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Unleashing the Future of Home Technology: **Smart Home Expo 2023,** India's Largest Tech Event was held in New Delhi

Geeta Vaibhav Architects' Insight on Integrating Smart Technology In Their Projects

Geeta Vaibhav Architects spearheaded by Geeta Arya and Vaibhav Arya, a dynamic duo who came together with Geeta's design expertise and Vaibhav's undisputed management skills, engage in an interdisciplinary execution of innovative creative elements that work in congruence with contextual and sustainable design solutions. The firm has an eminent repertoire of clients like Zee TV, Suzuki, Jindals, G.D Goenka, Moti Mahal, Opulent Malls, Priyagold, and Haryana Vidhan Sabha among others, for projects that scale a variety of design genres.

With nearly two decades as an established design firm, Geeta Vaibhav Architects has compiled a catalogue of exceptional design projects which address new ways of understanding the often-contradictory interrelations between architecture, landscapes, and interiors. Standing on the foundation of efficient design execution, the firm offers a comprehensive service that pans every level of project planning from data collection and site analysis to construction and completion. The firm never ceases to remain concurrent with the appropriate design trends while sustaining evergreen resonance by striking a balance between contextual and experiential architecture.

Ar. Geeta Arya, Founder and Principal Architect of Geeta Vaibhav Architects discusses the advantages smart home technology provides to her projects with Smart World Home.

Residential Interiors have undergone a drastic transformation in order to enable a fast phase of work and flexibility. What is the role of smart automation systems in your projects?

Smart automation systems are integral to my projects, revolutionizing residential interiors to promote a dynamic work environment and maximize adaptability. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and connectivity, these systems automate multiple functions within homes, providing occupants with convenience, comfort, and optimised efficiency. They contribute significantly to the dramatic transformation of residential interiors, facilitating a rapid work pace and enabling flexibility in everyday life.

What are the latest automation systems that you have integrated into your residential projects?

In my recent residential projects, I have integrated a range of cutting-edge automation

systems. These include smart home hubs, voice assistants, advanced lighting control systems, smart thermostats, motorised window treatments, and robust home security systems. These latest automation technologies work in harmony to enhance convenience, comfort, energy efficiency, and security within the homes, offering occupants an elevated living experience.

What, according to you, are the must-have smart home products in today's contemporary homes?

When it comes to modern residences, there are essential smart home products that greatly improve convenience, comfort, security, and energy efficiency. Among these must-haves are smart speakers and displays, which offer voice control and multimedia capabilities. Smart thermostats optimize temperature control, while smart lighting systems create ambience and save energy. I also make sure that the homeowners understand and agree with how comprehensive smart security systems provide peace of mind with advanced monitoring and control features.

What are the major expectations of clients from smart automation systems? How have you fulfilled those expectations, and what are the Brands that you have integrated into their home?

Client expectations for smart automation systems are diverse, tailored to their individual needs and preferences. They seek convenience, easy usability, heightened comfort, improved efficiency, enhanced security, and safety. Integration and compatibility with existing devices are also crucial, along with personalisation and customisation options. To fulfil these expectations, I and my team have integrated trusted brands like Panasonic and Philips into

client homes, ensuring reliable and seamless smart automation experiences that meet their specific requirements.

What role does a System integrator play when it comes to designing a smart home? How important is their role?

System Integrators are pivotal in the design of smart homes, employing their specialised skills to seamlessly integrate diverse smart devices, systems, and technologies. Their expertise and meticulous approach guarantee a customised and cohesive smart home experience for homeowners. The role of these integrators is of utmost importance as they ensure the creation of a dependable and efficient smart home solution. By orchestrating the integration process, System Integrators contribute significantly to the success and functionality of smart homes.

Products of which category (lighting, security, entertainment, etc.) witness maximum demand when it comes to integrating smart home devices while doing the interiors? Why?

Several categories of smart home devices witness substantial demand in interior design execution. These include lighting, security and surveillance, climate control and energy management, entertainment and audio-visual systems, and motorized window treatments. These categories are highly sought-after due to their ability to enhance convenience, comfort, security, energy efficiency, and personalization within a home. Moreover, the popularity of these categories stems from technological advancements, easy integration, and the wide availability of compatible products, making them indispensable in smart home device integration in interior design.

What according to you are the major benefits of Smart & connected homes in the current "tech-savvy era"?
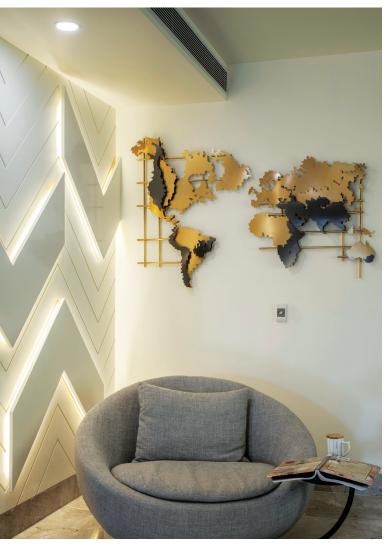
In my opinion, homeowners are becoming smarter with age and it's no wonder that they expect their immediate facilities to reflect it. Convenience and automation streamline daily tasks, while enhanced comfort and personalisation create tailored living experiences. The smart-home system enables energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness while bolstering security and safety measures to provide a sense of tranquillity and assurance Remote access and monitoring enable control from anywhere and ensure compatibility with evolving technologies. Additionally, smart homes offer valuable data and insights for informed decision-making. Overall, these benefits make smart and connected homes highly desirable in the current "tech-savvy era."

How would you define the current demand for smart home integrations?

The demand for smart home integrations is experiencing rapid and consistent growth. In recent years, smart home technology has gained considerable popularity due to the progress made in connectivity, affordability, and increased consumer awareness. The rising demand reflects the growing recognition of the benefits offered by smart home systems, such as convenience, energy efficiency, enhanced security, and improved quality of life. This trend highlights the strong desire among individuals to embrace and incorporate smart technologies into their homes.
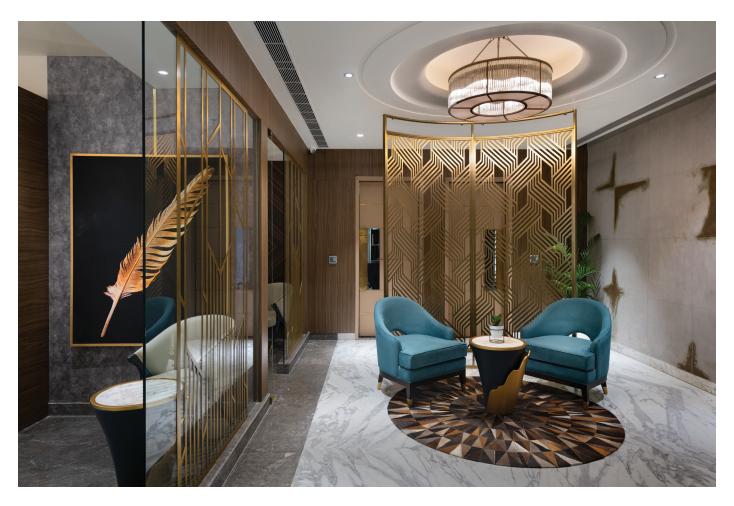
What is your message to the young budding architects/interior designers on adapting Smart Technology in their projects?

To aspiring architects and interior designers, my message regarding the integration of smart technology in their projects is an amalgamation of design basics and intricate details. Embrace the transformative power of the future and its possibilities. Stay updated with the latest advancements and trends in smart technology. Seek to understand the unique needs and preferences of users to create tailored solutions. Collaborate with experts in the field to ensure seamless integration of smart technology. Design spaces that are scalable and flexible, accommodating future changes and upgrades. Strike a balance between aesthetics and functionality, ensuring that smart technology enhances the overall design. Above all, prioritize the user experience, creating spaces that are intuitive, efficient, and user-friendly.

In which sector (hospitality, commercial, residential), according to you, traditional devices and techniques are getting rapidly displaced to make room for smart devices and systems, aided with the latest technologies? And why?

Based on my observations, the residential sector is undergoing the most pronounced shift from traditional devices and techniques to smart devices and systems, powered by the latest technologies. While the commercial and hospitality sectors are also embracing smart technologies, the residential sector experiences a swifter displacement of traditional devices. This can be attributed to the emphasis on personalisation, convenience, and energy-efficiency within residential spaces. Homeowners increasingly seek enhanced living experiences, and the affordability and advancements in smart devices have propelled the rapid adoption of smart home technology in the residential sector.

KANODIA'S OFFICE

Nestled in the heart of Noida, Kanodia's Office is a testament to the beauty of concrete and the power of biophilic design, creating a workspace that is both functional and visually stunning. Envisioning a modern workspace with contemporary design elements, Geeta Vaibhav Architects has designed this 3,760 sq ft office, with a focus on functionality, efficiency, and Smart Technology. The design language is choreographed in a minimalist manner while drawing attention through unconventional decor choices and biophilic inclusions.

The common denominator in the spatial narrative of the office, not surprisingly, is concrete— an obvious material choice that would deck up the office spaces of Kanodia. The new office, while following a rustic aesthetic language, has a predominantly neutral palette with different points of visual interest. The concept was to enhance the experience of concrete but in an atypical fashion, with lush finishes and softness of the material. The bare shell was moulded and treated as per the design vision into a reception and a waiting area, two director rooms, a conference room & different cabins for the staff, and a terrace garden.

The design integrated the client's love for simple, clean, minimal things and warm, cosy spaces into consideration. This shaped the initial material and

colour selection, which embraces tones of beige and cream with accents of metals, dusty blues and rusty textures. The neutral colour palette used in the spaces blends seamlessly with the natural texture of wood, stones, and metals. The client's preferences also informed the planning to be open and flexible with minimal partitions creating multi-functional spaces. The floor plan is segregated into cabins and a conference room, overlooking the terrace garden outdoors. Every accessorising in the office, the butterfly chandelier in the conference room, for instance, picked on melding the old and new, marrying vintage decor pieces with the contemporary bones of the project. The furnishings, on the other hand, display eye-catching colours and modern forms, as a result of ergonomic design.

The Director's rooms, for instance, are surrounded by wall-sweeping windows, made of switchable smart glass, that invite the outdoors into interiors, also satisfying the needs of sustainability and energy efficiency that Kanodia always stands for. Both the Director's rooms get an earthy makeover and hardly diverge from the choices of materials. The flooring choices were also sustainable yet diverse, unlike the colour palette, featuring White Santuario stone at the entrance, Armenia grey stones in the cabins and conference room, and hardwood flooring with an inlay pattern in the Director's rooms. Although the walls were essentially dressed in concrete, they were treated with a mix of materials, that includes the combination of paint & textured wallpaper in the lobby; fabric panelling and metal profile in the Director's room; and veneer with metal sheets in the conference room.

The extensive intent followed in the process of construction is to integrate nature as a part of the design. A significant example is the terrace garden planned with a water body, that captured views of the surroundings to take attention away from the mundane. Such locations in the workplace also break free from the monotony of the normal 'Mondaying' environment in the office, creating a more peaceful ambience around.

Project Details:

Systems Integrator: KM 54

Automation System Used: Lighting and curtain control (HAGER), Integration Platform- RTI
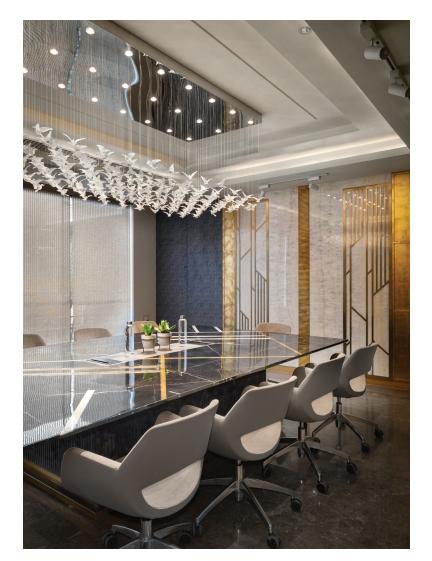
Smart Automation: Legrand Automation

Lighting: Automation Ezhomes, Floss and Philips

Security Cameras: Hikvision

Digital Locks: Yale

Networking Devices used: UNIFI