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Today's homebuyers are not just looking for solar panels and quartz countertops. They are also looking for homes that are "smart," residences that can be controlled wirelessly from almost anywhere and that are almost futuristic in their capabilities.

“Smart houses put regular houses to shame,” says Karl Volkman, CTO of SRV

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nothing more than your voice. You can even add things to your shopping list—such as if you are in the kitchen and suddenly realize you are out of milk. With the voice remote, you can easily add that to your grocery list and make sure that you never forget anything at the store again.”

Nest is also a big player in the smart home game. “Nothing is nicer than being able to adjust your home environment from the comfort of your own bed, whether it is warming the house up a few degrees before getting up on a chilly winter morning, or switching the downstairs lights on when you hear your teenager coming home late.”

Volkman believes this is just the beginning. “Some experts believe that in the future, our homes will be able to identify us by our very heartbeats,” he says, “So when you walk in the room, the home will adjust your lighting and temperature to your personal preference. You will never have to fight over the thermostat again!”

Small Business • Technology

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