



The

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Ideal Home

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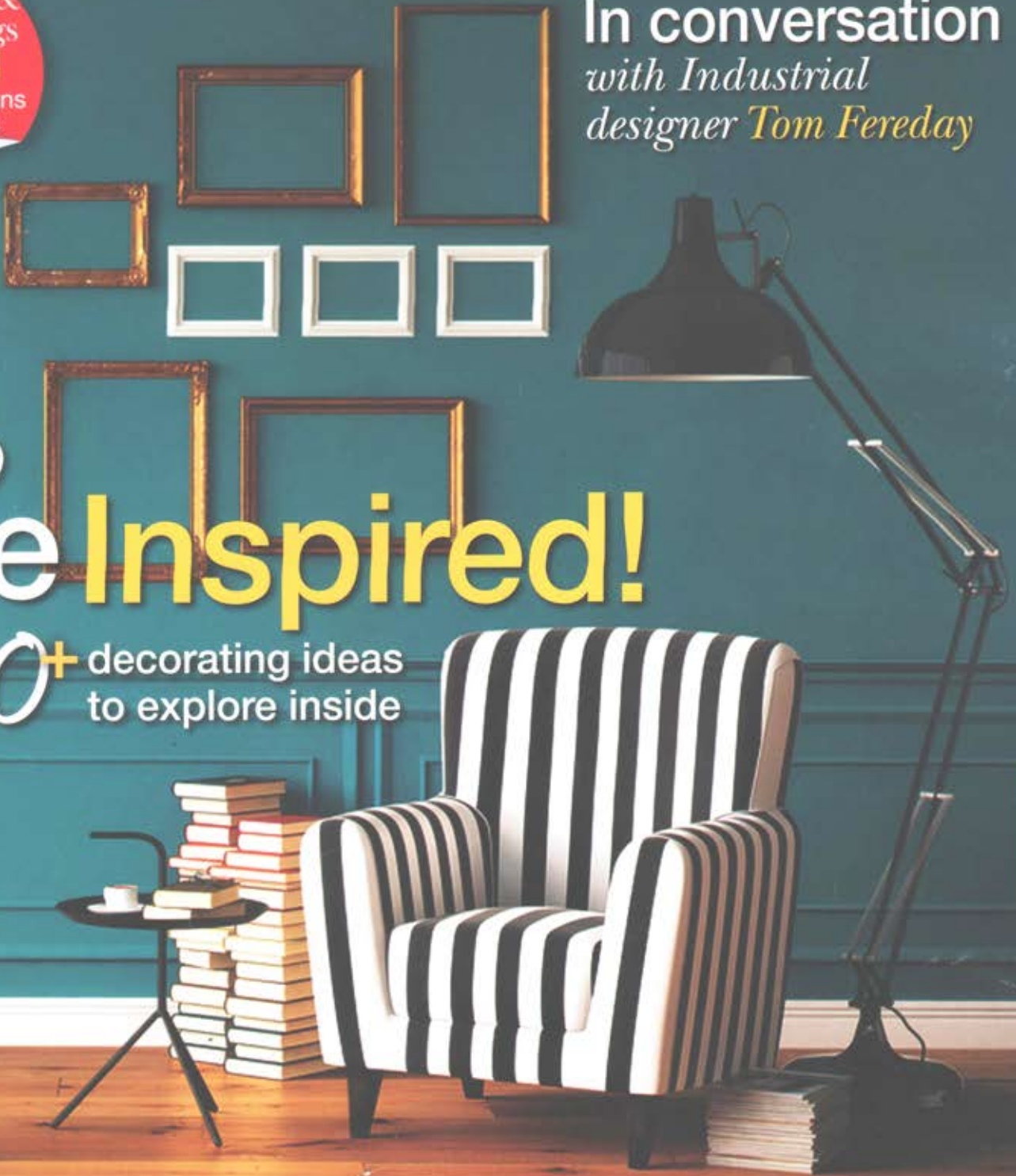
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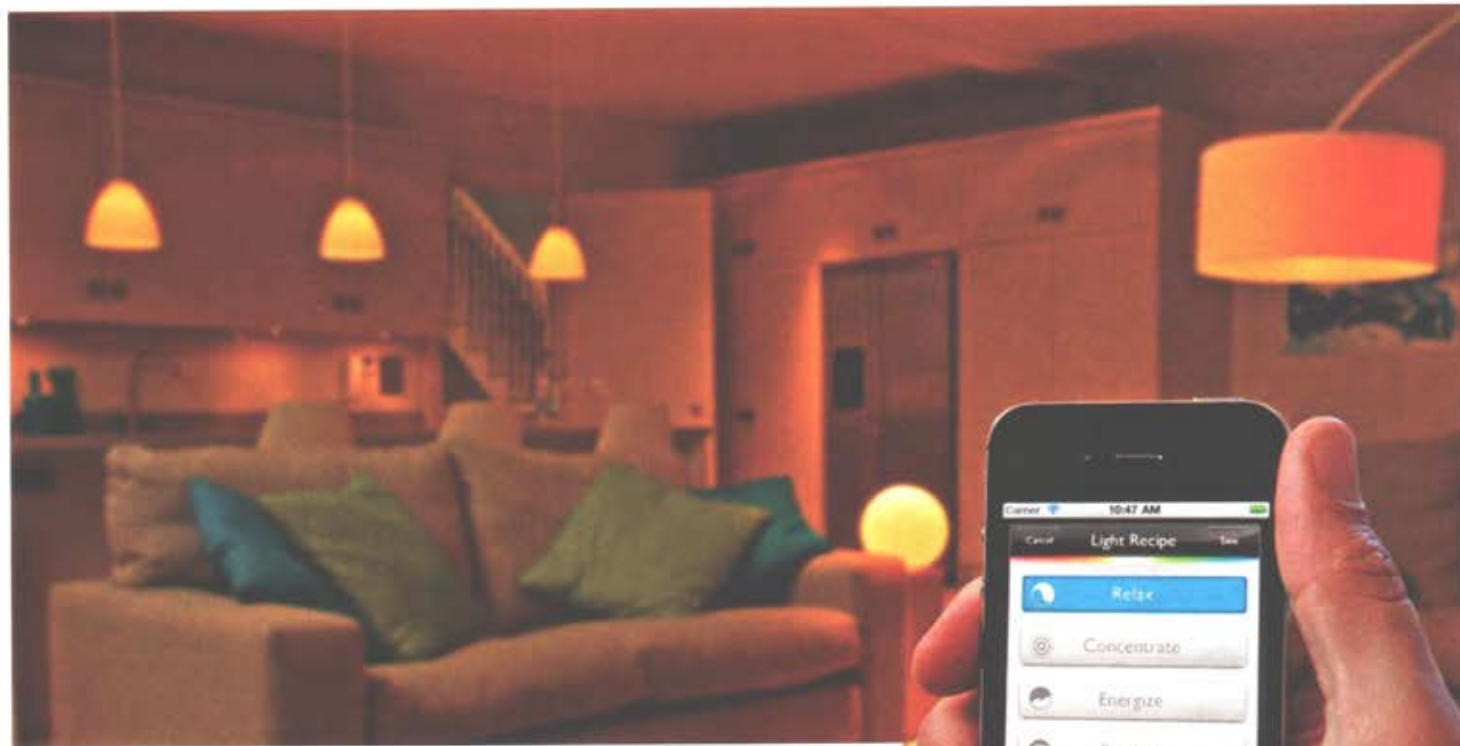
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TECHNOLOGY UNPLUGGED

Home automation can make your life more convenient and enjoyable by using technology to make your home 'smart'

IMPRESSIONS: BENYO SEBASTIAN

When you consider the prospect of having an automation system for your home, your initial thoughts would be - will I have to completely rebuild my home? Will I have to digest volumes of instruction manuals to learn how to familiarise myself with the automation features? In spite of these tethering questions, it is laudable to know that home automation is gaining popularity in India. It's the mindset and the negative perception of the homeowners that needs an urgent makeover; and while it might seem financially out of reach, it is definitely affordable, easy-to-use and a must have! Read on...

WHAT IS HOME AUTOMATION...

Home automation refers to the automatic and electronic control of household features, activity, and appliances. In short - the various control systems that are used in the residential

extension of building automation. Sameer Saxena, Director, Marketing, Legrand India puts it this way, "Home automation has become an inherent need. In our country, everyday living is now changing from owning a house to owning a space, which understands you and responds to your unique needs. This is where home automation comes into play - a personalised hi-tech space, which gives you the power to control everything. The important factor is the convenience, comfort, safety and security it provides. Energy saving is also a major aspect - automatic switching off of gadgets when not in use arrests wastage and aids in conservation." Some components of an automated home may include the centralised control of security locks on doors and gates, appliances, windows, lighting, surveillance cameras and HVAC systems (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

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A NEW BEGINNING...

Today home automation systems can be easily installed in existing homes because they have the ability to influence standard-based wired and wireless technology. For example, you might want to automate the lighting throughout your home. This process does not require massive amounts of rewiring, the smart lighting system is retrofitted to function with your existing house lights and multi-purpose key pads are used in place of your wall switches. Alok Hada, Director, Anusha Technovision opines, "When it comes to home automation, all systems should be designed for simplicity, and allow for ease of use. Home automation can be installed into both new and

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existing homes, and depending on the complexity and range of the requested functionality and device inter-operability, can be installed in as quickly as one day. And with today's smart phone and tablet technology, homeowners should have little to no difficulty operating their smart home."

IS HOME AUTOMATION DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND...

Home automation is not rocket science. It is basically a 'control' device. The control mechanisms are all in the form of easy-to-use keypads, touch screens, remotes, and TV screen menus. Also, any web enabled device such as iPhones, iPods, Android, PCs or Macs can be used to control the system.



Legrand India