

Service Supreme

Turning your home into a smart house can be a complex and confusing process involving electricians, architects, builders and installers. Advanced Lifestyle Solutions aims to change all that by providing a one-stop-shop for all these services, **Manisha Kanetkar** discovers.

Building a home can be a difficult process at the best of times. So when you then want to add automated controls to the mix, the process can become much harder. For one, you will need your installer or systems integrator to work with your electrician to wire the home adequately, and on top of that, these guys will need to be working closely with the architects to ensure that the technology will be appropriately integrated into the home's design.

Project managing all these separate services can be a difficult task for a seasoned professional, let alone a home owner.

And it is this complicated technological arena that Advanced Lifestyle Solutions (ALS) aims to simplify. While the company is a custom installation specialist, the ALS team offers a broader range of services than simply designing and integrating the home's smart technology.

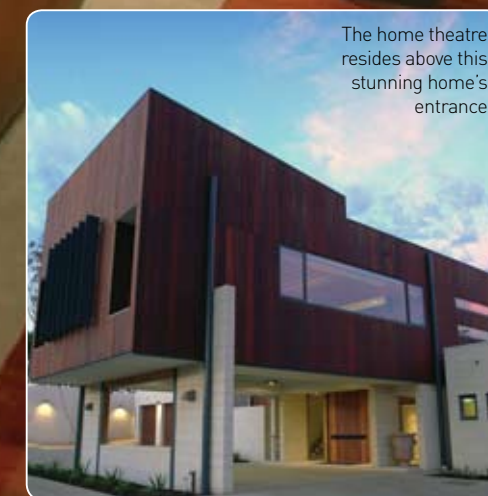
Simon Lakey and Michael Stavrou are the main customer focus of ALS. Although both have a background in A/V, Lakey has also worked in architecture and design, while Stavrou is also an electrician.

"My background in architectural building design means I know first-hand that basic electrical and A/V design can be difficult for many architects. As systems integrators a lot of our time is about making

the process simple for our client, because we have the whole range of services," said Lakey.

ALS can help clients integrate wiring, lighting, security and A/V in their home, and can work on a project from design to finish, offering project management services along the way.

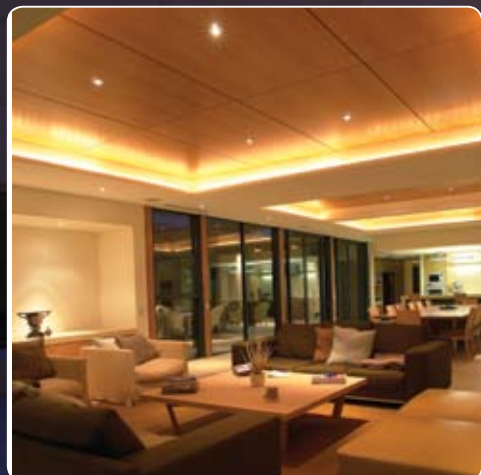
"What many of our clients like is that we can look after all of their systems be it electrical, lighting or space requirements required for TV screens. We can even provide technical drawings for electrical systems, whereas other >



The home theatre resides above this stunning home's entrance



Above: The gear in the home theatre rack can be operated by a touchscreen controller, even with the cupboard door closed



Above: The unique cove lighting in the living room was designed and controlled by ALS



integrators need to work with electricians to do so.” said Lakey.

From an integration perspective, Lakey adds that his architectural background and Michael’s electrical knowledge is significant: “Architects, designers and builders love that about us – we talk their language.

“For example, because we know how a bulk head is constructed, we can fit things like projectors seamlessly into the house. Our design work means we can better integrate technology into the architecture of the house, so the technology is not intrusive.”

And this is a key concept for the guys at ALS. The team recently worked on a contemporary home in regional Victoria (photographed) where the aim was to integrate lighting, A/V, security, motorised windows and drapery, without having the technology “on show.” This

was particularly challenging as the house featured a lot of sandstone, steel and timber instead of traditional plaster walls, so the team had to pull out their creative, design hats to work with these materials.

The finished result is a stylish, elegant smart-home in which you can’t see any evidence of the technology beyond the light switches on the wall.

ALS can also retrofit systems; in fact, if a client wishes to add an extension to their house, we can even do the working drawings for the extension as well as all the technology design.

“This also means we can give the client a transparent proposal of the costs and timing required for the project – we don’t have to arrange an additional electrical guy or a security guy,” he said. “Nobody else in the industry offers this level of service.”

CUSTOM INSTALLER
Advanced Lifestyle Solutions

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ARCHITECT
Graeme Gunn Architects

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Nexus Design

PROJECT DETAILS

Address:
Regional Victoria
Approximate Spend:
\$250,000

Type of Installation:
Total Home Integration, Lighting, Lighting control, Electrical, Home theatre, Distributed music, Distributed video, Motorised windows & blinds, Security, Access control

Project Time:
Approximately two years

PRODUCTS USED:

HOME THEATRE SYSTEM
Denon Home theatre receiver & DVD player
Foxtel, KEF Speaker system, SIM2 Projector with recessed motorised projection screen

DISTRIBUTED MUSIC SYSTEM
Sonance speakers
Sonance keypad controllers
Media server
Axiom multi channel amplification

LIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM
Clipsal C-Bus
Clipsal Saturn series & DLT switches

CONTROL & AUTOMATION SYSTEM
Digital Homeware – controlling: Music, Lighting, Security, Access control, Air conditioning, Heating, Pool, Motorised windows & blinds, Water tank levels, Irrigation

VIDEO SYSTEM
Panasonic plasma televisions
Video distribution system

NETWORK SYSTEM
Integrated Network/Television points
Wireless network