically when someone approaches the main door of your property, allowing you to interact with the delivery person, whether you are at home or away. "You can choose the mood you like or set the temperature within your home before you return from work. Programmed air-conditioning helps conserve energy and keeps your home settings as per your needs. You can also clean and maintain your home with Autobots which are programmed to clean while you are away or asleep."

#### AUTO MODE

Smart products reduce human intervention and allow better hygiene as well as provide ease of operation. Polycab's monitoring home management insights is a disruptive feature that is set to change the way we consume electricity. "These insights give you a peek into your energy consumption patterns and can tell you in-detail about which appli-



ance is used for how long or what measures can be taken to save energy. This will prove to be a boon for commercial spaces and offices where the administrative cost can be smoothly optimised. At Polycab, we ensure that the subsystems are integrated aptly, and the user's requirements are addressed. Also, our post-purchase service plays a crucial role to address any challenges that may arise. Another challenge is around having too many automation control apps to control. Owners of commercial spaces especially, tend to install multiple smart units and have different controlling apps for each one. This often leads to confusion and automation problems. A crucial central control point for overall control is imperative in such circumstances to avoid these issues," says Bharat Jaisinghani, Executive Director, Polycab India Ltd.

#### SLEEP TIGHT

One of the key observations in the home solutions space is that there is not enough customer-centered innovation being actively driven. Harshil Salot, Co-founder, The Sleep Com-



4. Narayanan Rajagopalan,  
Vice President - Design,  
HomeLane

5. Bharat Jaisinghani,  
Executive Director, Polycab

6. Harshil Salot, Co-founder,  
The Sleep Company

7. There has been an  
evolution of technology in  
the high-end luxury home  
designing sector which has  
brought a new era of smart  
home automation.



8. With voice control or one  
app to manage all, brands  
offer products that simplify a  
consumer's day-to-day routine  
through an ecosystem of smart  
products.

9. Gurumukh Uttamchandani,  
Executive Director, Syska

10. Rajesh Kudlu, Founder, Tesor  
Designs



pany, says, "Inspired by the versatility and adaptability of our patented SmartGRID technology, the 'Smart' Bed Frame comes with customised comfort features like an anti-snore posture, TV mode, dual-zone massager for deep relaxation and zero gravity mode for balanced body comfort - all accessible at a click of a button. The Elev8 Smart Adjustable Bed uses smart technology to improve health and overall well-being and is a state-of-the-art futuristic technology that gives you the desired comfort, whether you are sleeping, sitting, or just relaxing." Within the automation space, while connected devices and gadgets have, to some extent, been able to enhance your home living experience, there is still a pool of possibilities that can be tapped. Brands have been focusing on smart products to meet the rising market for tech-enabled products. The demand for smart appliances is gradually changing the Indian home. With voice control or one app to manage all, brands offer products that simplify a consumer's day-to-day routine through an ecosystem of smart products.

**ELECTRICAL EFFICIENCY**

The quest for cutting-edge technology that can help save energy resources has become a serious factor in defining sustainability agendas. Syska has introduced Smart Wi-Fi Plug, which works with voice assistants and can be operated remotely using the Syska Smart Home App. "The gadget aids in the use of appliances by setting up schedules to turn them ON/OFF with time schedules and making existing regular appliances semi-smart. Syska's latest launch of Smart Fans, aligned with its mission of energy conservation, will ensure savings of up to 60 per cent power. Our D solutions also play an important role in saving power up to 70 per cent through LED, up to 60 per cent from BLDC fans, and up to 3 per cent from RoHS3 compliant wires with no compromise in performance," says Gurumukh Uttamchandani, Executive Director, Syska. Rajesh Kudlu, Founder, Tesor Designs, adds, "Home automation should always enhance the experience of the home. From lights to curtain, we at Tesor have worked on a few home automation projects that we have integrated into our initial design discussion. Especially for people who

are in hybrid working modes, homes must be designed to fit in a study but can also shift its functionality. Automated lights really help with shifting moods of a certain room and similarly curtain automation helps with managing the amount of light or openness you want. When electronics are integrated into the home automation system, it helps with reducing consumption as you can add timers to your AC and lights. It can also detect movement and switch off lights accordingly." Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. has collaborated with Amazon to launch Immensa, a Wi-Fi and Bluetooth enabled LED Lamp that ensures the comfort of operating the lighting through its app and managing it via voice controls. It is also possible to switch between shades of white, warm white and cool white and create and store custom lighting schemes to complement activities.

**GOING GREEN**

There is an urgent need to adopt technology that conserves energy and natural resources, thereby minimising their adverse effects on the environment. "Smart lighting will assist a city in upholding ecological harmony and raising living standards. In addition to being environmentally responsible and providing ease of use, smart lighting with sensors and AI-driven software protect consumers by eliminating the need for physical access, allowing users to manage the product at any time and from any location," says Kishan Jain, Director, Goldmedal Electricals. Home automation is certainly the way forward in futuristic homes - are you ready to make a smart choice? 🏡

**WEBSITES**

- **Innovative Lighting Designs Limited:** www.illimited.com
- **HomeLane:** www.homelane.com
- **The Sleep Company:** www.thesleepcompany.in
- **Syska:** www.syska.co.in
- **Tesor Designs:** www.tesordesigns.com
- **Goldmedal Electricals:** www.goldmedalindia.com
- **Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd.:** www.crompton.co.in
- **Polycab India Ltd.:** www.polycab.com

11. When electronics are integrated into the home automation system, it helps with reducing consumption as you can add timers to your AC and lights.

12. Kishan Jain, Director, Goldmedal Electricals



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