



THE GATEWAY TO THE HOME

In Our Experience: what's possible & effective

In the past people have considered their front door to be the entry-point of the home and this physical barrier is the clearest delineation of your physical defensible space. However, we now live in a connected world where people can demand your attention when at home not just by physically arriving at your gate but by calling, emailing, texting and using the other virtual 'gateways' to the home. As such, the modern world demands that designers and home owners consider all of these connections as a whole and hire a specialist to manage them properly.

This entails approaching door entry equipment, telephone lines and systems, internet connections and mobile phone coverage as a total package. This gives the home owner the tools to decide quickly & efficiently whether their home life can be interrupted by a caller, be they physical or virtual.

Some Fundamentals:

- **Cocoon:** it is easy to feel hounded in the modern world. The home as a total haven away from work is no longer possible or popular, yet it is vital to maintain the ability to retreat, to 'cocoon' when needed. Modern technology can do this: for example we can make door entry systems ultra convenient and integrate them onto devices with other functions so they are always at hand (see FFD Fact Sheet on Getting Technology Out of Your Way). Intelligent telephony can forward your mobile to your landline in places with limited connectivity or vice versa when away from the house.
- **The Back Door:** In the same way that the home owner needs better tools to screen interruptions in their home, they also need systems that they can access and manipulate when physically away from the home. Heating controls need to have a 'back door' via secure internet access to let them be controlled remotely. Equally security and camera systems can be monitored by the home owner if the systems have been set up correctly. The physical security of the gateway to the home is important not just to keep people out but let the right people back in, physically and virtually.
- **The Building Phase:** historically door entry, telephony, broadband supply, audio-visuals, IT, heating control and intelligent lighting have all been very separate services with a different specialist for each brought on by architects and designers in planning. The progress of technology means that these systems will never function effectively if planned and installed in these 'silos'. They all share common characteristics and should be designed together with a deep technological level from the start to provide ease of use, minimum aesthetic impact from their controls (see FFD Fact Sheet Getting Technology Out of Your Way) and an efficient service for the customer where all supplies are up-and-running on the move-in-date.

Things to bear in mind when evaluating this technology

- This service should be included in any property even if they turn down other household technologies like home entertainment or lighting control
- It is best to use one specialist firm to take a complete overview of, and responsibility for, the provision of all 'gateway' services
- Efficiently selecting & ordering telephone lines, broadband & Sky services during the building phase is vital for a smooth installation
- An effective 'gateway' implementation can be seen as the final phase of the structured cabling work
- A reliable internet connection, either in the city or country, is now as vital as a working telephone line