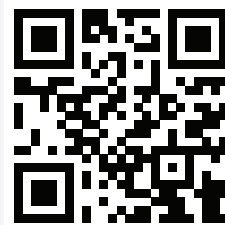


AN EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR THE SMART HOME INDUSTRY.

# SMARTHOME<sup>TM</sup> WORLD

VOL 5 • NO 04  
SEPTEMBER 2025

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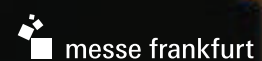
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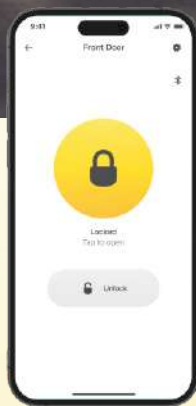


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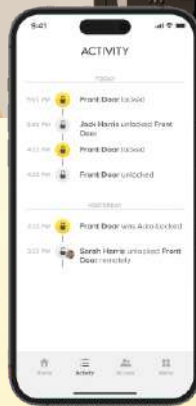
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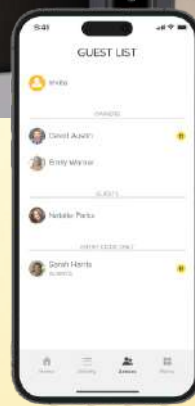
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SWATI BALGI

## FROM THE EDITOR

Lighting is more than just illumination — it is a source of energy, balance, and positivity. The right light uplifts our mood, nurtures wellness, and creates spaces that inspire joy and harmony in everyday life. As lighting technology evolves, it is reshaping the way we live, work, and experience our surroundings.

In this issue, Smart Home World gives its readers a holistic overview through our cover story on Lighting Controls 2025: Where Wellness, Intelligence & Design Converge. Experts from diverse fields come together to share their perspectives, offering a glimpse into how innovation and design are working hand in hand to transform spaces into smarter, healthier, and more inspiring environments.

We begin with insightful conversations with industry leaders. Shitij Khatter and Ashish Kesarwani of Audio Nirvana reflect on their brand's journey, highlighting how a selective product range and personalized design support have helped them earn the trust of audiophiles across India. Harish P. Lakhani of HP Lakhani Associates discusses the growing role of smart technology and lighting across residences, hospitality, and healthcare, while Vikaas Kothaari of Visual Vibrations Pty Ltd. takes us through the company's evolution, its curated portfolio, the success of its in-house brand iHome, and its vision for the future of AV and home automation.

The theme of integration and innovation continues with our case studies, where design and technology merge seamlessly. In Karad, GGAEC with Whitelion has crafted a smart mansion that redefines luxury by blending tropical architecture with state-of-the-art automation. In Ghaziabad, Geeta Vaibhav Architects and U-Haus Automation by Liberal have created the Vatsvi Yogaalya, a serene sanctuary that pairs minimalist design with smart solutions for wellness-focused living.

On the global front, our special reports bring you highlights from two major international expos shaping the industry. At CEDIA Expo 2025, immersive demos and thought leadership sessions set the direction for smart home and AV integration. Meanwhile, IFA 2025 demonstrated how technologies like AI, robotics, and sustainable design are no longer futuristic concepts but tangible forces actively redefining home and lifestyle.

Rounding out this edition, our news section explores the latest launches in home automation, smart lighting, AV systems, and connected devices. These innovations are not only enhancing convenience and security but also adding new dimensions of comfort and entertainment to modern living.

Enjoy reading and stay updated.

# SMARTHOME<sup>TM</sup> WORLD

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# Explore South Korea's Top 3 New Smart Lock Launches



## GP-6000BPK

6-Way Unlock



Palm Vein



Passwords



RFID cards



Mechanical  
keys



Fingerprint



Wi-Fi

### Smart Lock Features:

- › (Optional) Remote control function
- › Smart notifications on outdoor unit
- › Internal and external double-lock function
- › 3 types of alarms: Break-in, high temperature, and unregistered password for 5 times.

## GT5BK

4-Way Unlock



Passwords



Fingerprint



Mechanical  
keys



Smart  
Solity App

### Smart Lock Features:

- › IP54 Rating
- › Fake Passcode Function
- › Intrusion & Breakage Alarm
- › Electric Shock Neutralization
- › Internal Double lock Function
- › (Optional) Access form Anywhere



## G1

6-Way Unlock



Face ID



Passwords



RFID cards



Fingerprint



Transmitter



Wi-Fi

### Smart Lock Features:

- › Free Remote controller
- › Smart notifications on outdoor unit
- › Roller latch(Two Side Open Latch free)
- › 3 types of alarms: Break-in, high temperature, and unregistered password for 5 times.





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## Lighting Controls 2025: Where Wellness, Intelligence & Design Converge

*Modern lighting has evolved from a functional necessity to an interactive, intelligent design element, converging wellness, intelligence, and aesthetics. Read what our experts and brand heads have to say about ‘The New Age Lighting Controls 2025’.*

Lighting has evolved far beyond mere illumination. What began as a simple utility—turning on a bulb to brighten a space—has transformed into a sophisticated ecosystem of smart, adaptive, and human-centric lighting solutions. Early advancements like dimmers, timers, and programmable controls laid the groundwork, but the real leap came with LEDs, digital connectivity, and networked control protocols.

Today, in 2025, lighting controls are intelligent, interoperable, and deeply integrated into both commercial and residential environments. Protocols like DALI (Digital Addressable Lighting Interface) have become the backbone of precise, scalable control in professional installations, while Casambi’s wireless solutions are empowering designers and integrators to create flexible, app-driven lighting experiences with minimal infrastructure.





These systems don't just light a space—they enhance wellness, optimize energy efficiency, and elevate user experiences, responding dynamically to natural light, occupancy, and user preferences.

India Lighting Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence, says, The Indian lighting market size is valued at USD 354.33 million in 2025, and is forecasted to reach USD 596.21 million by 2030, translating into a 10.97% CAGR over the period. Urban infrastructure spending under the Smart Cities Mission, large-scale government procurement of LED bulbs, and mandatory energy-efficiency codes for buildings continue to anchor demand and reduce lifetime ownership costs. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) star-labeling and Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) rules keep shifting buyer preference toward

high-performance luminaires, while bulk-tender price erosion has opened mass-market access to LED technology. Competitive intensity remains high as domestic majors, global multinationals, and regional specialists all race to bundle connected-lighting software, predictive-maintenance analytics, and façade-lighting design into turnkey offerings. Export opportunities are also expanding because India now functions as a cost-competitive manufacturing base for the wider Asia-Pacific supply chain and for fast-growing Middle East and Africa projects.

### **Wellness: Beyond Illumination**

The most significant shift in lighting control is its focus on Human-Centric Lighting (HCL). This approach goes beyond simply providing light by mimicking the natural cycle of the sun to support our circadian rhythms.

**Circadian Rhythms:** Our bodies are hardwired to respond to light. Bright, cool-toned light in the morning boosts alertness and productivity, while warmer, softer light in the evening promotes relaxation and prepares the body for sleep. Modern control systems automate this process, adjusting light colour temperature and intensity throughout the day to optimize mood, energy, and sleep quality.

**Health and Safety:** Lighting is also being used for specific therapeutic and safety purposes. In healthcare settings, tunable white light can aid patient recovery and staff performance. Furthermore, innovations like antimicrobial LED panels are gaining traction, using specific wavelengths to kill bacteria and viruses in high-traffic areas, contributing to a healthier environment.

**Intelligence:** The Power of Smart Technology  
The convergence of lighting with smart technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making lighting systems more responsive and efficient than ever.

**AI and Automation:** AI-driven lighting systems learn from user habits and real-time data from sensors. For example, a system can detect when a room is unoccupied and automatically dim or turn OFF the lights to save energy. It can also anticipate needs, like gradually



brightening a bedroom in the morning to simulate a sunrise, or adjusting light levels based on the amount of natural daylight streaming through a window.

**Seamless Integration:** Today's lighting controls seamlessly integrate with other smart building systems, including security, HVAC, and automated window shades. This allows for unified control and creates "scenes" that respond to a single command. For instance, a "movie night" scene can automatically dim the lights, close the shades, and adjust the thermostat.

**Li-Fi Technology:** Looking ahead, Li-Fi (Light Fidelity) is an exciting emerging technology that uses LED light waves to transmit data. This could turn lighting fixtures into a secure and fast alternative to Wi-Fi, providing not only illumination but also high-speed internet connectivity.

**Design:** Redefining Aesthetics and Function Designers are no longer limited to standard fixtures. Lighting is becoming a core element of architectural and interior design, with innovative solutions that are both functional and artistic.

**Minimalist & Invisible Lighting:** The trend of "less is more" is reflected in the popularity of minimalist and invisible lighting. Recessed LED strips, linear lighting, and fixtures hidden within walls or ceilings create a clean, uncluttered aesthetic where the light source itself is secondary to the effect it creates.

**Dynamic and Sculptural Forms:** Conversely,

lighting can be the centerpiece of a space. Sculptural and modular lighting systems are gaining prominence, serving as art installations that can be reconfigured and customized. These fixtures create mesmerizing patterns and shadows, transforming a room's mood and visual identity.

**Personalization:** The ability to customize is a key design driver. Users can now easily adjust brightness, color, and even patterns through apps or voice commands. This empowers individuals to create the perfect ambiance for any occasion, from a vibrant dinner party to a relaxing evening.

**The Role of Professionals in a Connected World** The complexity and sophistication of these new lighting systems underscore the critical role of industry professionals.

**Lighting Consultants & Designers:** They are the orchestrators, translating a client's vision into a cohesive, functional, and aesthetically pleasing lighting plan. They select the right fixtures, calculate photometric requirements, and ensure the design balances form and function.

**System Integrators & Automation Professionals:** These experts are the backbone of the intelligent lighting ecosystem. They are responsible for the technical implementation, programming, and seamless integration of all components. Their expertise ensures that the system works flawlessly and delivers on its promises of efficiency and convenience.



Smart Home World gathers insights from experts across brands and industry segments, offering a comprehensive view of trends, innovations, and best practices shaping the smart home ecosystem.



**Tommy Hoo**

*APAC Strategy & Marketing Leader, Casambi Technologies Pte Ltd*

**How is your brand integrating wellness-focused technologies such as circadian lighting, tunable white, or AI-driven adaptive control into residential or commercial projects?**

At Casambi, wellness is not an afterthought; it is a design principle. Our smart lighting control platform is inherently designed to enable circadian lighting, tunable white, and dynamic scenes that naturally adapt to the rhythms of human life. By embedding intelligence at the software level, Casambi allows residential and commercial projects to implement wellness-focused strategies without complexity.

Increasingly, we are researching AI-driven adaptive controls that analyze behaviour, occupancy, and daylight to create environments that intuitively support comfort, productivity, and health. Casambi provides the platform to empower buildings to think about the people inside them.

**What's your approach to creating lighting systems that are both intelligent and design-conscious — especially in luxury homes or boutique commercial spaces?**

Casambi believes true intelligence should feel seamless and invisible. Our ecosystem eliminates the need for intrusive control boxes and complex wiring, giving architects

and designers complete freedom to preserve aesthetic integrity. In luxury homes or boutique commercial spaces, this means that lighting can become an extension of the design language — elegant, discreet, and fully integrated into the architecture. Behind the scenes, Casambi ensures powerful functionality: advanced dimming, scene setting, and integration with other smart building systems. We see ourselves as the spatial design enabler, delivering sophistication without visual clutter.

**How do you see AI, voice, and sensor-based personalization reshaping user interaction with lighting in the next 2–3 years?**

The next wave of innovation will make lighting as intuitive as breathing. AI will continuously learn from daily habits, creating predictive environments rather than reactive ones. Voice control will evolve from simple commands to contextual conversations. At the same time, sensor fusions combining motion, presence, daylight, temperature, and even biometric inputs in the future will allow spaces to tailor themselves dynamically to the individual.

**What collaborations or feedback loops do you maintain with lighting designers or integrators to ensure product relevance and ease of installation?**

Casambi thrives on collaboration. Our open ecosystem has grown through constant dialogue with lighting designers, specifiers, and integrators worldwide. We maintain structured feedback loops through our Casambi Partners Network, training and certification programs, and dedicated innovation forums. This co-creation process ensures that our platform is not only technologically advanced but also aligned with the daily realities of design, installation, and user experience.

This means we are continuously refining our technology to make them more intuitive, interoperable, and adaptable across diverse project contexts.



**Can you share an example of a project where your lighting control system significantly impacted energy efficiency, wellness, or visual experience?**

One notable example is the BBC in the UK. The BBC's output reaches more than 400 million people around the world every week, and its TV news operation is the biggest in the world. The organisation wanted to bring the same forward-thinking approach to its buildings, which house numerous TV and radio studios, data centres, and offices.

The BBC was on a mission to reduce energy use, improve comfort for staff, and introduce smarter, more flexible control. All upgrades must achieve energy reductions of at least 20% in order to go ahead, in line with the BBC's sustainability strategy.

Choosing a Casambi system gave the BBC team access to the entire Casambi Ready ecosystem of thousands of interoperable sensors and control devices. Sensors from Tridonic and Danlers have been installed to enable presence detection and daylight dimming, ensuring lights are only on when they're needed. Energy-harvesting wireless switches from EnOcean are also being used, which provide another easy way for staff to

control the lights. EnOcean's wireless switches are particularly well-suited to Casambi, because it is the only lighting control system in which they can be paired with the whole network, rather than just the nearest individual node, ensuring reliable commissioning and operation.

Apart from Casambi Ready luminaires, sensors and switches, no other hardware is required to operate and control the new lighting, so installation at all of the BBC locations was quick, simple and cost-effective. The system was commissioned wirelessly from a remote location, meaning there was no need for anyone to be on site, minimising disruption to work. The client is delighted with the results at Broadcasting House. The space has been described as brighter and more vibrant, and all the feedback so far has been positive.

The flexibility to adjust light levels at any time means the BBC has been able to easily accommodate staff preferences and requests. Casambi is now installed in all the following sites, incorporating a total of more than 10,000 nodes: New Broadcasting House, London; Wogan House, London; Energy Centre, London; Mailbox, Birmingham; Glasgow Pacific Quay; Belfast; Manchester Media Centre; BBC Oxford and BBC Radio Nottingham





**Khushali Patel**

*Country Manager, John Cullen Lighting*

**What are the key challenges in integrating sophisticated lighting controls with broader smart home or building systems (e.g., HVAC, security, energy)?**

At John Cullen Lighting, we often work on homes and spaces where lighting is just one element of a much larger smart ecosystem. The main challenge lies in ensuring that the lighting control integrates seamlessly with other systems like HVAC, audio-visual, security, and energy management all of which may be operating on different platforms.

Getting all of these systems to work together harmoniously without compromising performance, design, or user experience requires careful planning and collaboration early in the design process. Another ongoing challenge is ensuring that the control interface remains intuitive for the user. No matter how complex the backend system is, it should always feel simple and seamless at the front end. For us, the goal is to create a system that's not only functional but also beautifully invisible.

**How has your role evolved as clients and designers now expect more wellness-focused and aesthetically subtle lighting solutions?**

Over the years, our role has evolved from being lighting designers to experience creators. Today's clients are far more conscious of the impact of lighting on well-being, from mood and sleep to productivity and relaxation. They're not just asking for light. They're asking

for the right light, at the right time, often without seeing the source at all.

At John Cullen, our design philosophy has always been rooted in layering light and using discreet architectural luminaires. Pair this with tunable solutions and adaptive control systems, and you create a holistic environment where lighting fulfills function, emotional comfort, and visual elegance. Clients can adapt their spaces to mimic the cycles of natural light throughout the day, and therefore support the body's circadian rhythm, or even simply adjust depending on their mood and needs at any given time. For instance, if someone is completing a task or working from home, a cooler light would be most suitable, and when they're ready to relax and settle in for the evening, adjusting to a warmer tone is easily achievable. Flexibility has always been and continues to be one of the biggest drivers when it comes to wellness-focused spaces; the technology to achieve that evolves, and it's up to us to stay on top of the latest possibilities.

**What are your go-to platforms or protocols for ensuring reliable and future-ready lighting control integration (KNX, DALI, BLE, etc.)?**

Client needs are always first and foremost, and we can recommend the best options to suit the scale and scope of any project. We tend to gravitate towards the likes of Lutron and KNX, the former offering a user-friendly and refined interface with excellent support for layered lighting scenes, and the latter being





especially powerful when multiple systems need to communicate reliably. DALI also plays a key role in projects that require granular dimming and flexibility, especially when we want individual control over fittings. We often work in tandem with system operators to select the best protocol mix depending on the architectural needs, integration demands, and the desired user experience.

**Can you share a recent project where invisible lighting design or adaptive control created a standout user experience?**

One of our recent private residential projects in the UK perfectly reflects the power of invisible lighting and adaptive control. The client wanted a calming, luxurious interior where lighting would enhance the space subtly rather than take centre stage. We used a mix of low-glare downlights, floor washers, and hidden linear details, all controlled by a system that adapted to time of day and ambient conditions.

By integrating tunable white lighting with automation, the home transitioned naturally from cooler, energising tones in the morning to warmer, restful lighting in the evening. At night, low-level pathway lights activated automatically, offering soft guidance without

waking the senses. The result? A space that didn't just look beautiful, it felt beautifully in sync with the rhythm of daily life.

**With the rise of AI and predictive automation, how do you see system integrators redefining lighting control delivery and user education?**

AI is unlocking a new chapter in lighting control where systems don't just respond to commands but learn from behaviour. We see this as a major step forward in creating homes that adapt intuitively to people's lifestyles.

System integrators now play a more strategic role, working with lighting designers & product suppliers like us to fine-tune controls that anticipate the user's needs rather than rely on presets. These AI-enhanced systems can adjust scenes automatically based on time of day, occupancy, or even the weather, reducing the need for manual inputs.

From a user education perspective, the focus is shifting toward simplicity. While the backend may be smart and complex, the interface must be intuitive. We often see users appreciating systems that "just work," without needing deep technical knowledge. The role of the integrator is to make that complexity invisible and the experience effortless.





## **Raja Mukherjee**

*Sr VP & BU Head- Lighting, PEWIN, Panasonic Life Solutions India*

### **How is your brand integrating wellness-focused technologies such as circadian lighting, tunable white, or AI-driven adaptive control into residential or commercial projects?**

Our brand is deeply committed to enhancing occupant wellness through advanced lighting technologies. We integrate circadian lighting systems that mimic natural daylight patterns, supporting healthier sleep-wake cycles and overall well-being. Our tunable white solutions allow users to adjust colour temperature and intensity, creating environments that promote focus, relaxation, or energy as needed. Additionally, our AI-driven adaptive controls analyse occupancy patterns, daylight availability, and user preferences to automatically optimize lighting for both comfort and energy efficiency—whether in homes, offices, or hospitality spaces.

### **What's your approach to creating lighting systems that are both intelligent and design-conscious—especially in luxury homes or boutique commercial spaces?**

We believe that intelligent lighting should never compromise on aesthetics. Our approach combines cutting-edge control technology with design flexibility, offering sleek interfaces, customizable scenes, and seamless integration with architectural elements. In luxury homes and boutique commercial spaces, we collaborate closely with designers and architects to ensure our systems complement the interior vision, delivering intuitive control, mood-setting

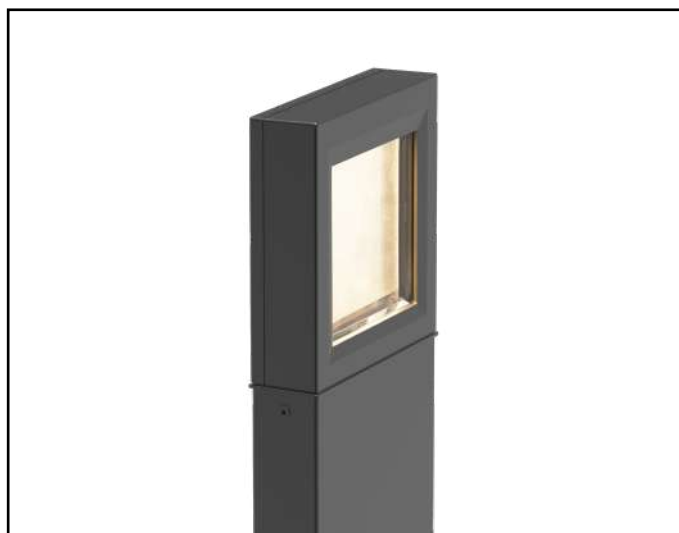
capabilities, and invisible hardware that enhances the overall ambiance.

### **How do you see AI, voice, and sensor-based personalization reshaping user interaction with lighting in the next 2–3 years?**

AI, voice, and sensor-based personalization are set to revolutionize user interaction with lighting. We foresee lighting systems that learn from user behavior, anticipate needs, and adjust automatically, creating truly personalized environments. Voice assistants will enable hands-free control, while advanced sensors will detect occupancy, daylight, and even emotional cues to tailor lighting in real time. This convergence will make lighting more intuitive, accessible, and responsive, elevating both comfort and energy savings.

### **What collaborations or feedback loops do you maintain with lighting designers or integrators to ensure product relevance and ease of installation?**

Collaboration is at the heart of our innovation process. We maintain ongoing dialogues with lighting designers, system integrators, and end-users through workshops, pilot projects, and feedback sessions. Their insights directly inform our product development ensuring our solutions are not only technologically advanced but also practical to install and easy to use. We also provide comprehensive training and support to our partners, fostering a community of expertise and continuous improvement.



**Can you share an example of a project where your lighting control system significantly impacted energy efficiency, wellness, or visual experience?**

Indoor - We have installed our lighting controls in the new Parliament building, with daylight sensors supporting daylight harvesting, occupancy sensors in cabins, time schedulers, etc, on which we are able to save around 10-15% of energy, and giving flexibility to create customized lighting ambiance. Likewise, we have done DY Patil Hotel Management



Institute, Varanasi Convention Centre, Pune Metro, and the DRM building in Howrah. We have also bagged the orders for the C4 & C6 package covering 5 stations for the most prestigious and high-visibility Mumbai – Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor Project (Bullet Train Project ).

Outdoor – we have implemented 28k pieces of smart streetlighting at the Kalyan Dombivli area through the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation, wherein the corporation has saved over 12 cr of money in the last 3 years.



**How has the focus on human-centric and wellness-driven lighting changed your design approach over the last few years?**

As a lighting designer, the growing focus on human-centric and wellness-driven lighting has deeply reshaped how I approach every project.

Lighting is no longer just about form and function; it's about enhancing human experience. This shift has made my role more collaborative and essential early in the design process. I now work closely with architects, interior designers and system integrators to ensure that lighting supports circadian rhythms, mood, productivity and overall well-being.

It has also pushed me to think beyond aesthetics, carefully considering colour temperature, light distribution, glare control, and dynamic lighting scenes that adapt throughout the day. The aim is to create environments where occupants feel more balanced, energized and connected to natural rhythms.

In short, wellness-driven lighting has elevated the role of the lighting designer from a visual stylist to a key contributor in shaping healthier and more responsive spaces.

This holistic approach has also deepened





our commitment to aesthetics and user experience. We're not just lighting spaces we're enhancing the quality of life within them.

**Which brands or technologies have impressed you in terms of balancing aesthetics with functionality and control?**

Several brands have made impressive strides in balancing aesthetics with functionality and smart control.

Wipro & Havells Lighting stand out with their human-centric and IoT-enabled systems that blend seamlessly into modern spaces, which have brought sleek, affordable smart lighting to the mainstream, offering app and voice-controlled options.

Technology platforms like Casambi, Schneider Electric, and Helvar automation systems are bringing elegant, user-friendly control solutions to Indian homes and businesses.

It's exciting to see Indian innovation aligning

global functionality with local design sensibilities.

**In real-world projects, how have advanced lighting controls (e.g., adaptive brightness, automated scheduling, AI) contributed to client wellness or lifestyle enhancement?**

In real-world projects, advanced lighting controls have significantly elevated both client wellness and lifestyle quality.

Features like adaptive brightness help maintain circadian rhythm by adjusting light levels throughout the day, promoting better sleep and increased daytime alertness, especially in residential and wellness-focused spaces. Automated scheduling has enhanced convenience and energy efficiency, while also creating mood-driven environments tailored to the client's routine.

In high-end homes and hospitality projects, AI-powered systems have enabled personalized lighting scenes that respond to occupancy,





time of day, or even emotional states, contributing to both comfort and emotional well-being.

Ultimately, these technologies are not just about automation; they're about creating responsive, health-supportive environments that adapt to how people live and feel.

**Do you find enough collaboration opportunities with system integrators or tech brands early in the design phase? What needs to improve?**

As a lighting designer, I often find that collaboration with system integrators and tech brands comes too late in the process.

While there's growing awareness of the value of integrated design, we're still not seeing

enough early-stage involvement from tech partners. When collaboration happens from the outset during concept development, it leads to far more cohesive outcomes. Lighting, controls, and user experience align seamlessly, without last-minute compromises.

What needs to improve is timing and communication. System integrators should be part of the design dialogue from day one, not just during installation. This early integration allows us to craft lighting experiences that are not only visually impactful but also intuitive, efficient, and wellness-driven.

Ultimately, better collaboration up front means smarter design and a better result for the client.

**What's your vision for the future of lighting**



**design — particularly in how it merges with architecture, automation, and sustainable living?**

The future of lighting design depends heavily on its early integration into the architectural process and that starts with appointing a lighting designer from day one.

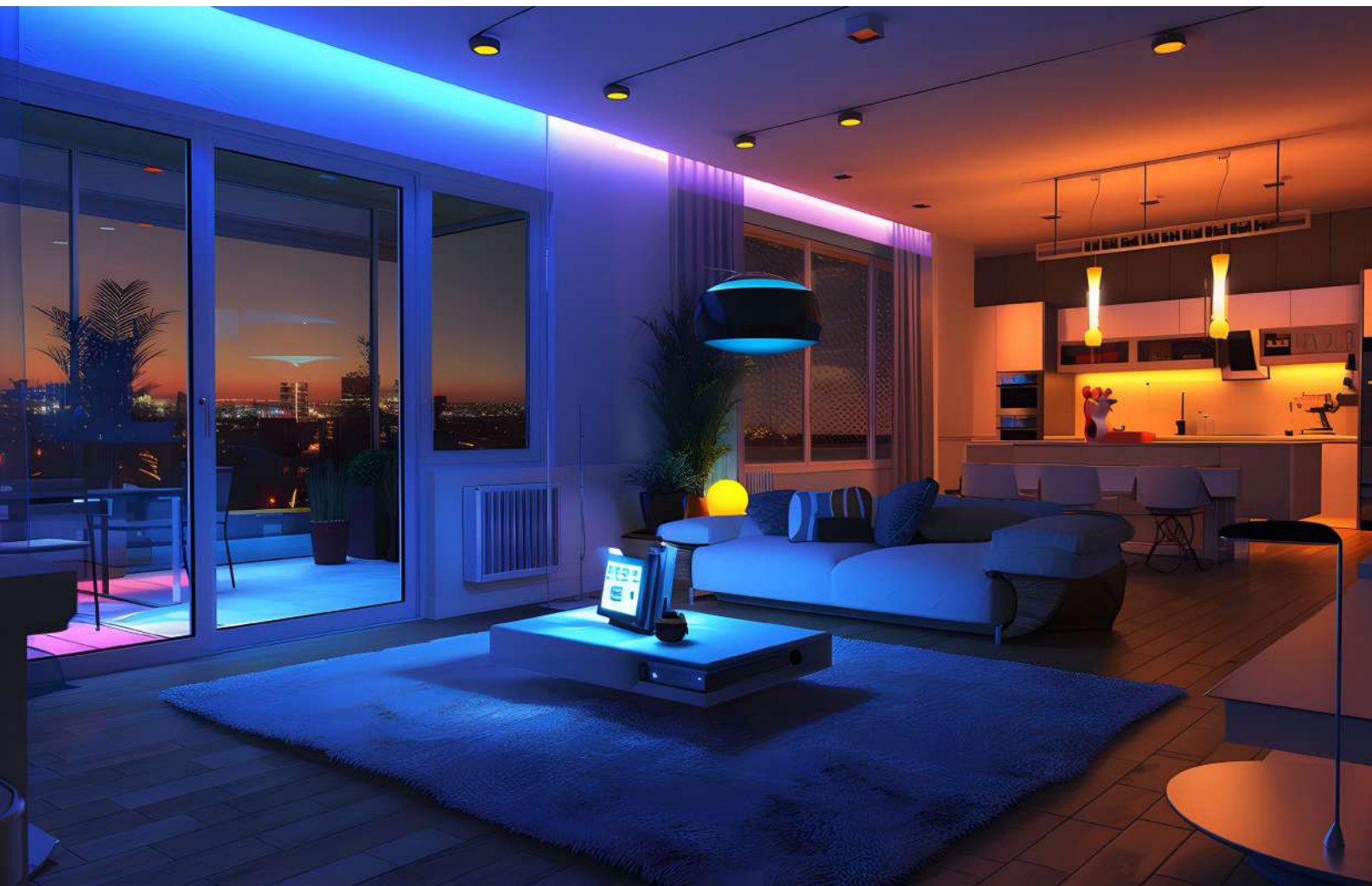
Lighting will no longer be treated as a layer applied after design; it will be embedded into architecture structurally, emotionally, and experientially. We're moving toward invisible light sources, dynamic materials, and adaptive lighting environments that respond to both people and place.

Automation and AI will play a crucial role, enabling lighting systems that are intelligent,

responsive, and personalized—automatically adjusting to time of day, occupancy, mood, or even energy grid demands. This kind of synergy between technology and design will transform how we experience spaces.

At the same time, sustainability will drive every decision—from energy-efficient fixtures and controls to material choices and lifecycle impact. The goal is not just to reduce consumption but to create healthier, more resilient spaces that support human well-being and environmental responsibility.

In essence, lighting design will evolve into a seamless, sustainable, and human-centric discipline where architecture, automation, and wellness truly converge.



**Conclusion:** Lighting control in 2025 is an intersection of human needs, technological advancements, and creative expression. It's a field where wellness, intelligence, and design are no longer separate concepts but a unified force, illuminating a more connected and comfortable future.

# “Design Isn’t Just About Aesthetics—It’s About Creating Spaces That Think, Adapt, and Respond.”



**Harish P. Lakhani**

Founder, HP Lakhani Associates

*Harish P. Lakhani, has been shaping architecture and interior design in India for over three decades. Since establishing his firm in 1994, he has led projects across private residences, hospitality, and healthcare, blending timeless aesthetics with smart technology. Landmark projects like the ‘Magnificent Homes’ gated community in Hyderabad, Temple Tree Villa 54, and the Bobba Residence showcase his philosophy of designing spaces that are not only visually inspiring but also smart and sustainable. In a tete-a-tete with Smart Home World, Harish shares his views on Smart technology, Smart Lighting, and more...*

**Tell us about your design journey and some of the landmark projects that have set trends over the years.**

My journey in design began with a simple curiosity about how spaces can shape human experience. After completing my commerce degree from Bombay University, I pursued design at LS Raheja College of Architecture and went on to establish HP Lakhani Associates in 1994 as an interior design firm. What began as a passion-driven practice has since evolved into a multidisciplinary studio, undertaking architectural and interior projects across private residences, hospitality, and healthcare. Our philosophy has always been to create spaces that are not only functional but also inspiring, timeless, and emotionally resonant. Some of our early landmark projects include

private residences, offices, and a 6-acre gated community in Hyderabad with 30 villas, ‘Magnificent Homes,’ which earned us a WAF nomination in Barcelona in 2011, along with other recognitions.

In fact, we were among the first firms in Hyderabad to venture into home automation for a private residence back in 1998–99—an experience that gave us invaluable exposure and set new benchmarks in the industry. Over the years, our work has championed open layouts, biophilic design, and the integration of smart technologies in residences, helping to shift the focus from mere aesthetics to creating meaningful, experience-driven spaces.

Looking back, every project has been a milestone that has shaped our growth and





design ethos. Yet, what excites me most is the road ahead—where sustainability, technology, and human-centric design come together to craft spaces that will continue to inspire generations.

### **How has smart technology influenced your approach to architecture and interior design projects?**

Today, spaces are defined not only by form and function but also by intelligence and adaptability. From the very beginning of our design process, we integrate smart systems so that lighting, climate control, security, and appliances can be automated and centrally managed with ease. This creates environments that are more responsive, efficient, and personalized for the people who inhabit them. Smart technology also strengthens our commitment to sustainability. Through intelligent sensors, energy-efficient solutions, and data-driven monitoring, we can reduce waste, optimize resource use, and design buildings that are more environmentally responsible.

Most significantly, it has transformed how we envision the future of spaces. We now see buildings not as static structures, but as living ecosystems that evolve with their users. This perspective enables us to design environments that are not only visually inspiring but also future-ready, technologically advanced, and sustainable.

### **At what stage of a project do you usually start considering technology integration, and how early do you involve system integrators or consultants?**

We start considering technology integration right from the concept stage of a project. For us, it's not an afterthought but an essential part of how the space will ultimately function and feel. By planning early, we can align the architectural design, services, and interiors with the client's lifestyle or business needs, ensuring that the technology blends seamlessly rather than looking like a retrofit.

System integrators or consultants are usually brought in once the initial design intent is



clear—typically during schematic design or early design development. This allows them to collaborate closely with us and the client, fine-tuning solutions for automation, AV, security, or energy systems. The earlier they're involved, the better the outcome, because it ensures coordination across disciplines and avoids costly rework later.

**What's the biggest challenge in balancing aesthetics with technology — especially when it comes to concealing devices or avoiding visual clutter?**

As designers, our role is to integrate technology so seamlessly that it enhances the experience without ever becoming intrusive. We collaborate closely with system integrators to conceal cabling, embed speakers and sensors, and align devices with the overall design language of the interiors. Sometimes this involves custom furniture, at other times, architectural detailing. The goal is always the same—to ensure technology serves the user while preserving the purity and elegance of the architecture and interiors. When executed well, the result is an intuitive, uncluttered





space where intelligence exists quietly in plain sight.

**What benefits do automation, smart lighting, and smart security solutions (like cameras and digital locks) bring to your projects?**

Automation, smart lighting, and intelligent security bring immense value to our projects by enhancing both functionality and the emotional experience of a space. Automation offers convenience by allowing spaces to adapt to people, rather than the other way around. Smart lighting goes further, shaping mood, supporting well-being, and ensuring energy efficiency. Security features such as cameras and digital locks add peace of mind—an element as vital today as comfort and aesthetics.

From a design standpoint, these technologies also help reduce clutter by replacing multiple switches and keys with streamlined systems. This gives clients the assurance that their homes and offices are not only beautiful but also safe, intelligent, and future-ready.





integrated KNX-based automation to unify lighting, climate control, and security. Smart lighting scenes were designed to shift from morning freshness to evening warmth, enhancing both mood and energy efficiency. Digital locks and discreet cameras provided peace of mind without compromising aesthetics. The open KNX protocol allowed us to blend multiple brands seamlessly, ensuring flexibility for future upgrades. The result was a home that felt intuitive, secure, and elegant, with technology hidden in the service of design.

Both Temple Tree Villa 54 and the Bobba Residence showcase how seamlessly technology can enhance modern living without compromising design elegance. In Temple Tree Villa 54, intelligent lighting systems automatically adjust brightness and mood based on the time of day and user preferences, with dimmable LEDs in dual colour temperatures (4000K and 3000K) creating the right ambiance across spaces. Accent lighting highlights artworks, sculptures, and architectural features, all controlled through centralized panels or a mobile app. Comfort is elevated with automated blinds and curtains

### **Which brands do you prefer or trust most when it comes to building automation, smart lighting, and smart security?**

There are several brands to choose from, and there is no single best brand or protocol; the ideal choice depends on your needs and budget. I usually prefer KNX over proprietary automation protocols because it offers an open-ended, future-proof platform with the flexibility to choose Switches and Components from various brands. This makes third-party integration much easier and ensures clients are not locked into a single ecosystem. For smart lighting, I often rely on Philips Hue, Ando, Lutron, Delta, Flos, and Zumtobel for their reliability, and there are quite a few good local brands that we can rely on. Likewise, in smart security systems, there are various brands. Ultimately, my focus is on flexibility, scalability, and seamless integration with the overall design intent.

### **Could you share a case study where you've integrated automation, smart technology, and smart lighting?**

In a recent luxury residence project, we







that regulate natural light and privacy, while centralized climate control ensures ideal temperature zones throughout the home. Security is equally advanced, featuring discreetly integrated CCTV cameras, motion sensors, and smart locks with remote access for round-the-clock peace of mind.

The Bobba Residence mirrors this philosophy of discreet intelligence, layering technology into every aspect of daily life. Thermostats on each level allow precise climate control, while hidden Wi-Fi boosters ensure uninterrupted connectivity across the villa. Keypads and touch panels on all floors integrate lighting, security, and entertainment, giving the family intuitive control at their fingertips. Automation extends to blinds that adjust with natural light, while the dedicated home theater becomes a hub for immersive entertainment, equipped with surround sound, acoustic wall treatments, a ceiling-mounted projector, and layered lighting that shifts atmospheres with a simple tap. Smart security systems with inconspicuous cameras further protect the home, blending seamlessly into the interiors.

Together, these residences highlight how lighting, comfort, security, connectivity, and entertainment converge through smart

automation, transforming villas into future-ready, intuitive living experiences.

**As homes continue to get smarter, how do you see the role of architects and designers evolving? Do you think tech fluency will become an essential skill set in your profession?**

As homes get smarter, the role of architects and designers is evolving from just shaping spaces to also curating experiences. Earlier, our focus was largely on aesthetics and functionality, but now we must also anticipate how people will interact with technology in their daily lives. Tech fluency is no longer optional; it's becoming an essential part of our toolkit.

We don't need to become engineers, but we do need to understand automation, data, and integration well enough to collaborate effectively with system specialists. This allows us to design environments where technology is seamless, intuitive, and invisible, serving the user while preserving the integrity of the design. In many ways, the designer of the future will be both a spatial storyteller and a technology orchestrator.

# “Multi-Room Audio, Invisible Speakers, and Voice-Controlled AV Systems are set to Transform the Future of Indian Homes.”



## **Vikaas Kothaari**

*Managing Director, Visual Vibrations Pty Ltd.*

*Vikaas Kothaari, shares the journey of how the company grew in just over a decade from a passionate AV distributor into one of India's most respected names in high-end audio-video, automation, and professional audio. Representing global brands like Krix, TruAudio, Earthquake, Moose Sound, SCP, Vibroxx, Control4, ABB, and its in-house brand iHOMÉ, Visual Vibrations has set new benchmarks in performance and luxury.*

*With a state-of-the-art experience center featuring demo rooms, a dedicated automation apartment, a pro-audio showcase, and a Krix cinema, the company is more than a distributor—it's a destination to experience technology in its purest form.*

**Visual Vibrations has grown to become a leading importer and distributor of high-end audio-video products in India. How would you describe the company's journey and overall vision?**

Visual Vibrations began its journey with a single purpose: to bring the finest global audio-video solutions to India. Over the years, the company has grown into one of the country's largest distribution platforms, representing world-renowned brands and offering cutting-edge technologies across multiple verticals. The vision has always been clear—to move beyond just supplying products and instead craft complete experiences that redefine entertainment, luxury, and lifestyle. Today, Visual Vibrations continues to stand as a bridge between global innovation and Indian

aspirations, driving excellence through passion, consistency, and trust.

**What is your approach to identifying and selecting the brands and technologies that you bring to the Indian market?**

Every brand brought under the Visual Vibrations umbrella undergoes a careful evaluation process. The focus is on innovation, durability, and future-readiness. A brand must not only have a strong international reputation but also demonstrate its ability to adapt to Indian conditions and consumer preferences. The company seeks out products that combine aesthetic appeal with functional brilliance, ensuring they remain relevant for years to come. Ultimately, the aim is to deliver solutions that are premium, sustainable,





and capable of elevating living spaces into immersive experiences.

**Visual Vibrations operates across multiple verticals—Home Theatre & Cinema, Home Automation, Acoustics, and Cables & Accessories. Could you share details about the brands you retail in each segment?**

- Home Theatre & Cinema: Renowned names such as Krix, TruAudio, Axiom Audio and Earthquake provide cinematic experiences that rival the world's best theatres.
- Home Automation: Vibroxx, the in-house automation KNX-certified brand, delivers a holistic ecosystem of smart living solutions, complemented by global technology partners.

- Pro Audio: Moose Sound, a professional audio brand from Europe and proudly made in Europe, ensures that both residential and commercial spaces achieve unmatched clarity and performance.
- Cables & Accessories: SCP (Structured Cable Products) from the USA, a globally recognized brand, provides premium cabling solutions designed specifically for AV and integration needs. These ensure reliability, performance, and seamless connectivity across every installation.

Each vertical is carefully curated to provide seamless integration, ensuring clients receive a world-class experience at every level.

**Your AV experience center is truly one-of-a-kind. Could you share the concept behind creating such a large-scale space and highlight the brands featured there?**

The Visual Vibrations experience center was envisioned as an immersive hub where technology could be experienced in its truest form. Spread across a large facility, it features eight dedicated demo rooms, a fully furnished apartment for live home automation demonstrations, a state-of-the-art Krix cinema room that delivers the ultimate private theatre experience, and a huge professional audio



room showcasing Moose Sound from Europe. This diverse setup allows clients, architects, and designers to explore real-world applications—be it residential automation, high-end home theatres, or commercial-grade pro audio solutions. Brands like Krix, TruAudio, Moose Sound (Europe), Earthquake, SCP (USA), and Vibroxx are all showcased in environments designed to inspire and educate. The idea was simple: rather than just talking about technology, let people see, hear, and feel it.

### **Could you elaborate on the brands you offer across different segments, such as residential and commercial installations?**

Visual Vibrations has built a portfolio that blends the best of global innovation with tailored solutions for both residential and commercial environments. In the residential segment, the emphasis is on delivering cinematic and lifestyle experiences of the highest caliber. At the forefront is Krix from Australia, regarded worldwide as one of the most premium cinema audio brands. Known for engineering reference-level sound systems used in commercial theatres across the globe, Krix brings that same performance into private home cinemas, offering unmatched clarity, power, and immersion. Complementing Krix are TruAudio from the USA and Earthquake from the USA, which bring versatility and dynamic sound to a wider range of home theatre and lifestyle applications. For automation, Vibroxx unifies lighting, curtains, AV, climate, security, and even luxury motorised furniture





into a seamless ecosystem, transforming residences into intelligent and elegant living spaces.

In the commercial segment, Visual Vibrations focuses on professional-grade performance and reliability. Moose Sound from Europe, designed and manufactured in Europe, is a leader in professional audio solutions for auditoriums, clubs, restaurants, and event spaces. To ensure these systems are supported by robust infrastructure, the company relies on SCP (Structured Cable Products) from the USA, an industry benchmark in cabling and accessories for AV, networking, and automation.

Together, this portfolio represents the pinnacle of global AV technology—Krix as the gold standard in cinema sound, Vibroxx as a future-ready automation ecosystem, Moose Sound as a European powerhouse for pro audio, and SCP as the backbone for world-class connectivity. By combining these strengths,



Visual Vibrations delivers projects that are both technically superior and experientially unforgettable.

**When it comes to home automation, could you elaborate on the brands you work with and the solutions they offer?**

At Visual Vibrations, home automation is anchored on KNX and DALI protocols, which form the backbone of our smart living projects.



These international standards ensure that systems remain scalable, reliable, and future-proof.

On top of this foundation, we integrate:

- iHOMÉ: Our in-house automation ecosystem that ties everything together—from lighting and AV integration to curtains, AC, security, and motorised luxury furniture.
- Vibroxx (UAE): Delivering luxury front-end keypads and backend devices that combine premium design with engineering precision.
- Control4 (USA): Serving as the primary mobile app and user interface, Control4 makes system control simple, unified, and intuitive.
- ABB (Germany): Enhancing the ecosystem with advanced switches, sensors, and building automation solutions trusted worldwide.

This combination allows us to offer clients complete, world-class automation ecosystems—where the reliability of KNX/DALI infrastructure is elevated by the design

excellence of Vibroxx, the global reputation of ABB, the user-friendliness of Control4, and the holistic innovation of iHOMÉ. The result is a lifestyle where technology works seamlessly in the background, enhancing comfort, security, and luxury.

### **How do you collaborate with system integrators and architects to ensure your products are seamlessly integrated during the design and installation phases?**

At Visual Vibrations, collaboration is at the core of every project. We believe that technology must not only perform at the highest level but also blend seamlessly with architecture and interior design.

Our process begins at the conceptual stage, where we sit down with architects and system integrators to understand the project vision—whether it's a luxury residence, a high-end cinema, or a large commercial installation. From there:

- We provide detailed design consultancy, ensuring that KNX/DALI-based solutions,





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premium keypads (Vibroxx), ABB devices, and Control4 interfaces are seamlessly integrated into the design layout.

- Our experience center plays a pivotal role, allowing partners to experience and demonstrate to clients how solutions will look and feel in real life—from automation apartments to our state-of-the-art Krix cinema.
- We conduct training and technical workshops to keep system integrators updated on global standards and best practices.
- On-site, our team provides hands-on technical support during installation, ensuring every product is commissioned to perfection.

This approach has allowed us to deliver projects of remarkable scale and diversity—from ultra-luxury villas and private cinemas for leading industrialists, to boutique hotels, large auditoriums, and premium residential towers. Each project is a testament to the synergy between design, integration, and technology.

By working hand-in-hand with architects

and integrators, we ensure that they get design freedom, integrators gain technical confidence, and end clients enjoy spaces where technology enhances the lifestyle experience without ever overpowering it.

### **What is your outlook on the growth of multi-room audio, invisible speakers, and voice-controlled AV systems in India?**

The Indian market is undergoing a rapid shift towards experiential luxury. Multi-room audio is increasingly being requested in high-end residences, offering seamless entertainment across spaces. Invisible speakers are revolutionizing interiors by combining premium sound with aesthetic minimalism. Voice-controlled AV systems are bringing a new level of convenience and interactivity to everyday living. Visual Vibrations foresees exponential growth in these categories as awareness and demand for smarter, design-friendly solutions continue to rise. The company is committed to leading this transformation by staying at the forefront of technology.



## Can you share some of the prominent clients or projects you have worked on?

Over the past decade, Visual Vibrations has partnered with leading architects, interior designers, and developers to deliver exceptional projects across India. These include ultra-luxury residences, villas, boutique hotels, high-end cinemas, and premium corporate spaces. While confidentiality is maintained for individual clients, the company's portfolio includes some of the most prestigious addresses and projects in the country. Each project stands as a testament to Visual Vibrations' ability to merge technology with design, bringing visions to life with precision and passion.

In conclusion, I would like to add that from

reference-level private cinemas powered by Krix to future-ready automation systems built on KNX/DALI standards, Visual Vibrations has redefined what it means to experience technology in luxury living. The company's strength lies not only in its portfolio of world-class brands but also in its collaborative approach—working hand-in-hand with architects, system integrators, and clients to bring visions to life.

As India embraces a new era of experiential living, Visual Vibrations continues to stand at the forefront—delivering solutions that are as innovative as they are timeless, as technical as they are artistic. The company's journey is a testament to one belief: when passion meets precision, the result is nothing short of extraordinary.



# “Every Audio Nirvana Installation is a Balance of Craftsmanship, Technology, and Sonic Excellence.”

**Shitij Khatter & Ashish Kesarwani**  
Partner, Audio Nirvana



*Shitij Khatter and Ashish Kesarwani, Partner, Audio Nirvana, have been at the forefront of redefining India's high-fidelity audio landscape. The brand's curated portfolio spans globally acclaimed loudspeakers, amplifiers, and next-gen streaming systems, all backed by deep technical expertise and a flair for bespoke design. Shitij points out that what truly sets Audio Nirvana apart is its selective product range, hands-on design support, and an unwavering focus on sonic excellence—qualities that have made the brand a trusted name among discerning audiophiles.*

**Audio Nirvana has established a strong reputation in India's audio industry. Could you walk us through the brand's journey and highlight what sets it apart from others in this space?**

Audio Nirvana has emerged as a leader in India's high-fidelity audio sector through a legacy of curating globally renowned brands and providing customised, luxury listening experiences. Its reputation is built on deep technical expertise, an unwavering focus on sonic excellence, and long-term partnerships that enable bespoke solutions for discerning clients. What uniquely differentiates Audio Nirvana is its selective portfolio, hands-on design support, and its dedication to both innovation and customer satisfaction.

**You work closely with some of the world's most renowned audio brands. What innovations are you introducing to the Indian market through these partnerships?**

By partnering with leading brands, Audio Nirvana brings award-winning audio technologies to India. Major innovations include active room optimization (Linn's Space Optimisation): Linn Space Optimisation is a sophisticated audio technology that uses advanced acoustic modeling to analyze how speakers, their placement, and the unique characteristics of a room interact and affect sound. It identifies frequencies artificially distorted by the room environment and reduces their impact, enabling the music to be heard as intended without room-induced

distortion. This technology allows users to place speakers in the most practical locations rather than purely ideal positions, while still achieving optimal sound quality truly tailored to their room and speakers.

McIntosh Autoformer™ Technology (Ensures full power delivery to speakers regardless of their impedance (2, 4, or 8 Ohm), guaranteeing consistent performance for any speaker load). McIntosh Sentry Monitor™: A fuse-less short-circuit protection system that disengages when unsafe current is detected and resets automatically when conditions normalize. Michi amplifiers utilize Class AB amplifier architecture for a blend of power efficiency and audio fidelity.

The “Voice of Sonus Faber” (VOS) is a key tweeter-and-midrange driver module used in Sonus Faber’s high-end speakers, such as the Amati Supreme and Suprema models. It features:

- A diamond-shaped module combining a 38mm silk dome tweeter and a 20mm super tweeter for exceptional high-

frequency clarity.

- The midrange is handled by the signature 16.5cm Camelia driver known for outstanding control and articulation.
- The drivers are mounted on machined aluminum flanges enclosed in cork structures to optimize airflow and frequency response.
- This module integrates advanced crossover technology for seamless driver integration and perfect synchronicity.
- The design inherits from Sonus Faber’s flagship Suprema model and delivers the brand’s signature natural sound with refined detail and richness.

**As the distributor of high-end brands like Sonus Faber, McIntosh, Linn, Rotel to name a few, can you highlight some of their latest offerings for luxury homes?**

SonusFaber: The SF II Cremonese Lamborghini Edition, officially known as the II Cremonese Ex3me – Automobili Lamborghini Edition, is an ultra-exclusive high-end loudspeaker created through a collaboration between Italian





audio maker Sonus Faber and Automobili Lamborghini. It represents a fusion of Italian luxury, craftsmanship, and innovation, blending Lamborghini's performance-driven design with Sonus Faber's acoustic mastery.

Key Features Include:

- Limited to only 50 individually numbered pairs, each with a certificate of authenticity.
- Five unique Lamborghini-inspired finishes: Giallo Countach, Arancio Egon, Blu Marinus Matte, Verde Mercurius, and Nero Nemesis Matte.
- Design cues mimic Lamborghini super sports cars with angular five-sided rhomboid cabinets, carbon fiber trims, and Corsa-Tex fabric by Dinamica.
- High-end acoustic components such as a beryllium tweeter with DLC coating and drivers made from cellulose and natural fibers.
- Each speaker is finely tuned by ear to ensure an emotional and immersive listening experience akin to a live performance.
- The speaker features the iconic Automobili Lamborghini shield logo, symbolizing power and prestige.

This speaker is not just a luxury audio device but a collector's piece that brings the essence of Lamborghini's speed and emotion into the home listening experience

- The McIntosh DS200 is a high-end streaming DAC (Digital-to-Analog Converter) designed for audiophiles seeking premium sound quality combined with modern streaming convenience. It features McIntosh's classic design with a black glass front, illuminated logo, rotary knobs, and durable machined aluminum end caps, reflecting the brand's reputation for timeless aesthetics and robust build quality.
- The Linn Klimax Solo 500 is a high-end, compact monoblock power amplifier known for its precision engineering, exceptional audio performance, and elegant minimalist design. It is regarded as the best compact mono amplifier Linn has ever made, featuring advanced technologies such as Adaptive Bias Control, a sophisticated hybrid cooling matrix with intelligent fan management, and Linn's proprietary Utopik power supply.





- The Rotel RAS-5000 is a high-power stereo integrated amplifier designed to deliver exceptional sound quality with modern streaming capabilities and convenient connectivity. This model provides seamless streaming from popular services such as Spotify Connect, Tidal Connect, Qobuz, and internet radio, and supports playback via AirPlay 2, Google Cast, Roon Ready, and aptX HD Bluetooth. It also incorporates HDMI ARC (Audio Return Channel) for direct, high-resolution audio from a TV, making it suited for home entertainment setups.

**How are you adapting to the demand for custom-installed solutions in high-end residential spaces?**

Audio Nirvana works with integrators to deliver tailored audio systems—from hidden speakers in living rooms to large-scale distributed audio—using Rotel’s whole-house solutions, Linn’s Space Optimisation, and Sonus Faber’s architectural speakers. Each project is calibrated for room acoustics, design aesthetics, and client preference.







**What are the biggest challenges in India's premium AV distribution landscape, and how is Audio Nirvana addressing them?**

India's market presents challenges in technical education, evolving client expectations, and complex site conditions. Audio Nirvana counters these by offering comprehensive training, post-install support, and ongoing demonstrations. Its approach actively bridges knowledge gaps and ensures world-class installations despite logistical hurdles.

**System integrators are central to your business model. In what ways do you support them in delivering comprehensive solutions to clients?**

System integrators receive access to product training from us and the brand principals, Certified e-learning platforms from our brands and real-time troubleshooting. Regular factory visits of the brands we represent play a major role in gaining trust and understanding of the SI. Audio Nirvana leverages brand-specific e-learning platforms and onsite







guidance to enable professional, error-free installations—empowering integrators to deliver transformative audio experiences

**With the rapid adoption of home automation platforms, how are your brands being integrated into larger smart home ecosystems?**

Our brands are engineered for interoperability. They work seamlessly with major Home automation brands. With a slew of multi-room amplifiers from Linn, Rotel, McIntosh and using Sonus faber speakers, we can integrate our systems into a multi-room environment. To quote an example, Linn's networked players and smart streaming products fit directly into multi-room, app-controlled environments, offering flexible control and scalable connectivity.

**Multi-room audio and immersive home cinema are fast-evolving categories. How is Audio Nirvana aligning itself with these trends in India?**

Since the Pandemic in 2019, Home cinema / Home Entertainment has become a key zone

in any modern home. 80% homes are either built with a dedicated or a lounge-based cinema. With endless content available on OTT, the convenience and comfort of home cinema, this market is only going to increase. We have products to satisfy the needs of all kinds of customers, whether its custom install speakers or beautiful Italian hardwood speakers – we have it all. These speakers are a statement piece even when they are not playing. And they quietly hide themselves in the surroundings as soon as you hit PLAY. We can power these speakers with a plethora of multi-room audio amplifiers and pre-amplifiers available from Rotel, Linn, and McIntosh.

**What innovations have you launched recently in areas like immersive audio (Dolby Atmos, DTS X), streaming integration, or control systems?**

Linn: Linn's models use proprietary DACs like Katalyst and Organik, support streaming from local storage, cloud sources, and popular streaming services (Tidal, Qobuz, Spotify, AirPlay, Roon compatibility). The devices are upgradeable with firmware to add new





features and performance improvements.

McIntosh CR106 6 Zone Pre-Amplifier / Audio Matrix -Combines a preamplifier and an audio matrix into one unit & connects upto 5 units via Dante® network interface to create 30 zones  
McIntosh Labs MX180 A/V Processor is a state-of-the-art 15.1-channel audio/video processor for high-end home theaters. Features include support for 8K/60Hz and 4K/120Hz video on all 7 HDMI ports, HDR formats (Dolby Vision, HDR10+), Room Perfect room correction, discreet decoding for advanced surround sound (Dolby Atmos, DTS:X Pro, Auro-3D), and extensive analog/digital inputs. Notable for sophisticated customization, future-proof video support, and premium build quality.

The Rotel S14 Integrated Network Streamer is an all-in-one high-fidelity component combining a powerful Class AB integrated amplifier with advanced streaming and digital conversion capabilities. It is designed to deliver convenient, high-resolution music playback from both online and legacy sources, requiring only a pair of speakers to create a complete audio system.

## How many brands do you distribute in total?

We are a seven-brand strong company.

McIntosh: Renowned American high-end audio equipment manufacturer known for amplifiers and home audio systems.

- Sonus Faber: Italian luxury loudspeaker maker famous for craftsmanship and rich, natural sound.
- Linn: Scottish audio brand specializing in high-performance digital music systems and streaming.
- Rotel: Japanese audio company offering affordable yet quality amplifiers and audio components.
- Melodika: Polish brand specializing in high-quality audio cables and accessories focused on audiophile-grade sound with practical design and excellent value.
- Bassocontinuo: Italian manufacturer of premium handmade high-end audio racks combining scientific vibration control with elegant Italian craftsmanship.
- La Sound: Italian Manufacturer of hand-crafted high-performance cables made from 99.9% pure silver.



## Smart Technology Elevates Multi-Generational Luxury Living

*Designed by Geeta Vaibhav Architects and automated by U-Haus Automation by Liberal, the Vatsvi Yogaalya in Ghaziabad is a luxurious sanctuary where minimalist design meets smart technology. It's a home built to nurture a multi-generational family in a space that is as intelligent as it is beautiful.*

In the vibrant, busy urban landscape of Ghaziabad, a new residential project stands as a testament to the seamless integration of modern luxury and home technology. The Vatsvi Yogaalya, a sprawling 16,200 sq. ft. residence, has been meticulously designed by Geeta Vaibhav Architects to serve as a tranquil sanctuary for a joint family spanning three generations. This ambitious project, built on a linear, North-facing plot adjacent to a noisy highway, masterfully addresses the dual challenge of creating an elegant, minimalist home while ensuring it remains a peaceful haven for its inhabitants. The design philosophy is centered on an 'exposed aesthetic,' where a restrained palette of materials and a dynamic interplay of light and shadow create an

environment of understated elegance and profound tranquility.

The architectural narrative of the home unfolds through its design, which was chosen for its perfect blend of modern aesthetics, functionality, and experiential living. At the heart of the residence, a sculptural staircase serves as more than just a means of vertical circulation; it is a central architectural focal point that embodies the elegance of minimalism and creates a dynamic, flowing spatial experience across all levels. Large glazing is strategically integrated to ensure a constant visual connectivity with nature, blurring the lines between the indoors and outdoors and fostering a serene, open





environment. The thoughtful use of natural light enhances the tactile beauty of exposed concrete and textured finishes, elevating the ambiance throughout the home and creating a space that effortlessly balances luxury with livability.

### Technology at the Heart of the Home

“The client’s brief for the project’s smart home integration was deeply rooted in their desire for a living space that would be both intuitive and effortlessly responsive to their needs. They envisioned a home where technology would not be a separate entity but an integral part of the daily rhythm, enhancing comfort, security, and sustainability. The automation, flawlessly executed by U-Haus Automation by Liberal, is a testament to this vision. It is a discreet yet powerful system that seamlessly manages key home functions. The integration includes a sophisticated network of automated lighting systems, motorized curtains, and a centralized AV control system.” Explains Vaibhav Arya, CEO & co-Founder, Geeta Arya, Principal Architect & Founder, Geeta Vaibhav Architects.

The core of the system’s genius lies in its





simplicity. Instead of multiple remotes, the family can manage their environment through sleek, keypad-based controls or a single, unified smartphone application.

This design choice was deliberate, aimed at providing an uncluttered user experience that aligns perfectly with the home's minimalist aesthetic. Furthermore, the inclusion of in-ceiling automated speakers and other concealed technologies ensures that the high-tech functionality never detracts from the home's clean, elegant lines. This commitment to a user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing interface was a key customization, ensuring that the technology would serve the family rather than complicate their lives.

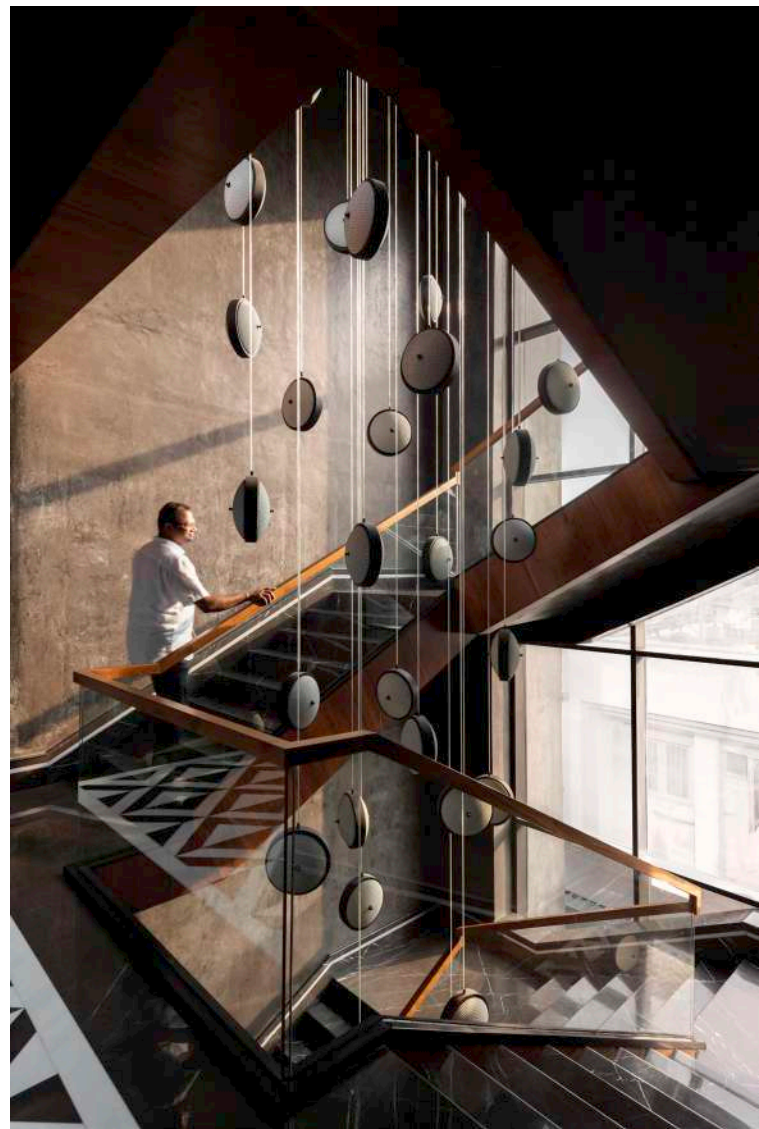
**A Multilayered Approach to Safety and Security**  
The safety and security of this multi-generational family were a top priority in the design and execution. The home is fortified with a meticulous plan that integrates advanced systems and architectural strategies. At the first line of defense is a state-of-the-art Hikvision CCTV network, providing comprehensive 24/7





surveillance of all entry points, open areas, and internal spaces without being intrusive. This is complemented by an advanced biometric access control system from Basalte, which restricts unauthorized access at all major entrances, ensuring only family members and authorised visitors can enter secure zones.

The perimeter security is robust, featuring high boundary walls equipped with motion sensors and automated gates. Should any unusual activity occur, integrated burglar alarm systems provide real-time alerts directly to mobile devices and security monitoring teams. Beyond these traditional security measures, the home incorporates advanced safety technologies. Gas leak detectors and carbon monoxide sensors are installed in high-risk areas like the kitchen and utility rooms, providing immediate alerts to prevent hazardous situations. A reliable backup power supply ensures that critical safety features, including fire alarms and surveillance, remain fully operational during power outages. Thermal imaging cameras act as an early detection system for potential fire risks by







monitoring unusual temperature fluctuations. The residence also features non-toxic, low-VOC finishes and generously designed staircases and corridors to ensure a safe and healthy environment, particularly for the elderly and young children.

### **The Ultimate Entertainment and Wellness Hub**

The project is designed not just for daily living but also for exceptional entertainment and relaxation. The home theater is a prime example of this philosophy, designed as a fully immersive entertainment zone. The system, powered by U-Haus Automation by Liberal, allows the entire setup—including the Denon AV receiver, Optoma projector, and Origin Acoustic speakers—to be controlled through a single, seamless interface. Pre-set scenes like “Movie Mode” instantly dim the lights and close automated curtains, creating the perfect cinematic ambiance with the touch of a button. The theater’s acoustically treated walls and motorised recliners further enhance the

luxury and comfort, creating a space where the family can escape and unwind.

Beyond entertainment, the home is a sanctuary for health and wellness. The second floor is dedicated to guest accommodations and wellness facilities, including a spa, sauna, and gym. The terrace floor is a versatile outdoor party area with semi-covered zones, landscaped greenery, and seating arrangements, offering a serene escape with stunning views. The home’s smart lighting system from Hybec is used throughout the residence, dynamically adjusting to different moods and activities. All these systems are underpinned by a robust networking infrastructure, ensuring seamless communication between devices and providing the scalability to accommodate future technology advancements and the family’s evolving needs. This people-centric design philosophy is at the core of the project, ensuring that every space, from the basement party zone to the tranquil first-floor sanctuary, perfectly balances luxury, functionality, and connection for every member of the family.





## TECH INSIGHTS

**Automation By:** UHAUS by Liberal

**Lighting:** Hybec

**Security Cameras:** Hikvision

**Digital Locks:** Yale

**Home Theatre:** UHAUS by Liberal

**Projectors:** Optoma

**Amplifiers:** Marantz

**Speakers:** Origin Acoustic

**Biometrics:** Basalte





# Smart Luxury Redefined

*GGAEC partnered with Whitelion to create this smart mansion in Karad, seamlessly blending tropical architecture, stylish interiors, and cutting-edge automation to redefine modern luxury living.*

Designed by Ar. Gautam and Ar. Geetanjali Naik, Founder and Principal Architect, GGAEC, along with Ar. Prashant Kapdi has reimaged what modern luxury can look like in the heart of Karad, Maharashtra. This smart mansion, spread over an area of 16,000 sq. ft., nestled within 30,000 sq. ft. of landscaped greens, is not just a home but a statement on the future of living.

Blending tropical architectural elements with contemporary interiors and advanced smart automation, the project redefines the boundaries between design, lifestyle, and technology. More than a residence, it stands as an experiment in how spaces can be both indulgent and intelligent, immersive yet effortless. Conceived as more than just a residence, this project embodies the essence of a personalized luxury resort, where tropical

architecture, contemporary interiors, and cutting-edge automation merge into one seamless lifestyle experience.

The design narrative is anchored in the idea of creating a resort-like retreat for its residents. Expansive courtyards blur the line between indoor and outdoor living, while double-height volumes flood the interiors with natural light. The decor theme leans on tropical-modern chic, combining earthy textures, clean lines, and opulent finishes. Every corner — from landscaped courtyards to statement interiors — is designed to deliver a lifestyle, not just a dwelling.

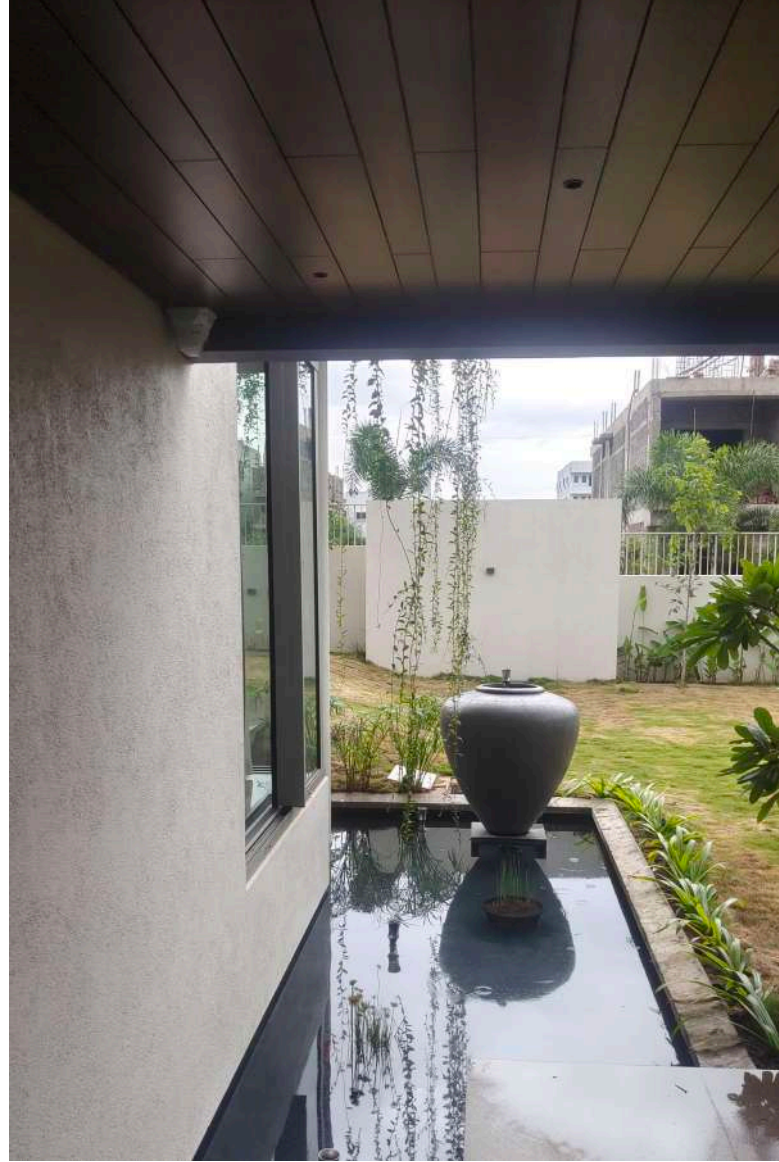
Unlike most projects where homeowners are deeply involved in design decisions, here the client trusted the creative acumen of the architects and integrators completely.



With minimal intervention and a hands-off approach, they allowed the team full freedom to experiment and innovate. This trust enabled a design and technology synergy where form and function worked in perfect alignment.

At the heart of this home lies a ZigBee-based automation system, implemented by Whitelion, the project's technology partner. Every critical system, from lighting to HVAC, entertainment, and security, is integrated for seamless operation. The homeowners can control and monitor everything effortlessly through both Android and iOS devices, or via elegantly customised smart switches.

Lighting is not just functional here — it defines the home's personality. A tunable, dimmable system allows lighting to shift from energetic daytime hues to warm, ambient evening tones. Switches, fixtures, and even speakers are custom-designed to blend invisibly



into the interiors, ensuring that technology complements, rather than competes with, the design.

The HVAC system, sourced from Daikin, ensures year-round comfort with a hybrid setup of VRV ductable units, split ACs, and cassette systems. The approach balances efficiency with luxury, ensuring precise climate control across expansive spaces without compromising on design aesthetics.

Security is powered by a DALI-based platform that integrates surveillance cameras, access control systems, and digital locks. Sensors monitor patterns while allowing remote access, offering peace of mind without visual clutter. Biometric options add a further layer of convenience and control, elevating the sense of safety within the property.

One of the standout features is a custom-designed home theatre, which is a sanctuary for immersive entertainment. Equipped



with a Sony Ultra HD short-throw projector and Genelec Dolby Atmos audio system, the space rivals high-end cinema halls. Interiors follow a dark theme with black fabric walls, ceilings, and carpeting, creating an acoustically rich environment. Reclining leather chairs and front-row lazy beds ensure unmatched comfort, making the theatre both sophisticated and indulgent.

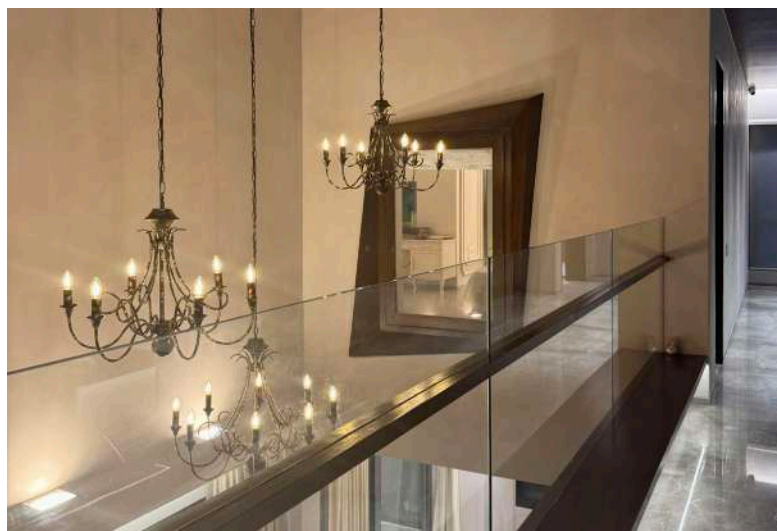
The mansion's smart backbone is built on robust networking hardware that ties together automation, AV systems, and security into a single, intuitive ecosystem. Designed with scalability in mind, the system is future-ready, allowing upgrades and integration of newer technologies without disrupting the home's architecture.

Beyond present-day comfort, the mansion is engineered for future adaptability. With modular networking devices and ZigBee as the automation backbone, the home is



ready to evolve with advancements in smart technology and the changing needs of its residents.

This smart mansion redefines what luxury living means in India today. By merging visionary architecture, curated interiors, and state-of-the-art automation, it sets a benchmark for residences that are not just opulent but also intelligent. With its resort-like feel and tech-forward design, this project proves that the future of luxury homes lies in spaces that are as adaptive as they are beautiful.







## TECH INSIGHTS

**Architects:** Ar. Gautam & Ar. Geetanjali Naik, Ar. Prashant Kapdi

**Systems Integrator:** Whitelion

**Automation Platform:** ZigBee

**Lighting:** Lutron Tunable & dimmable smart lighting

**HVAC:** Daikin VRV + split + cassette systems

**Lighting Platform:** DALI-based platform,

**Projector:** Sony Ultra HD projector

**Audio System:** Genelec Dolby Atmos system



## CEDIA Expo 2025 – Smart Living Reimagined

*With new product launches, immersive demos, and knowledge exchange, CEDIA Expo 2025 offered a clear look at where smart home and AV integration are headed.*

**CEDIA Expo 2025**, co-located with the Commercial Integrator Expo (CIX), transformed Denver into the global hub for custom installation, smart home ecosystems, and immersive AV innovation. With over 300 exhibitors, thousands of integrators, designers, and technology professionals, and an education program spanning more than 90 sessions, the event reaffirmed its reputation as the launchpad for the future of connected living. This year's narrative revolved around three pillars: intelligence, integration, and invisibility.

Procella Audio made waves with a major expansion of its UNO Series, introducing the P21Si and P24Si subwoofers that scale from compact rooms to large theaters. The P50CW on-wall/on-ceiling speaker, featuring a rotatable, aimable baffle, directly addressed

installation challenges, while the P28Mk3 redefined dynamic cinema audio. Procella's bold LED theater demo, combining a 135" 4K HDR 120Hz COB LED video wall with P628 Above Screen channels, P5 surrounds, and FORZA amplifiers, showcased how cinema sound can keep pace with next-generation LED walls.

Samsung Electronics America, in partnership with Harman Luxury Audio, unveiled the world's first 115" Micro RGB TV, delivering 100% BT.2020 color coverage through micro-sized red, green, and blue backlights. Powered by the Micro RGB AI engine with Glare Free technology, the display offered lifelike realism and contrast. Samsung also introduced the Neo QLED QN90F 115" Class 4K TV, enhanced with Supersize Picture Enhancer for crystal clarity on ultra-large screens.





Sonance expanded its James Loudspeaker brand with four major launches: the Wedge WX Series with redesigned woofers and Quadratech tweeters; the QX Quadratech Series of in-wall speakers with smoother response; the PowerPipe X Subwoofers, offering eight hidden models with new trims and marine-rated options; and the BE MKII Theater Series, a refreshed BE800 line with upgraded crossovers and simpler calibration. Blackwire Designs introduced the Ring Control & Events Pro driver for Control4, enabling integrators to offer full control of Ring Alarm modes, real-time sensor monitoring, and direct activation of sirens and lights. This integration bridged two widely adopted platforms, streamlining security automation for installers and end-users alike.

Aqara marked a milestone in its pro-channel journey with the Edge Hub M300 and Aqara Studio Connect software. Supporting up to 500 devices and bridging professional ecosystems like KNX, Control4, Josh AI, and Nice with Matter-based platforms such as Alexa, Apple, and Google, the solution provided unmatched flexibility. Its local-first reliability, no-code

automation, and hybrid wired-wireless design gave integrators a future-proof tool for residential, multi-family, and light commercial projects.

#### Other Launches Included:

- Barco Residential's new ultra-short-throw projectors and cinema-grade processors for luxury theaters.
- Lutron Electronics, which extended its Ketra + Athena portfolio with advanced circadian and wellness-focused lighting presets.
- Snap One, debuting upgrades to OvrC Pro and Control4 OS 4.0 for enhanced monitoring and automation.
- Sony, showcasing its modular Crystal LED panels and Bravia Theater Quad Dolby Atmos system.
- Bang & Olufsen, unveiling the sculptural BeoSound Arcadia line, merging art and acoustics in one striking form.

Crestron Electronics unveiled a wave of product launches, updates and integrations spotlighting audio, control, shading and content solutions designed to simplify the smart home experience.



Key highlights included Configure Pro, a next-generation setup platform enabling no-programming system creation, advanced logic and streamlined AV-over-IP configuration, and the Cevo Mini Remote, an ergonomic handheld controller built for today's streaming lifestyles. Crestron also refreshed its Cameo and Horizon keypads with new finishes, customizable backlighting and retrofit-friendly features, alongside expanded shading collections and hardware upgrades.

On the integration front, Crestron announced native compatibility with DoorBird video door intercoms, offering live video, two-way audio and secure access, and partnered with HouseCurve to deliver app-based room audio tuning for DM NAX amplifiers.

For entertainment, the company introduced DM NVX Multiview, enabling up to six simultaneous streams on one display, ideal for media rooms and sports bars. In addition, Apple Music is now natively supported on DM NAX amplifiers via firmware update, allowing seamless streaming and control across

Crestron Home OS interfaces.

AMETEK SurgeX launched a remote monitoring and management platform, SurgeX CONNECT, alongside two new products, Axess ELITE+ and DisplayPak+.

CONNECT brought centralized power management to the spotlight, allowing integrators to monitor and control devices across multiple sites from a single dashboard. With features such as outlet toggling, rebooting, and energy analytics, it reduced the need for on-site service visits and streamlined operations.

Attendees also experienced the compact DisplayPak+, a Wi-Fi/Ethernet-enabled PDU designed for non-rack installations, and the flagship Axess ELITE+, a rack-mounted solution combining advanced surge elimination, IP outlet control, and real-time analytics. Both products were fully CONNECT-enabled and integrated with platforms including Crestron and Control4.





With these launches, SurgeX reinforced its commitment to comprehensive AV power protection and smarter, more proactive power management.

### Education, Training & Knowledge Exchange

The CEDIA Education Conference ran alongside the expo, offering over 90 seminars and workshops across business, technical, emerging technologies, design, and certification tracks. Highlights included sessions on AI-driven control systems, network security, energy management, and EV charging integration. Design-focused talks explored wellness-centric lighting, acoustics, and human-centric environments, while business courses helped integrators sharpen their operational and client strategies.

Manufacturer Product Training (MPT) programs delivered hands-on experiences from leading brands like Control4, Crestron, Lutron, and Sonance, while the Smart Stage hosted live panels on topics such as AI in AV, interoperability challenges, sustainability,

and multi-use space integration. The co-located Commercial Integrator Expo (CIX) emphasized the crossover between residential and commercial projects, highlighting opportunities in hospitality, MDUs, and workplace environments.

### Defining the Future of Connected Living

CEDIA Expo 2025 captured an industry in transition — from cinema-grade audio innovations and AI-powered displays to pro-grade interoperability hubs and architectural audio solutions. Beyond the products, the training sessions and panels signaled a clear direction: systems must be smarter, seamless, and sustainable, designed to enhance both performance and everyday usability.

For integrators, designers, and technology partners, the message was unmistakable: the future of AV and smart living is intelligent, integrated, and invisible — and CEDIA remains the stage where that vision takes shape.



## AI, Automation, and the New Era of Connected Living

*From AI-powered TVs and sustainable appliances to stair-climbing robots, IFA 2025 demonstrated how innovation is moving beyond concepts to redefine the future of home and lifestyle.*

IFA once again proved why it remains the world's most influential stage for consumer electronics and home appliances. This year, with visitors from over 100 countries and 2,000+ exhibitors, this year's edition highlighted how artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and sustainable design are no longer buzzwords but tangible forces reshaping the connected living ecosystem. The IFA 2025 was inaugurated by Martin Ecknig, CEO, Messe Berlin, alongside leaders from Samsung, LG, Bosch, and Philips.

### Home Automation: Seamless, Predictive, and Future-Ready

Among all categories, home automation took

centre stage. The conversation was dominated by interoperability and personalization, with Matter and Thread protocols driving greater cross-platform compatibility than ever before.

Global leaders, including Samsung SmartThings, Google Home, Aqara, ThinQ AI LG, Miele Connected Homes, Siemens and Eve showcased hubs and devices capable of unifying lighting, climate, security, energy management, and entertainment under a single, intuitive interface. Voice assistants are evolving into AI-driven companions, capable of predictive routines that adjust to daily habits — from dimming lights before bedtime to optimising HVAC systems when outdoor temperatures spike.





Energy-conscious automation also made a strong mark. Several brands demonstrated load-balancing systems that optimise EV charging, energy storage, and HVAC operation, proving how smart homes are increasingly becoming smart energy ecosystems.

Aqara stood out with its next-generation ecosystem, anchored by the Hub M200, which doubles as a Matter Controller, Thread Border Router, and Zigbee bridge. Alongside, it introduced the Doorbell Camera G400 (Wired) and Camera G510 (Battery), both integrating cloud AI for face, vehicle, and package detection. Aqara's Home Station M410 added a new dimension as a multi-functional IoT hub with 24/7 expandable local storage. These solutions, while brand-specific, echoed the industry-wide move towards secure, reliable, and interoperable platforms.

### **Smart Lighting: Tunable, Adaptive, and Design-Centric**

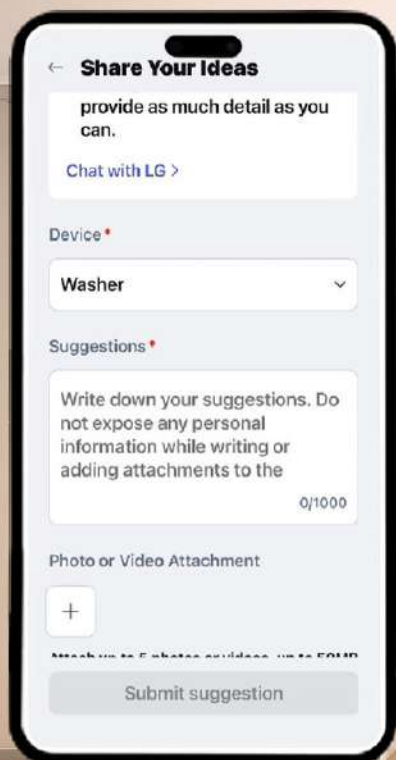
Lighting, often described as the “mood setter” of smart homes, evolved into a more human-centric and aesthetically flexible category

this year. Philips Hue expanded its portfolio with new outdoor and architectural lighting solutions, now fully integrated with Matter for effortless interoperability. The brand's Perifo Outdoor Track System emerged as one of IFA's standout launches, offering modular design flexibility for architectural applications.

Meanwhile, Casambi pushed professional-grade wireless controls further with its Cloud Controls platform, enabling integrators and users to manage large-scale systems remotely, complete with predictive maintenance alerts. Nanoleaf extended its range of modular panels with more adaptive, circadian rhythm-based designs, while several other exhibitors emphasised slimmer form factors, tunable whites, adaptive brightness, and energy optimisation. The unifying theme was clear: lighting that responds not just to voice or app commands but to human biology and daily rhythms.

### **Smart TVs & Entertainment: The AI-Powered Entertainment Hub**

Television remains one of IFA's most high-



**LG ThinQ AI**

profile categories, and 2025 was a landmark year for display and audio enhancements. Samsung, LG, Sony, and TCL all showcased AI-powered smart TVs that blur the line between display devices and intelligent companions. Samsung's Neo QLED 8K TV garnered major attention with its Live Translate feature, enabling real-time subtitle translation across multiple languages. This wasn't just a TV upgrade — it was a step toward global accessibility and inclusivity in entertainment.

Equally compelling was Samsung's Vision AI Companion, an AI layer across its TVs and monitors that enables natural, conversational interactions. By pressing an AI button on the remote, users can now ask contextual questions about what's on screen — whether it's the name of an artwork, a film cast, or travel recommendations. Generative AI powers these interactions, making them fluid, visual, and deeply intuitive.

LG, meanwhile, positioned its TVs as wellness-centric lifestyle devices, while Sony and TCL leaned heavily into gaming-ready

enhancements with AI Gaming Mode, low latency, VRR (Variable Refresh Rate), and 240Hz refresh rates. Display technologies like Mini-LED, MicroLED, and OLED dominated, while 8K remained a flagship benchmark for ultra-premium positioning. On the audio side, Sonos, Denon, Yamaha, and Bang & Olufsen emphasised wireless audio ecosystems designed to integrate seamlessly with home automation platforms. Together, these innovations underscored how TVs and AV setups are evolving into multifunctional entertainment hubs, as relevant for gamers and wellness seekers as for movie lovers.

### **Smart Appliances: Sustainability Meets Intelligence**

The appliance sector continued its transformation into a sustainability-driven, AI-empowered category. Bosch, Siemens, Samsung Bespoke, and LG ThinQ demonstrated appliances that predictively adjust settings for efficiency, combining eco-friendly design, multi-functionality, and voice integration.





#### Highlights included:

- LG MoodUP 2.0 Refrigerator with customizable LED door panels and an AI inventory system that connects with wellness apps for personalised meal planning.
- Bosch HomeConnect Eco Oven, which minimises energy use and supports voice-controlled recipe integration.
- Siemens iQ700 Washer-Dryer Combo featuring AI-enabled cycle optimisation and auto-dosing to reduce waste.

Smaller players made bold statements too: Dreame introduced the DZ60 Pro Dishwasher and OZ60 Pro Steam Oven, praised for their compact form and intelligent design. Across the board, there was a convergence of AI, sustainability, and lifestyle-centric design.

#### AV Systems: Immersive Soundscapes for the Home

IFA 2025 also reaffirmed that audio-visual immersion is central to luxury living. Brands such as Sony, Sonance, Bang & Olufsen, and

Denon showcased premium systems with AI-enhanced auto-tuning, Dolby Atmos support, and wireless connectivity. The growing presence of invisible speakers highlighted a trend toward design-friendly integration, allowing homeowners to enjoy reference-level sound without compromising aesthetics.

Sony's Bravia Theater Quad earned spotlight attention as a compact, AI-enhanced Dolby Atmos system built for seamless integration into smart homes. Meanwhile, Bang & Olufsen's BeoSound Arcadia presented sound as sculpture, merging artistic design with acoustic excellence, underlining the growing importance of AV as both functional and aesthetic luxury.

#### Robotics: Smarter, Stronger, and More Autonomous

Perhaps the most exciting breakthroughs came in household robotics, where functionality took a giant leap forward. Dreame stunned audiences with the X30 Ultra — the world's first stair-climbing robotic



vacuum, overcoming one of the category's biggest limitations. Beyond cleaning, the device is capable of mopping, self-emptying, and advanced AI navigation, pointing toward a future where household robots become fully autonomous caretakers.

Roborock and Ecovacs also pushed boundaries with multi-functional robots featuring enhanced obstacle avoidance, improved suction, and Matter compatibility. Ecovacs' Winbot X3 brought intelligence to window cleaning, targeting both residential and commercial applications.

The robotics category as a whole emphasised how AI, navigation precision, and autonomy are making these machines indispensable household assistants rather than niche gadgets.

### Standout Launches: Ten Products Defining the Future (box)

Several products cut through the noise to become defining symbols of IFA 2025:

- Samsung Neo QLED 8K TV – AI upscaling, adaptive sound, and live translation.
- 2. LG MoodUP 2.0 Refrigerator – Customisable LEDs and AI-driven meal planning.
- Dreame X30 Ultra – The first stair-climbing robot vacuum.
- Bosch HomeConnect Eco Oven – AI-powered, energy-efficient cooking.
- Philips Hue Perifo Outdoor Track – Modular, Matter-ready architectural lighting.
- Sony Bravia Theater Quad – Compact Dolby Atmos system with AI tuning.
- Casambi Cloud Controls – Remote, large-scale lighting management.
- Ecovacs Winbot X3 – AI window-cleaning





robot with obstacle avoidance.

- Siemens iQ700 Washer-Dryer – AI-enabled, water-saving laundry solution.
- Bang & Olufsen BeoSound Arcadia – A sculptural speaker line blending art and acoustics.

Each reflected IFA's broader themes of AI integration, sustainability, and lifestyle-centric design.

#### Notable Showcases:

- XGIMI's Horizon 20 Series Projectors delivered cinema-grade brightness, Dolby Vision support, and gaming-first performance, while the TITAN projector marked the brand's entry into large-scale commercial applications.
- LG AI Appliances Orchestra turned appliances into a symphonic showcase, demonstrating how ThinQ AI harmonises

everything from ovens to HVAC systems.

- Miele's M Sense cookware and KM 8000 induction hobs introduced sensor-powered cooking, where pots and pans communicate directly with hobs for precision.
- Bosch Smart Home expanded its security portfolio with Motion Detector II [+M] and services like Security+ (24/7 emergency assistance) and Home+ (multi-home control), reinforcing the growing convergence of smart living and safety.

In conclusion, IFA 2025 confirmed that the future of living is here and it's intelligent, sustainable, and deeply human-centric. As brands continue to merge design, AI, and sustainability, consumers worldwide are stepping into an era where homes are not just connected but intuitively alive.



## Bluesound Launches New PULSE CINEMA Soundbars

Bluesound has introduced two new streaming soundbars, the PULSE CINEMA and PULSE CINEMA MINI. These all-in-one systems represent a top-to-bottom redesign of Bluesound's soundbars, combining immersive audio performance, clean low-profile design, and intuitive setup in two form factors designed to fit perfectly with any-sized TV.

The PULSE CINEMA is a premium 3.2.2 Dolby Atmos soundbar featuring 16 speaker drivers, upfiring speakers, and BluOS multi-room streaming, delivering expansive sound for 55-inch TVs and up. The PULSE CINEMA MINI brings the same thoughtful design and advanced acoustic engineering to smaller spaces and secondary TVs, making it the perfect sound system for bedrooms, dens, or condos.

The new soundbars reflect Bluesound's dedication to Simple AV — a design philosophy that brings together audiophile-grade performance and everyday usability in one solution. Whether wall-mounted in a living room or placed beneath a bedroom TV, both soundbars eliminate the need for bulky

receivers, complicated wiring, or multichannel setups.

Both models support HDMI eARC, optical, and analog inputs, and offer flexible placement options, including automatic DSP-powered orientation detection that eliminates the need for manual tuning when wall-mounted. They also feature BluOS, Bluesound's multi-room audio platform that enables wireless surround sound, hi-res music streaming, and integration with smart home control systems like Control4 and Crestron.

The PULSE CINEMA and CINEMA MINI are powered by BluOS. BluOS supports more than 20 streaming services — including TIDAL, Qobuz, Spotify, Amazon Music, Pandora, and Deezer — and playback of high-resolution formats up to 24-bit/192 kHz. Users can connect and stream their digital music libraries, enjoy internet radio stations, or sync audio seamlessly across multiple rooms with other Bluesound or BluOS-enabled products. The BluOS Controller app, available on iOS, Android, macOS, and Windows, makes it simple to browse, control, and enjoy music from anywhere in the home.



# Hafele's Classical Digital Lock

Hafele introduces the Classical Digital Lock, an exquisite fusion of heritage-inspired design and cutting-edge technology, redefining the very concept of home security. Created for those who value the sophistication of tradition yet demand the intelligence of modern innovation, this lock transforms your entrance into a statement of enduring elegance.

The Hafele's Classical Digital Lock draws its strength from a robust king-size mortise system, equipped with 3 deadbolts, 1 privacy lock bolt, 2 hook bolts, and 1 latch, delivering uncompromising, rock-solid protection. This traditional mechanical strength is elevated by a suite of advanced digital access solutions, from PIN codes, RFID cards, and fingerprint recognition to key-fob remote control and smart, remote access via the Hafele Smart Living Mobile App.

A distinctive slider panel on the outdoor unit enhances both aesthetics and security.



When lifted, it reveals the keypad, fingerprint scanner, and RFID card reader; when closed, it returns seamlessly to its original position after the door shuts. The precision-engineered mechanics ensure smooth manual unlocking, making operation effortless.

The Classical Digital Lock can also integrate with existing video door phones, allowing homeowners to receive live visitor calls directly through the Hafele Smart Living Mobile App, a feature designed to bring convenience and control quite literally to your fingertips.

# Crestron Introduces the Cevo Mini Remote

Crestron Electronics, a global leader in smart home technology, announces the launch of the Cevo Mini Remote, a groundbreaking handheld controller that redefines what a modern media remote can be. Purpose-built for today's streaming-first environment, the Cevo Mini Remote delivers intuitive, tactile, and elegant control for any Crestron Home® OS installation.

The Cevo Mini Remote embodies Crestron's core values of simplicity, elegance, and ease of use. With a luxurious design, the Cevo Mini Remote features a precision-crafted aluminum edge that adds structural rigidity to a single pane of controls, while the customizable user experience extends far beyond media with a new way to interact with the Crestron Home OS. Streaming has become the primary way people consume entertainment. The average U.S. household now uses multiple streaming

services, often built directly into smart TVs and devices such as Apple TV® media extender, Roku® streaming devices, and Amazon Fire® TV Stick. Traditional cable boxes, disc players, and the complex remotes

built for them are fading fast. Consumers expect fewer buttons, cleaner interfaces, and a seamless connection to the content they love. The compact footprint and streamlined controls offer the perfect fit for bedrooms, living rooms, or any space where intuitive, simple media control is needed.



# GE Launches Two New Matter Smart Dimmer Switches

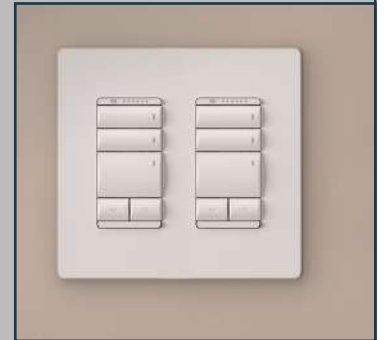
GE Lighting has released two new products today, following on from their initial unveiling at this year's CES. Both are part of the company's Cync lineup – the Keypad Dimmer Smart Switch and Paddle Dimmer Smart Switch.

Both products support Matter over WiFi, allowing them to work with Apple Home and other Matter-compatible platforms, and by extension, work with other brands in Apple Home, whether they're Apple Home or Matter-certified products. As they use Matter over WiFi and not Thread, a Thread Border Router isn't required, only a Matter Controller.

The Keypad Dimmer offers quick access to lighting scenes, while the Paddle Dimmer provides a more traditional design aimed at straightforward dimming control. As they are intended for DIY installation, most

people should be able to fit them without professional help, although it should be noted that these require a neutral wire in order to work.

This release brings us back to the Smart switches vs. smart bulbs debate; A single switch can automate an entire circuit, but beyond dimming, you don't get the option to control things like colour or access Apple's own Adaptive Lighting feature. Aqara has the best of both worlds to a large extent, with the ability to uncouple their switches and allow them to act pretty much as wireless buttons.



## Z-Wave Alliance Unveils New Certified Product Guide

The Z-Wave Alliance, the standards development organization dedicated to advancing the smart home and Z-Wave® technology, announces the launch of the new Z-Wave Certified Product Guide, a centralized online resource designed to help manufacturers, integrators, developers, and consumers explore the entire ecosystem of Z-Wave Certified devices.

The enhanced guide offers an intuitive, filterable database of thousands of Z-Wave devices across hundreds of global brands and manufacturers. Every product featured within the new Certified Product Guide has undergone independent Z-Wave certification, a mandatory process for all Z-Wave devices that ensures the highest levels of interoperability, security, and performance across the expansive ecosystem.

The Z-Wave Certified Product Guide delivers a comprehensive view of the global Z-Wave ecosystem, encompassing thousands of

certified devices (over 4,500) across categories including lighting, locks, sensors, controllers, gateways, and many more. With advanced search and filtering tools, users can quickly identify products by brand, type, protocol version, frequency region, or even specific command classes and firmware details. This guide also includes the latest Z-Wave Long

Range (ZWLR) devices, a critical advancement for the Z-Wave ecosystem, with 100+ certified ZWLR products already represented in 2025 to date.

Each listing includes transparent certification data, ensuring confidence in terms of both compatibility and performance across installation projects. Designed from the ground up to support all methods of Z-Wave deployment, the updated guide provides a seamless way for manufacturers, integrators, and consumers to explore, compare, and select the Z-Wave devices that best meet their needs.







## Klipsch Unveils Courtyard Outdoor Speaker System

Klipsch, a leading tech-driven audio company, takes its legendary American sound outside with the introduction of a new full-range landscape speaker system. The new Klipsch Courtyard Landscape Speaker system is ready to tackle the elements, delivering year-round outdoor sound with powerful, precision-engineered audio backed by nearly 80 years of acoustic expertise. The convenient single box solution provides a 4.1 system with everything needed for the perfect patio party, including four horn-loaded satellite speakers, a low-profile subwoofer, mounting hardware, and accessories. Expansion for larger spaces is simple with Courtyard's optional two-pack of satellites, or easily integrate a second system to create the ultimate 8.2 outdoor system. Each Courtyard satellite speaker brings Klipsch's signature horn-loaded performance using the same Tractrix® horn technology and design principles of Klipsch's premium loudspeaker lines. The 4" woofer and 1" tweeter are housed in a tilting head assembly with a locking mechanism, while round, detachable stakes allow simple adjustments for optimal

ground based positioning. It's easy to get the music playing with a simple connection through zone 2 of an AVR, streaming amplifier, or for a premium experience, Integra's new amplifiers to bring dynamic, powerful, detailed sound to any outdoor living space with ease. The Klipsch Courtyard's low-profile, 10" subwoofer, designed for partial burial or above-ground placement, delivers the bass essential for premium outdoor entertainment. With included stake mounts and rotatable anchors, the Courtyard sub fits naturally into challenging spaces. A cable-management alcove on the bottom panel, keeps wires concealed, to ensure, a clean installation that will complement any backyard aesthetic. Built for seamless integration and durability for demanding outdoor environments, the Courtyard satellite speakers and subwoofer are finished in a colorfast brown matte. Ready to withstand elements, the system's IXP7-rating easily handles exposure to rain and snow, high pressure water jets, and direct sunlight, to offer a long-lasting audio experience for many seasons to come.



# Wi-Fi Alliance Launches Certification Program for Matter

The Wi-Fi Alliance has introduced Wi-Fi for Matter, a new certification program. The goal is to accelerate the adoption of Matter in the smart home.

The program ensures that Wi-Fi devices such as Access Points (APs) meet the technical requirements of the Connectivity Standards Alliance (CSA) that are necessary for Matter certification. It creates a unified foundation that allows manufacturers to bring their products to market faster and with greater reliability.

## What Can Be Certified?

The program initially focuses on access points, which play a key role in Matter communication. Several elements are required for certification, including Wi-Fi CERTIFIED 6 with WPA3 security, proven interoperability, and power-saving features. Extended Sleep, ARP, and NDP functions are mandatory for so-called Matter Network Infrastructure Managers (NIMs). They allow battery-powered devices to save energy while maintaining a reliable connection to the access point.

## Why this is Matters?

Due to the initial difficulties with Thread, many manufacturers have relied – and still rely – on Wi-Fi for Matter connectivity. This places particular demands on home networks: access points must operate reliably at all times, while also supporting low-power IoT devices that are not constantly active. Without such optimizations, especially battery-operated devices could face connection issues or significantly shorter operating times. The new certification addresses this by defining minimum standards for Wi-Fi infrastructure in the smart home.

## What Are the Advantages for Manufacturers?

For manufacturers, the new certification primarily means planning security and a faster time to market. Devices that carry the Wi-Fi for Matter seal guarantee compliance with all the essential requirements of the Matter specification. This reduces development effort and testing cycles. In addition, companies can demonstrate with the certification that their products are interoperable.



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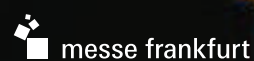
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