



Get smart

Why it's such an intelligent decision to equip your home with smart technology

For years demand for 'smart home' technology seemed to be out of kilter with the boundaries of science, with networking cables readily available to facilitate fast data transfers around the average domicile since around 2000, but little used until recently as an emergent technology in the domestic sphere.

Multinational companies such as integrated lighting company Lutron have been around for many years, but it's fair to say that awareness of smart home potential has only just started to register on the property development radar, or with moneyed elites who wish to build an electronic system into the fabric of their homes that controls everything therein – from lighting and heating to multi-room home theatre capability and air conditioning.

Firms offering smart-home solutions abound, but we've rounded-up four of the best who offer complete bespoke fittings for your home. To adjudge the competence of companies

bidding for your custom beyond their basic credentials, check that they are also affiliated with CEDIA (the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association), a US-based trade association who promote common standards of technical and service-based excellence across the industry.

According to Giles Sutton from CEDIA member James & Giles, prices start at £5,000 (€5,600) and range up to around £150,000 (€169,000) for his firm's systems, although he is quick to stress that client needs obviously vary widely in this sector, and that accurate provisional prices are difficult to gauge until a client's requirements have been assessed. Moreover, the sky's the limit where smart home technology is concerned, with innovation continually driving the market forward. "We like to think that we offer a solution that caters for all price points, we'd be a poor company otherwise," Mr Sutton concludes.

Above: Lofty ambitions

Leading systems integration specialist James & Giles prides itself on offering great customer service, and bespoke installations cover lighting, home cinema, climate control, security, multi-room audio and energy-efficient home solutions. The residence pictured is a two-bedroom loft apartment in Clerkenwell, London, kitted-out by the firm with integrated lighting, security, CCTV, AV, heating and home cinema systems. Technology from market leaders Crestron integrates and controls all these individual technologies, to keep the owner comfortable, secure and entertained. From £5,000 :: €5,644 :: \$7,100
James & Giles: +44 (0)207 250 1001