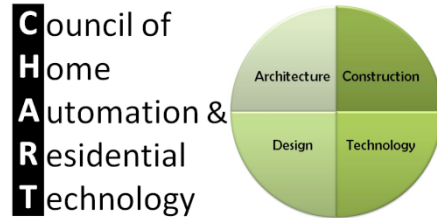


The Council of Home Automation
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Four factors, one home.

Council Formed as Residential Technology Systems Authority

Committee Chairs in Architecture, Construction, Interior Design, and Technology Announced

Boston MA – November 17, 2009 – The Council of Home Automation and Residential Technology (CHART) has been formed by architects, builders, interior designers and home electronics planners. The purpose of the organization is to provide a forum for communication and a central resource for clear guidelines relating to the implementation of technology in residential design and build projects.

Tom Catalano, principal of Catalano Architects in Boston MA and the inaugural chairman of the CHART Architectural Committee, said that CHART satisfies a long needed resource for architects, builders, interior designers and their clients. “Gone are the days of plug and play home electronics,” explained Catalano. “The industry needs a peer-based authority like CHART. We have to understand the needs of our clients, and how we can properly plan for home electronics.”

In addition to Catalano’s appointment, chairpersons were also named to represent home electronics planners, builders, and interior designers. The Technology Committee will be chaired by John Brusa, president of Image Tech Design in Worcester MA. Brusa is a recognized expert in home electronics integration, having won multiple national awards from the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA), the international trade association of companies that specialize in planning and installing electronic systems. The Construction Committee will be chaired by Robert Ernst, president of FBN Construction and former chairman of the National Association of Home Builders’ (NAHB) Remodeling Council. FBN has been awarded numerous awards including both “Builder of the Year” and “Remodeler of the Year.” The Interior Design Committee will be chaired by Derrell Parker, Nevada Registered Interior Designer and International President of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) and former national president for the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ).

“Most architects, builders and interior designers do not take home electronics under consideration until very late in a project, if at all,” stated Brusa. “This is not due to a lack of professional concern, but rather the absence of clear standards and budgetary guidelines. CHART is a grass roots effort among architects, builders and interior designers to demystify increasingly complex home electronics. We’re not going to use obscure acronyms and protocols – just plain English.”

Parker said that collaboration between interior designers and builders is important during a remodeling project. “Designers consider what will be the focal point of a room,” stated Parker. “Sticking a television wherever the cable company placed an outlet should not dictate how a room is designed. We need to work with builders to include the correct wiring and outlets where designers believe electronics should be placed.”

In the coming weeks CHART will announce recognized subject matter experts who will chair focus groups for control systems, lighting, shading, networked digital media, whole-house distributed video and audio, advanced climate management, loudspeakers, displays, security systems, landscape lighting, central vacuum, residential cinema design, elevators, and others.

CHART

The Council of Home Automation and Residential Technology

Bringing Together Architects, Builders, Designers, and Residential Technology Engineering
66 Charles Street — Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 848-0429 — www.TheChart.org

All qualified companies and individuals wishing to offer insight are welcome to participate by contributing to the discourse. The organization's website is now under development and set for launch in December. An initial position paper about implementing home electronics has been published online.

Contact the organization for more information or for digital biographies and print-ready photographs of Committee chairpersons.

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