



Intelligent homes are a buzz in town these days. Trendy and fashionable. Even confusing and intimidating to some of us who are not sure what exactly intelligent homes are meant to do for us.

Technology on the one hand has

helped us compress a two-hour task into a two-minute job. On the other hand, the spread of gizmos has us scratching our heads in confusion. This, fortunately is not what intelligence in the homes means. So what exactly is it?

As Sanjiv Malvi, who works in this field tells you, "Take the example of a home theatre system. Anyone having this system will know the confusion that the plethora of remote controls can cause. There is one for the hi-fi. Another for your television, another for your cable TV, yet another for your amplifier. The more sophisticated your system, the more remote your chances of mastering your home theatre. But it need not be so. Today, the possibility of having just one touch panel for all of these is possible."

This not only takes away the physical sea of remotes that lie around, but at a touch of a button the system fires up, the screen comes down, the projector, the amplifier 'knows' what



the room temperature in the baby's room while she is sitting in the office. In more elaborate systems, many features can be added, ranging from automated gardens, lawn management, pool and spa management, keyless entry, landscape lighting, smart gates and energy management. The list is endless.



In really advanced systems, one can easily keep a track of the kids by using simple GPS devices; have the system identify authorised personnel using biometrics. Multiple homes and offices can be seamlessly connected to each other, thus making distances magically disappear.

How does one go about designing a smart home? The best time to start is while building or renovating. This way it is possible to allocate required space and most importantly to prepare the house for the future by running appropriate wires. Never cut cost on wires, they form the nervous



HOW SMART IS YOUR HOME?

Do you let technology overpower you? Or do you harness it to your advantage? Here's how you can do the latter



to do. The lights automatically dim, the curtains close and guess what, you don't even need to search for a DVD. The art covers of hundreds of movies displayed on the screen will allow you to simply select and watch the movie of your choice.

Intelligence in the home does not start and end with your entertainment system. The concept of an intelligent home is to simplify and add value to almost any aspect of your life at



home. It can take care of lighting, air conditioning and indoor security too. The beauty of this is that you can remain connected to it wherever you are. Different members of the house can listen to the music of their choice in their own space. The 'protective daddy' can just access the security cameras on his laptop from another city, country or even continent. The 'loving mother' may just want to monitor

system of the project.

Technologies advance very fast; it is a must to prepare the house with a professionally designed wiring infrastructure to accommodate future expansion. Most importantly: have a very experienced integration consultant on board, not just an interior designer, because the knowledge here is very specialised.