

"A home automation system can make intelligent and automated decisions for you, without you giving it a second thought"

~ Brad Arthur, product manager, SmartHome



When it comes to setting up your smart-home, take some style cues from Swell Homes (pictured).

locked up

When it comes to new tech lights, illumination is just the start of things. The Sengled product range consists of LED globes with a side order of security and entertainment. For example, their 'Snap' globe, \$349, has a 14-watt LED bulb and a security camera with motion detector, voice communication and HD streaming and recording. The 'Pulse Solo' globe, \$129, is available in either screw-in or bayonet fitting and streams music. Telstra's upcoming 'Watch and Monitor' package will give you eyes, even when you're not at home. "Having motion sensors and cameras working together means you can receive a notification or recorded video to your smartphone or tablet when unexpected motion is detected, or when someone comes to the front door," says Telstra's John Chambers.

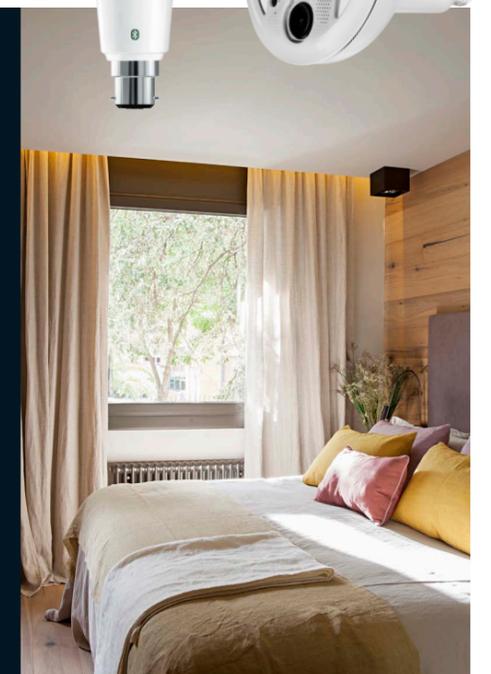
In effect, this technology keeps you connected at all times. "You'll be able to know exactly what time the kids get home from school, keep an eye on the pets when you're away from home and feel assured the garage door is closed once you've left the house," says John. Invest in a smart lock such as the Lockwood smart-door lock on the Telstra smart-home platform, and it could also help to let trusted people into the house when you aren't there.

Sengled's 'Snap' LED bulb has an infrared camera that captures video you can view via a Snap app on your mobile device.



"OPEN AND CLOSE BLINDS FROM THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON ON YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET, AND DITCH THE SNOOZE BUTTON AND SET TIMERS ON BLINDS TO WAKE YOU UP MORE PEACEFULLY AS THE SUN RISES"

*~ BEN GREEN,
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC*



light touch

Smart-home lighting is all about scenarios. "Imagine the movie is starting," says Brad Arthur from SmartHome. "From your smartphone, you select the theatre setting you pre-programmed, which dims the living room lamp to 10 per cent brightness while turning off the overhead light - with a slow ramp-down rate to give that genuine movie-theatre effect." Dimming the lights for dinner, turning them up for reading, changing the colour of the bulbs - it's all possible with a swipe of your phone screen, thanks to Philips' 'Hue' personal wireless lighting system. The starter pack, with a wi-fi-enabled bridge and three bulbs, costs around \$290, with extra bulbs at \$90 each. 'Hue' is available at the App Store and Harvey Norman and Officeworks.



mercury rising

The touch of a button or a pre-set timer can turn your home from chilly to toasty, or vice versa, according to Ben Green of tech innovators Schneider Electric. "Switch heating on remotely before arriving home from work - you'll never have to freeze your socks off again," he says. "With our Push Controls app, you can also keep a close eye on energy use." Smart thermostats such as the Nest learning thermostat, around \$500 and only now becoming available in Australia, can detect your movements, too. It switches to 'away' mode when you're not around and reverts to optimum temperature when it senses you coming.

PHOTOGRAPHY (OPPOSITE): JOE SCHMELZER (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE) PEPA OKOJ/IRBA, SIMON DEVITT



open all hours

Remotely controlling windows and doors opens up a range of handy functions while you're out and about - such as closing the windows if unexpected rain sets in. "Instead of turning on your airconditioner, you could remotely open some windows to take advantage of when a southerly breeze hits - and set them to automatically close again if the weather heats up too much," says Brad. Somfy's home automation products allow you to operate window coverings such as curtains, blinds, shutters, screens and awnings - both inside and out - remotely. All of this can help manage your home's temperature - for example, setting the curtains to close as the summer sun hits the windows. >