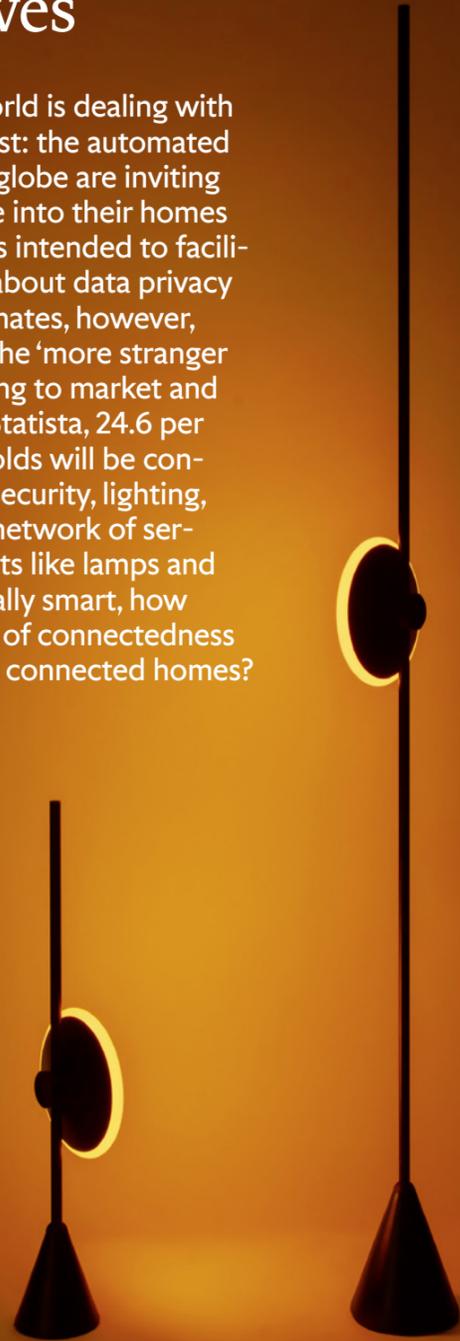


How INTUITIVE DESIGN lightens our lives

TECHNOLOGY – The world is dealing with a new breed of house guest: the automated object. People across the globe are inviting Alexa, Siri and Hey Google into their homes – voice-command devices intended to facilitate their lives. Concerns about data privacy are influencing such helpmates, however, often relegating them to the ‘more stranger than friend’ zone. According to market and consumer-data provider Statista, 24.6 per cent of European households will be connected by 2023, through security, lighting, heating or a coordinated network of services. As domestic products like lamps and speakers become robotically smart, how can design ensure a sense of connectedness between people and their connected homes? It’s all in the touch. – KG



For Haberdashery, a studio located in London, designing luminaires represents an opportunity to re-establish the innate human relationship with the sun – but now indoors. The team’s recent project, Dawn to Dusk, is a series of floor and desk lamps that exemplify the experience. Their simple shapes consist of conical bases that support poles to which circular lamps are attached. The lamps emit diffused light which replicates the different phases of light radiated by the sun. Sliding a lamp up or down allows the user to choose the desired effect – from sunrise to sunset.

haberdashery.com

Courtesy of Haberdashery

Jeppe Sørensen, courtesy of Bang & Olufsen



The design of smart objects often reveals a focus on the intuitive use of a product. For London-based designer Michael Anastasiades, our most obvious ‘intuition’ involves touch. In a collaboration with Bang & Olufsen, he developed Beosound Edge, a spherical speaker with a circumference of 50 cm. The system is activated as the user approaches. The volume is controlled by rolling the speaker back and forth. Sensors interpret the intensity required.

michaelanastasiades.com



Nils Sander, courtesy of Rlon



As our household objects become infused with advanced technology, Berlin design studio Rlon wants to bring analog home. L3 is a desk lamp that seems to work by magic but actually hands all power to the user. A rectangular black base contains a magnetic infrastructure that is controlled by a metal sphere floating on its surface. The position of the sphere determines the amount of illumination provided by a circular tube of light that intersects the base.

rlon.com