

# Home Entertainment and Control at the Tip of Your Finger

A Glimpse into Luxury Living Made Possible by Advanced Home Automation





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# About the Author

## Matthew Grisafe



Matthew is the owner of AV Programming Associates. Since founding the company in 2001, AVPA have focused on providing the best in Crestron and audiovisual programming, automation and design support. With over 1,250 projects completed, Matthew's company has delivered successful systems in nearly every environment, from military and DoD to high-end residential, luxury transportation, houses of worship, corporate boardrooms, digital signage, government, and gaming.

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# Introduction

Michael and Sandra Groves made a choice a few years back—the choice to make their house a smart home.

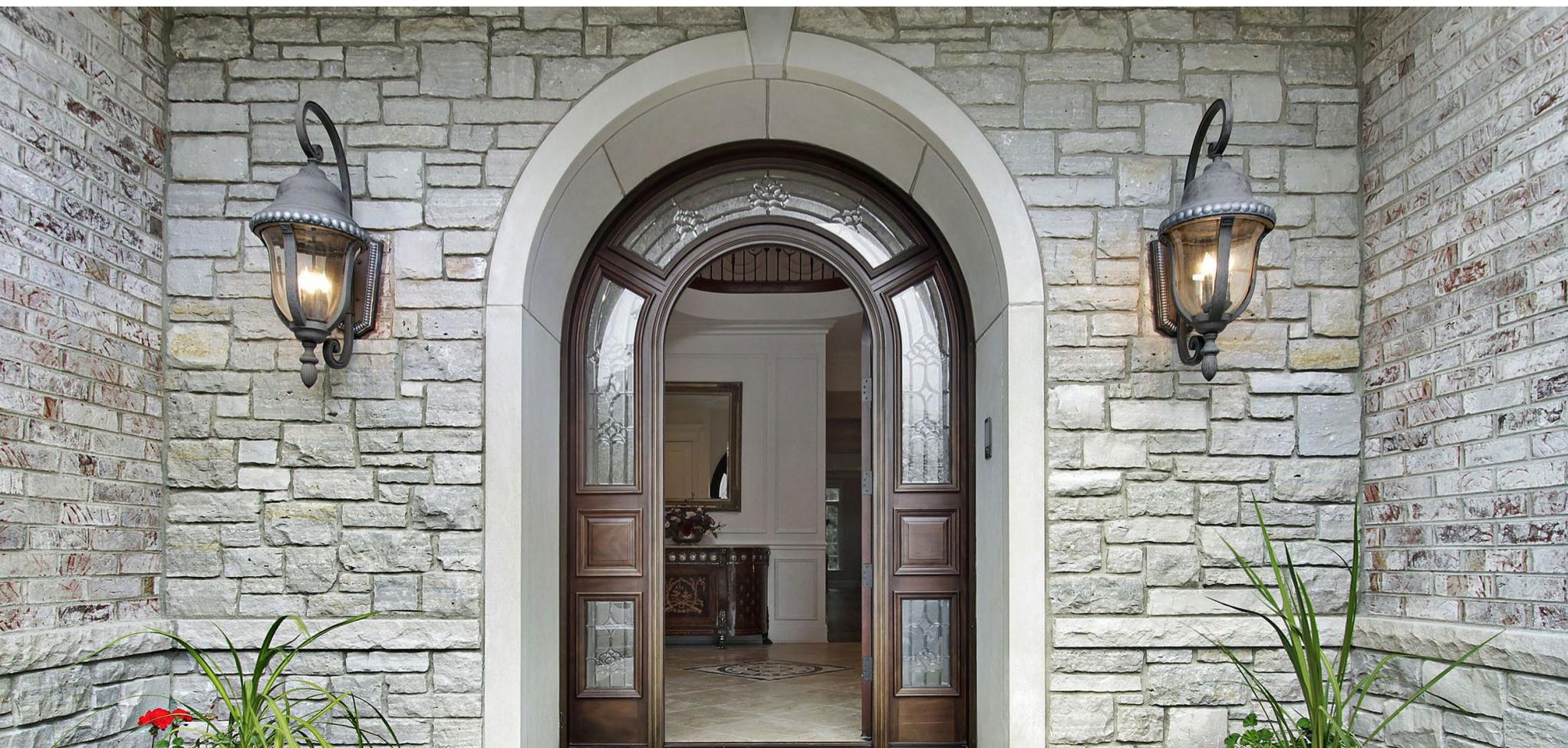
Michael and Sandra are probably a lot like you. They lead very busy lives. With two kids—Liam in middle school and Sasha in high school—and both parents working, they wanted to automate as much of their home as possible. Using smart home technology, they had their home programmed so they can now easily control everything from lighting, to HVAC, to their home security system, to their home entertainment systems. Using in-wall touch panels strategically placed throughout the home, as well as their own smartphones and tablets, the Groves family can now automate and control their home's systems literally with the touch of a button, a voice command, or just by being in proximity to a room in their house.

Even more important to the Groves family than the convenience afforded by smart home technology is the luxury lifestyle it offers. Michael and Sandra work hard and want their home to be someplace they can enjoy with friends and family when they're not working. Smart home technology makes their home the ultimate entertainment location. Whether it's an intimate dinner party, a pool party for the kids, or a large holiday gathering, the Groves's house is the place to be!

Smart home technology also allows the Groves family to relax and enjoy the times when it's just the four of them at home. With a whole-house music system and a state-of-the-art home theater, the family can enjoy spending time at home, and with each other. With the ability to automate systems like lighting, heating and cooling, shades, and landscape watering, it makes managing their large home easier, giving them more time to do the things they love.

Safety and security are important to the Groves family. They've set up multiple systems that allow them to secure and monitor what is going on at their home, even while they're gone for the day or away on vacation.

To get a good idea of what your life could be like if you turn your house into a smart home, take a look at a typical "day in the life" of the Groves family.



# A Typical Day in the Groves House

It's early Friday morning. As the sun rises, the exterior lights of the home automatically turn off. The sprinklers and drip systems turn on, watering the lawn and plants using gray water from the home's water storage tanks.

Rainwater can be stored in special gray water holding tanks in order to reduce your dependence on water from outside sources. You can monitor the amount of rain that was produced in the last storm and check water levels in your storage tank via your touch panel, smartphone, or tablet.

As Michael and Sandra get up, the shades in the home automatically rise, letting in the morning sun as part of their daylight harvesting system. Michael turns on the bedroom television from his smartphone to his favorite morning pre-set stations to check what's going on in the news, look at the stock market, see what the traffic will be like for his morning commute, and disarm the security system. Sandra goes to the in-wall touch panel in the master bathroom and selects a podcast to listen to while she gets ready for her day. Before leaving the master suite, Sandra turns off the podcast from her iPad. As the kids wake up, their favorite radio stations play in their bedrooms and bathrooms.

Daylight harvesting lighting systems strategically use sunlight to offset electric lighting usage. Using light level sensors (or photo sensors), a daylight harvesting system automatically raises shades or dims electric lighting in response to available daylight.

Sandra heads downstairs to make breakfast and the kids' lunches for school. Once in the kitchen, she notices that they are low on paper towels, so she instructs the Amazon Echo system to order a package. She then calls the kids downstairs for breakfast using the home's intercom system.

As Michael leaves for work and Sandra takes the kids to school, they press the "Away" button on the touch panel by their back door to arm the home's security system and lock the doors throughout the residence.

Sandra drops the kids off at their schools and then heads to the gym for a hot yoga class. As she pulls up to the yoga studio, she gets a notification on her phone that someone is at her home's front gate. She sees that it is the repairman she had called earlier in the week to fix the pool equipment. She has a short conversation with him and disarms and opens the gate from her phone so he can go in and get started on the repairs.



As Sandra prepares to leave the yoga studio after her workout, she goes to her smartphone to turn up the air conditioner in the house so it's comfortably cool when she gets home. Upon arriving at home, she presses "Option 2" on her garage door opener to set the house music to her favorite XM station. She showers and then continues to enjoy the whole-house distributed audio system playing music as she gets ready. The sound is seamless as she goes from the bathroom to her bedroom to her home office.

Distributed audio gives you the ability to listen to audio from any source (radio, mp3 player, satellite, CD player, etc.) in any room of your house. Volume can be controlled via a touch panel, tablet or smartphone.

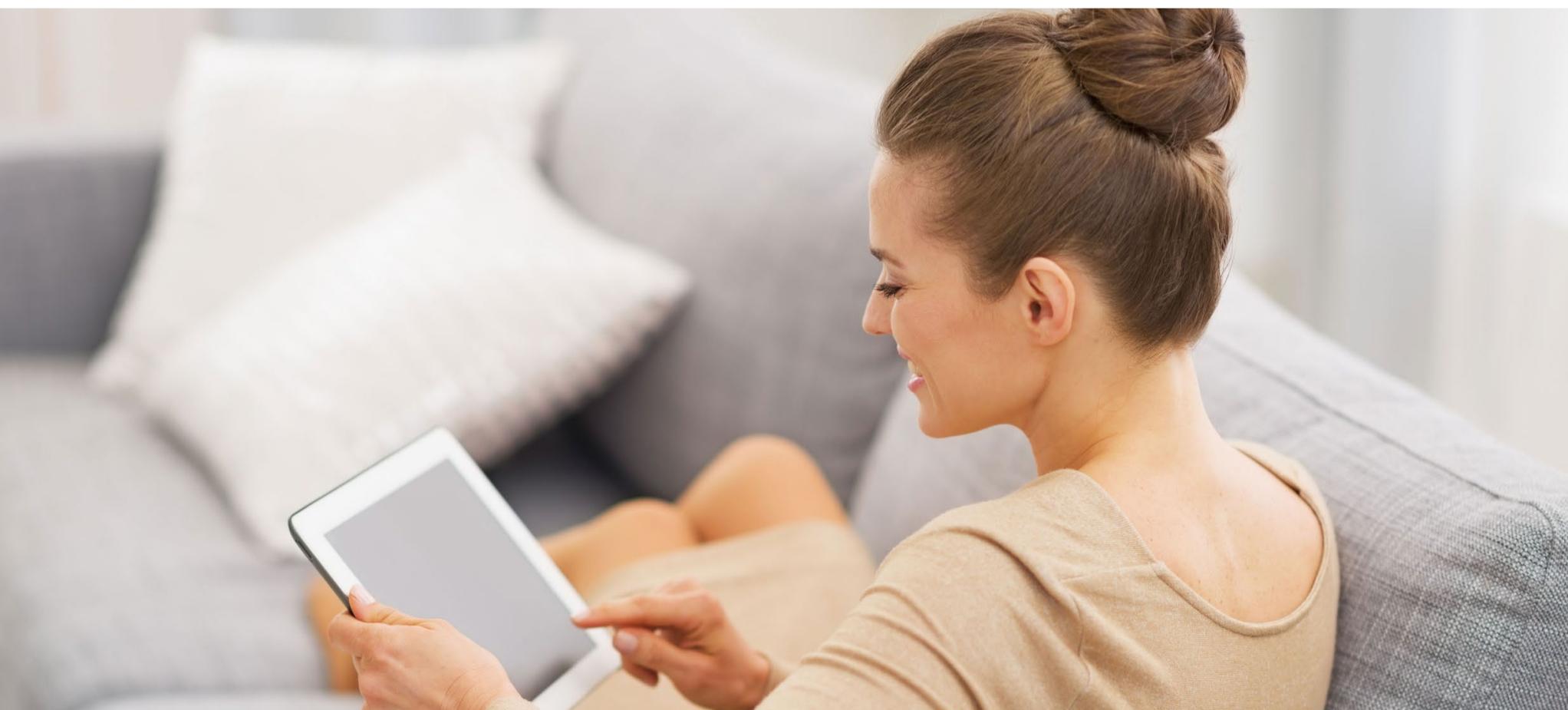
Heat or cool individual rooms or your whole house by setting the thermostat from touch panels located throughout the home or from your smartphone or tablet.

Once in the office, Sandra prepares for a conference call by pressing the "Conference Mode" button on a touch panel in the office. This turns off the music, turns on her monitor, and adjusts the lighting in the office to a pre-selected level. When her call is done, she presses "Work Mode" on the touch panel to set the lighting and audio in her office to the levels that are optimal for her regular working hours.

Later in the afternoon, the kids get home and realize they have left their keys to the door in the house. Sandra is notified via her smartphone. She communicates with the kids from her desk and automatically opens the front door for them. She is able to do this without getting up from her desk and interrupting her workflow.

Automated door locks can be controlled using a smartphone or tablet, or can even be programmed to unlock when a connected device (like your smartphone) is in close proximity to the door. No need to even take your phone out of your pocket or bag—as you approach a locked door, it opens automatically!

It's now late afternoon. The kids have arrived home from school and Michael will be home soon. Sandra is getting ready to entertain some family friends that will be coming over for dinner. Before the guests arrive, she presses the "Welcome Mode" button on one of the home's touch panels. This turns on the outdoor lighting, including the lights that line the home's driveway, disarms the perimeter security, and turns on the water feature in the courtyard.

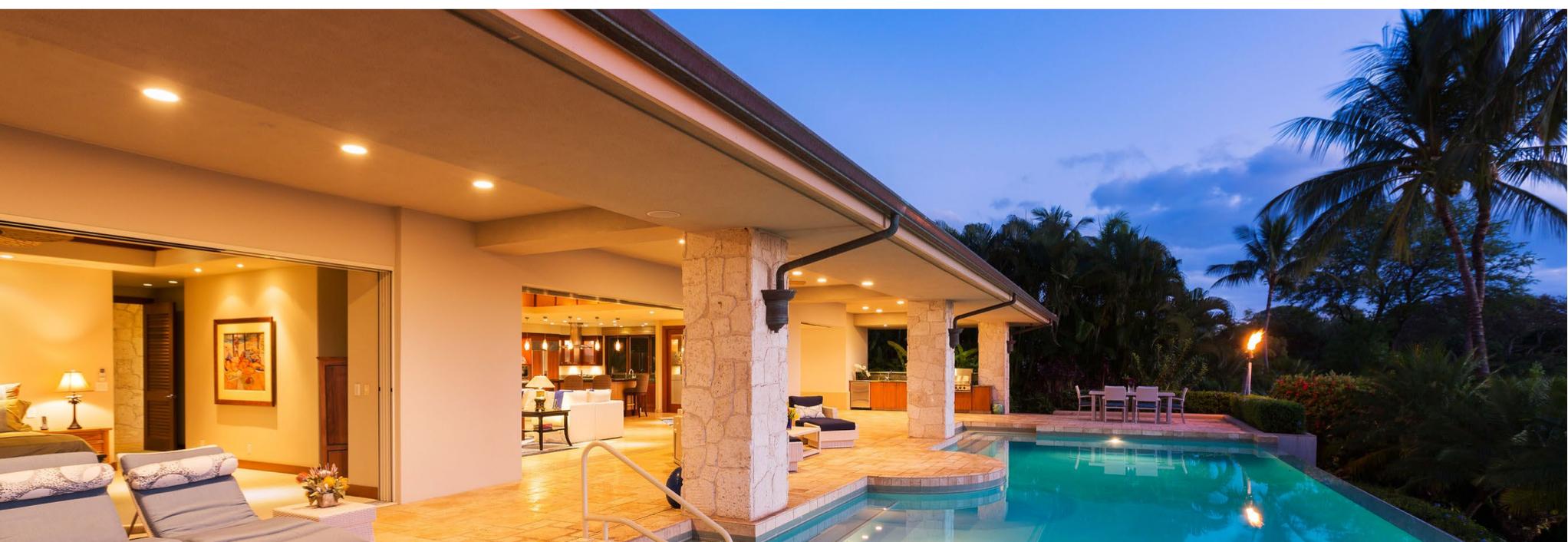


Set the perfect mood using lighting scenes for the both indoors and the outside of the residence. With a single button press, lighting around the residence sets to pre-programmed levels.

As the families arrive, Sandra turns on a classical music station in the living room where the adults will be enjoying some appetizers and pre-dinner drinks, while the kids go into the home theater to play video games.

Your home's theater is limited only by your imagination! It could be anything from a small living room area to a full-scale theater with automated curtains, theater seating, complete surround sound, a 20' x 40' screen, and a high-definition projector.

It's a nice evening, so the families decide to eat outside by the pool. They turn on the outdoor lighting, the overhead heaters, pool waterfall, and the outdoor speakers to set the mood. Michael also turns on the air curtain over their telescoping patio doors, so the doors can be left open, but still keep any bugs from entering the house.



An air curtain (or air door) allows you to have an unobstructed view of the outdoors and let fresh air in, while keeping out insects. It uses a downward facing fan mounted over a doorway that releases a controlled stream of air when in use.

After dinner, the teenagers decide to go in the spa, while Liam and his friends choose to watch a movie in the home theater. As the teenagers are changing into their swimsuits, they turn on the spa to the desired temperature via Sasha's smartphone. On the touch panel in the home theater, Liam dims the lights, reclines the theater seats, and selects a movie to stream onto the projection screen. The adults retreat to the living room, where they engage in conversation, while soft music plays in the background.

Pool and spa temperatures can be automated or controlled from anywhere in the residence via one of the touch panels, or remotely via smartphone.

At the end of the night, the Groves's friends leave. Once the gate closes behind them, they turn the whole house to "Night Mode," which closes the shades and turns off all but the security lighting. All water features are turned off with the touch of a button, as well as the home's audio system. As they arm the security system for the night, they are notified that a window has been left open downstairs.

The kids go to bed. Sasha turns on her favorite "white noise" that helps her fall asleep after a busy day. Michael and Sandra turn on the television in their bedroom to catch a late-night talk show before falling asleep. They set a timer that will automatically shut off the television and cable box, should they both fall asleep before the show ends.



The next morning, the family is leaving for a week-long vacation. They select the pre-set “Vacation Mode” button, which adjusts the home’s thermostat and water heater, and turns off all unnecessary systems. For added security, lights within the home turn on and off at random to give the appearance that someone is always home. Shades open and close as usual, and outdoor lighting comes on in the evening and turns off in the morning as it always does. Michael and Sandra can access their home’s systems while they are away on their tablet just as if there were sitting on their living room couch.

Home security cameras can be integrated with your smartphone or tablet, so even when you are away, you can see what is happening in and around your residence.



# A Smart Home Could be YOUR Home

Michael and Sandra's home is just one example of how your home, and the way you live in it, could be transformed by smart home technology. Home automation can be customized in many ways, according to your specific needs and preferences. The options really are only limited by your imagination. If you can dream it, it can be done!

AV Programming Associates has been helping homeowners achieve a luxury lifestyle through home automation for many years. Our experienced programming team can help turn your home into the smart home you've been dreaming about!

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