Coming home to a hi-tech lifestyle

ROSEBERY

Apartments feature cutting-edge gadgets, apps

Ben James

AUSTRALIA'S smartest and most hi-tech homes are not in Sydney's exclusive harbourside suburbs of Vaucluse or Bellevue Hill. Nor are they in hip and happening Melbourne. They are instead inside a disused factory in the heart of Rosebery.

The Burcham, built in the 1918 Wrigley's factory on Crewe Place, features 98 units ranging from one to three-bedrooms. The apartments are being billed as the smartest in Australia if not the Southern Hemisphere.

"The Burcham is a national highlight every architect, designer, builder and tradie should know," Ben Green, from Clipsal by Schneider Electric, who has helped kit out the homes, said. "It has raised the benchmark for how you integrate technology to make homes exciting and sustainable."

Every home comes equipped with the same smart technology which can be controlled from an app anywhere in the world.

For starters, not being able to find your keys will soon be a problem of the past. Every unit has a biometric access system which can be opened by your fingerprint, facial or optical recognition.

"You can also use your phone to unlock the apartment from anywhere in the world," Mr Green said. "If

you're on holiday and your neighbour is coming to feed the cat, you can let them in with your phone."

If you are a landlord and have new tenants there is no need to get keys cut or change the locks. You can simply add and delete profiles as if befriending or defriending on social media.

Once inside the home many of the appliances can be activated by voice control via an Amazon Alexa virtual assistant. "Light me up," turns on the lights, while similar commands open the blinds, turn on or off the airconditioning or heating and open the bin.

The units also have what is called GeoFencing technology, which detects when you are approaching or leaving the property. This could be used to make sure the heating is on and kettle boiling by the time you walk through the door. Worrying if you've left the heater or hair straightener on will be a thing of the past with func-

tions to turn off any appliances once you have left a 50m radius of the property.

Parents can use GeoFencing to tell when their children get home from school. They can then stop the Xbox being turned on to ensure homework is done.

Everything in the house can be controlled and monitored through an app, which can be accessed anywhere. The app can control lights, heating, entertainment and more.

"What's really great about it is that it can be used for energy monitoring," Mr Green said. "You can set targets to try and save money and put alerts in there as well."

You can also link the lights, blinds, entertainment system and more to create "mood" settings which can be activated by voice. By simply saying "Alexa, date night," the lights dim down, the blinds close and the strains of Barry White come over the sound system. "It's

fun, smart and kind of cool," Mr Green said.

The technology continues in the basement parking. There's no need for fobs or codes, with the gate sensors reading your licence plate. Once in your parking spot you can hook up to the electric charge points.

The Burcham also has a communal edible garden and a rooftop terrace with open-air cinema.

The roof features a 53kW solar plant which generates 70,000kW per year. An energy network run by the body corporate then sells electricity to the residents at 20 per cent below the market's lowest price.

"The Burcham is the home of the future today," Mr Greens said.

All three-bed units have been sold. Prices for one-bed units start at $790,000 and two-bed from $1.12 million.

Go online to see our video. More details, visit theburcham.com.au.

The Burcham apartments in Rosebery.

The Burcham is the home of the future today

Ben Green, Clipsal by Schneider

Tech highlights

» **No key required:** You can open the door from anywhere via your phone.
» **GeoFencing:** Your home detects when you are leaving or arrving and can prepare the home.
» **Voice control:** You can boil the kettle, turn off the lights and more without lifting a finger.

The Burcham apartments feature an array of smart technology, including an Amazon Alexa virtual assistant (above right) and doors which open by fingerprint (right).