

# Just Ask Nick

tips and truth about smart home automation from a serial designer.

Home Automation:

The 101 on sexy, seamless living

You have the right to an exceptional life. Meaning you have the right to a One Touch Control lifestyle that panders to your designer bucket list. It begins with automation of the home, and ends with, well, in my opinion, it never ends.

Home Automation is a pretty limitless luxury that might start with a home cinema or a remotely activated security set up, but it most definitely does not end there.

Home Automation extends to audiovisual, CCTV, alarm systems, intercoms, lighting, keypads, man caves, she-sheds, speaker systems, TV projectors, bars, water features, drawers, doors, blinds, right through to mood and atmosphere. The rule of thumb: if it can rise, drop, open and close, switch on and off, all by itself – then it can be automated; programmed to operate from an app on your phone or tablet, or on a timed schedule.

The scope of design for a fully integrated smart home is infinite – and hot. Damn hot. In South Africa alone, smart home penetration is sitting at 4.1 % with a forecasted increase to hit a massive 9.9% by 2023. That hot. More and more home owners are waking up to the benefits of seamlessly put-together integrated homes, for their living tastes, and for the comfort of the family.



To better appreciate the luxury of a one touch lifestyle, I like to break it up into the 5 Key C's of smart home living.

## 1. C is for...Communication

When you go smart, things get real. Like real real. Your smart home is no longer just a static, inanimate spot of shelter on the corner of Wellington and 5<sup>th</sup>. It's a living, breathing, perceiving thing that has the ability to observe, detect, smell and predict your next move. With seamless connectivity, and a black box of brain tech signal, you and your home are practically having a conversation every minute of the day. It'll switch on and off for you as and when you need it to, because you said so. Because you trained it to. The only thing it won't do (for now) is pack away your shorts.

## 2. C is for ...Centralised

Everything comes back to centre. An important part of Smart Home Integration Technology is keeping things cool, calm and centralised. Your CCTV, your sound system, your alarms, your voice assistant such as Alexa for example, are all subsystems of a greater ecosystem of automation. Home Integration means centralising your automated subsystems into one interface, for the most seamless and organised experience.

## 3. C is for...Control

Take the wheel of your home, and drive it the way you like it. Home automation exists for the sole purpose of enabling homeowners to gain complete control of their homes. From unlocking the door for a dog-walker (while you're in Barcelona, sorry!) to adjusting climate control inside the house to closing the blinds from the sun while you're listening to Bach, to checking on the kids in the Pajama lounge, to activating your lights as a thief deterrent while you're slaying a fillet steak at The Grill House. Like I said, control. All of this conveniently operated in real time, live streaming from your tablet.

## 4. C is for ... Customised

This is where the real fun begins. Your smart home lets you programme any device that's hooked up to your integrated system, to accommodate daily routines for the whole family. You can programme the kids' TV channel to turn on as soon as they're sitting in front of the home cinema screen; you can programme the coffee machine to have a fresh cup made at 6:30pm (every night), you can schedule your lights in the downstairs TV room to gradually brighten at 7am to wake you, in case you've fallen asleep watching Narcos (again). This technology is an ecosystem of fluidity in your home that exists purely to accommodate your best, easiest life.

## 5. C is for ... Cutting Edge Comfort

Does such a thing exist? Oh yes it does. With the right smart home design partners, it's incredible what humans can achieve and innovate purely driven by the desire for comfort. Automating functionality in the home is an art, that ultimately frees up space to enjoy your time here, there and away. The core essence of Home Automation is really to design an improved way of living that will keep things comfortable, plush and deservedly premium.



Nick Caripis is the founder of BNC Technology - CEDIA Awards Winners 2017/2018/2019. BNC Technology has been delivering state of the art, home integrated systems since 2008, and is an accredited CPD training facility for architects and designers of futuristic design. For more information on BNC Technology visit [www.bnctechnology.co.za](http://www.bnctechnology.co.za)



**Nick Caripis**  
Solutions Architect  
Managing Director

Tel: (011) 023 7662  
Support: 071 917 1137  
Cell: 073 172 0362  
PA: 073 860 0038  
Web: [www.bnctechnology.co.za](http://www.bnctechnology.co.za)

Speak to our "Good life" Engineers



011 023 7662 | [online@bnctechnology.co.za](mailto:online@bnctechnology.co.za)  
[www.bnctechnology.co.za](http://www.bnctechnology.co.za)



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