

MAKE YOUR HOME *a smart refuge*

Well-designed gadgets for a better home and easier living
FEATURE **TASNEEM MERCHANT**



I t's become a part and parcel of our daily lives. Every new gadget promises better performance than its predecessor. But the truly discerning know that a good product needs to hit the sweet spot between form and function — the very basic tenet of design. While we allow these products to proliferate in the house, we also need to ensure they don't become an eye-sore. Through these pages, you'll find a host of products that will make your house smart, without cramping your style.



WE'RE DEPENDENT ON TECHNOLOGY FOR SEVERAL THINGS — FROM BASIC ELECTRIC SUPPLY IN THE HOUSE TO HAVING A VOICE-OPERATED AI SYSTEM SWITCH OFF THE LIGHTS ON A SINGLE COMMAND — TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITY HAVE BECOME INEXTRICABLE.



PHOTOGRAPHS NESTLABS

1 WARMING UP

Control the temperature setting of your home with a few simple clicks by installing a smart thermostat. NestLabs' Nest Learning Thermostat is one such smart device. It adjusts the overall temperature based on time of day, whether there's extra activity in the house or if it's empty. It even has a neat rewarding system when you turn on the power saving mode. ►

4

STAYING SAFE

What's the point of having a smart home if it can't even protect itself? Here's where smart locks and security cameras come into play. August's smart locks allow you to remotely open and shut the door to your home, via a smartphone app. Additionally, you can create a list of trusted members to have access to your home even when you're not around. Security cameras by Netgear Arlo take the cake for their HD filming and night cam video recording. Some models even provide two-way audio. ▶



AUGUST

PLACED UNDER THE MATTRESS, WITHINGS' SLEEP TRACKING MAT WILL MONITOR YOUR SLEEP CYCLES, HEART RATE, PROVIDE A TAILORED SLEEP PROGRAMME THROUGH IT'S DEDICATED APP AND EVEN DETECT SNORING.

2 REST EASY

Early to bed and early to rise...this adage may not necessarily apply to late-night owls. Thankfully to aid the understanding of individual sleep processes and patterns, there are several gadgets available. One of these is Withings' Sleep Tracking Mat. Placed under the mattress, the mat will monitor your sleep cycles, heart rate, provide a tailored sleep programme through it's dedicated app and even detect snoring. To tackle the latter, there's Sleep Nora. This three-part gadget comprises a pebble shaped monitor; an inflatable mattress that slips under the pillow and a silent pump. When the sensor picks up snoring, it sends a signal to the pump to inflate or deflate the pillow mat a certain way, shifting the head to allow smooth flow of air through the nasal passages.

WITHINGS AND SLEEP NORA



3 EAT WELL

Never worry about running low on groceries again. The Family Hub, a smart refrigerator from Samsung is equipped with a large touchscreen that enables you to manage your groceries, stream music, check who's at the door and manage your family's schedule, all from one spot. Now, talk about multi-tasking!

SAMSUNG

5 GET THE GLOW

Yes, we too forget to switch off the lights when exiting the room. Here's where smart bulbs and lights, such as Philips Hue, come into play. It has a connecting bridge that links all the lights in the house. You can pair it with

a motion sensor and they'll know when to switch on or off and can even change colour as per your whims. Hue lights are offered in options of white, to create a day like ambience and also multicolour, to get the party started.



PHILIPS

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6 CENTRAL COMMAND

These are like a one stop gateway for all your smart devices to communicate, smart hubs work over Wi-Fi and some also connect with Bluetooth to setup a mini-network in your house. This intermediary connects all the devices in the house. For instance, if you want the lights dim, blinds down and coffee ready to go when you reach home in the evening, you won't have to set

different programmes for each. The hub will send a message to all these smart devices to perform the task at the given time. Samsung's SmartThings Hub is one such device. The suite also includes door detectors, smart plugs, routers, sensors and lights. These can all be controlled from one app, making your cell phone a universal remote for every gadget in the house.

SAMSUNG



7 AT YOUR SERVICE

Home assistants are essentially butlers in a box — they'll set your alarms, curate your playlist and even remind you for the doctor's appointment at 3:00 pm on Thursday. Ruling the roost are home assistants from tech's big three companies — Amazon's Alexa, Apple's Siri Homekit and Google Android's voice-activated Google

Assistant. In terms of convenience, Alexa connects to and is compatible with a wider variety of products as compared to Siri and Google Assistant, who are fast catching up. 



PHOTOGRAPHS AMAZON

