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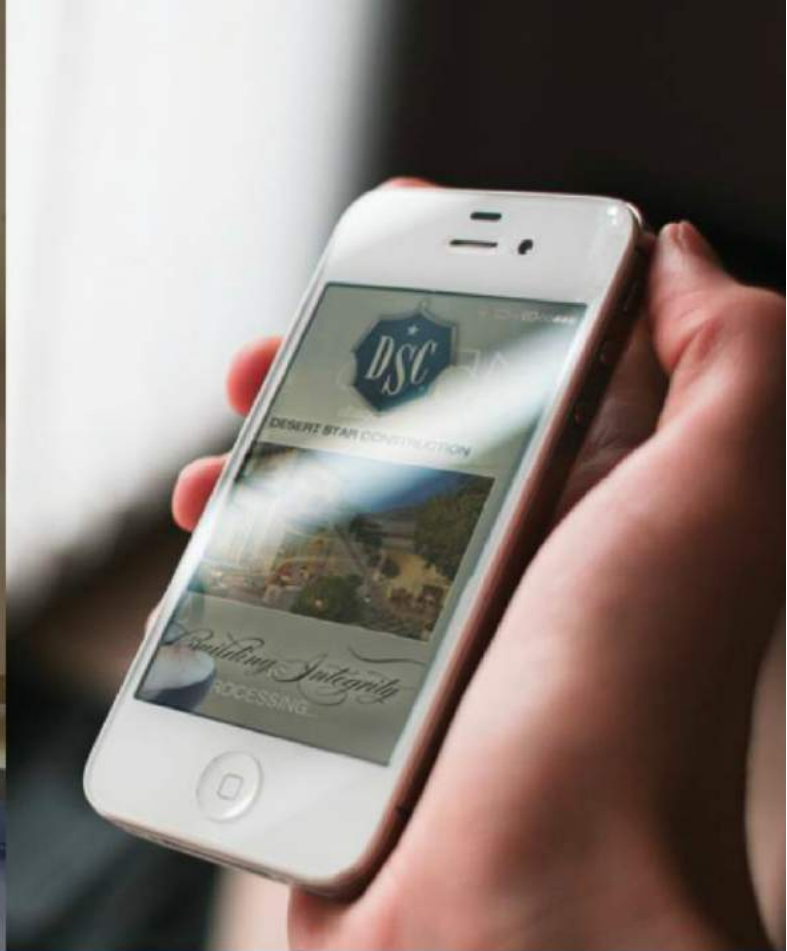
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Understanding Technology in Custom Homes

An Interview with Jerry Meek

From digital assistants to fully integrated home automation systems, smart homes and technologically-savvy offices are slowly but surely becoming the standard. We sat down with Jerry Meek, President of DSC, to ask him how the Internet of Things (IoT) is impacting the way homes and commercial projects are built and being upgraded with cutting edge appliances, renewable energy systems, and artificial intelligence to keep up with the ever-changing, fast-evolving technology landscape.

How has the Internet of Things affected home-building?

We are starting to see more and more building components within the home come IoT-ready, including appliances, air filtration systems, and of course the typical mobile-accessible HVAC, Audio, Video, and Security components that are popular across all markets due to the relative ease of retrofitting in the HVAC and Security genres.

Is this just something for custom homes?

Typically new technologies are introduced first to the custom market as they are usually more expensive and it is a smaller test group for

feedback on the initial technology. It then trickles into the high-end production homes and then eventually across the entire market.

What are some of the offerings now available in terms of technology?

If there is electricity going to a device or component within the home, more than likely it can be controlled and/or monitored already either over the local network or if enabled through the home's firewall, anywhere in the world. This holds true for appliances, security, mechanical equipment, etc.

In terms of renewable energy technologies, solar electric arrays are being used as well as geothermal HVAC systems. One such example of a DSC home that was built using a geothermal energy system is a project we named "Chateau Azure." Geothermal technology installed in the home utilizes multiple 300-foot deep ground loop wells to cultivate energy generated and stored within the earth, opposed to utilizing conventional heating and cooling equipment. Not only does the system create an advantage in the use of renewable energy, it provides the owner with cost-saving advantages in the short and long term.

In terms of security, there are a variety of standards available through biometrics, depending on what level of security the homeowner desires.

How about in the future? What do you see?

With the advancement of supercomputing, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, it won't be long before homes come equipped with an embedded digital assistant similar to Apple's Siri or Microsoft's Cortana.

Also around the corner are Wi-Fi-ready notification devices similar to Amazon's Dash Button that will allow for ease of notification to building managers of various components within the home requiring service, or integrated technology of a similar type that automatically alerts service and maintenance professionals of a potential problem even before the homeowner is aware that there is a problem.

What has DSC accomplished to support the technology evolution in custom home building?

As a member of the U.S. Green Building Council and the first custom home builder in Arizona to employ a LEED for Homes Accredited Professional certification, Desert Star Construction ensures the highest standard of sustainable living through a lasting commitment to leading edge technology systems and green construction. In doing so, DSC has successfully completed 27 LEED certified and 3 Net-Zero Energy projects, paving the way for homeowners and business owners to live more sustainably while receiving the benefits from using energy-saving technology.

In addition, DSC has developed its own proprietary mobile application, offering a diverse range of real-time solutions that allow our clients and team to access all the information of a project 24/7 anywhere in the world with a compatible interface and Wi-Fi connection.

About Jerry Meek

Jerry Meek is the President of Desert Star Construction (DSC). Since 1978, DSC has produced award-winning, custom luxury homes and commercial projects that incorporate today's most cutting-edge technology.

