



Robots and orangeries?
Graham Norwood eyes the household trends of 2011

THE NEXT BIG THING AT HOME

Recession or no recession, we love our household gadgets. Britons spend more than nine hours a day using technology, according to a survey by insurance firm www.protectyourbubble.com. Almost half that time involves sitting at a computer; another hour is spent texting, emailing and surfing the web on our mobile telephones; the rest is spent at home with domestic technology. Where once we were wowed by dishwashers and microwave ovens, now we have Apps, Bots and downloadable everything. Developers are often pioneers, installing kit in

exclusive properties that within a few years becomes common in modest homes. Wine fridges, found in luxurious penthouses five years ago, can now be purchased in B & Q. How long before we get "cigar terraces" with bespoke humidors, private lifts and "secure rooms" of the kind being launched in The Wellesley, a six-star hotel being launched in London's Knightsbridge in 2012? Some extraordinary gadgets and furniture are already available – if you want to pay. Following is our top 10 list of amazing features that are today strictly for the well off, but which tomorrow may be open to all...

KITCHEN
1 The latest favourite is the Sub-Zero Refrigerator, made in stainless steel and slightly less deep than standard to fit flush with existing units. It has a Nasa-approved air purification system plus titanium dioxide tubes to cut bacteria and gases, spill-proof cantilevered glass shelves and an extra cooler for the "deli unit" to keep the lettuce crisp. But it only gets a B energy efficiency rating; £6,145 from Westye, 020 8418 3800; www.westyee.co.uk.
2 The Wolf Gas cooker range is metal, with convection and gas ovens with configurable worktops including porcelain-coated grates, brass burners and infra-red griddles for that unmissable teppanyaki – and if



Latest looks: a wine cellar from Spiral Cellars; extend into the garden with an orangery; fireplaces are seeing a resurgence in popularity; let sharks give you an incentive to move even faster, in this case projected onto a gym wall; and the Navibot will patrol your floors doing the vacuuming

you don't know what that is, you don't need to spend up to £10,150 on a cooker. Westye, details as above.
3 Complicated coffee machines are common, but until now you have had to choose whether to use ground beans or those trendy capsules. Now Dualit has a machine that uses both. The Espresso also heats water in 40 seconds and has extra-size cup clearance for that guilty double macchiato; £172 from Dualit, 01293 652500; www.dualit.com.
LIVING ROOM
4 Fireplaces and real fires are back, with a modern twist. Chesneys, which supplies fireplaces to exclusive housing developers, says business in autumn 2010 hit a 25-year high. Models range from basic fireplaces and grates at little over £1,000 to uber-contemporary units custom-designed by Kelly Hoppen and Jasper Conran that carry five-figure price tags. Limestone, bathstone and statuary marble are the modern favourite materials. Energy-efficient wood-burning stoves are popular, too, but check your home has the right flue and ensure you live in an area zoned for real fires. Chesneys, 020 7627 1410; www.chesneys.co.uk.

available from Harrods, Selfridges and Apple stores. For more details visit www.jawbone.com.
... AND VISION
7 3D TV is here and, if you can stop laughing when you see family and friends wearing those strange glasses, it is already relatively inexpensive. Sony has a hi-definition 3D Blu-ray DVD system complete with Catch-up TV systems and wireless internet, ideal for a home cinema unit; £499 from Sony, 0845 600 0124; www.sony.co.uk.
THE POOL
8 Forget dolphins – now you can swim with sharks. Well, sort of. This four-projector system superimposes moving shark images seamlessly on to the floor and sides of your swimming pool while sensors ensure they have "near misses" as you splash about. The kit costs £70,000 while programming the projectors costs £45,000 and the installation will set you back £38,000. Yes, that is over £150,000 – you'll settle for a rubber duck now, won't you? Available from Lees Associates, 020 7403 1000; www.leesassociates.com.

HEAD OUT AND DOWN
9 It seems there is nothing so common as a conservatory these days. You can cash in on planning law relaxations that allow rear walls to be extended by four metres – enough for a classical-design orangery. These have much less glass roofing than a conservatory and boast modern insulating membranes to maintain stable temperatures; they tend to have substantial brick and masonry structures, too, and can be fitted with energy-saving technology. They start at £40,000. Westbury, 01371 876576; www.westburyconservatories.com.

WINE CELLAR
10 A wine rack or even a wine fridge is not enough. The "must" for the 21st century is the stainless steel spiral wine cellar, which oozes technology as well as style. The largest hold up to 1,870 bottles although they need only 2.5sq m of space. Top models include LED lighting, remote control trap doors, leather stair treads and semicircular glass panels, and keep your wine temperature-controlled and out of sight. They're available for £14,000 up from Spiral Cellars, 0845 241 2768; www.spiralcellars.com.

SOUND...
6 Jambox is described as "the world's first intelligent, wireless miniature speaker" which does away with unsightly docking stations. The speaker can automatically play music you have already downloaded to your iPhone, iPad, iPod or any other Bluetooth-enabled device. You control choice and volume via the iTunes playlist and you can freely update Jambox software from the internet. It costs £159.99 and has just become

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