

Appy days: flats go high-tech

August 4, 2013

☆ Read later



Toby Johnstone

Property Reporter

[View more articles from Toby Johnstone](#)

[Follow Toby on Twitter](#) [Email Toby](#)

[Tweet](#) [Pin it](#) [submit](#)

[Email article](#) [Print](#) [Reprints & permissions](#)



Launch: People visit the display centre for the Mascot project. *Photo: Janie Barrett*

Australia's most high-tech apartment comes with a butler who will do your grocery shopping, organise babysitters and wash your car. It's called the iButler.

At the launch of the \$300 million Avantra development in Mascot on Saturday, Sydney buyers were introduced to technology never before seen in Australia.

Whether it be through sophisticated fit-outs or plans for monolithic towers, developers with substantial financial backing from China are changing apartment living as we know it.

"The technology is ready and there are very powerful platforms through which everything can be done," Steven Yu, managing director of developer Longton, said.


iButler allows Avantra residents to organise their domestic life using an iPhone or the mounted iPad in the apartment.

Advertisement

Blogs

Styling for sale – on a ...

“Paying attention to the small details can make all the ...”




Posted in: Talking Property


Date: Jul 30, 2013, 4:12PM

◀ ▶ ⏸

Featured advertisers



[Adventure Holidays](#)
Cycle Myanmar with Ben Groundwater



[Reg Mombassa](#)
Limited editions
15 to choose from
Hand signed by Reg
Own yours now


You Wish...



Mascot, NSW



Sponsored links



- [Need a Babysitter?](#)
- [Meet local experienced babysitters.](#)
- [It's FREE to search!](#)

▪ [For Sale](#)

The app can be used to order groceries and dry cleaning, or to book in service providers such as cleaners, chiropractors and masseuses who are given temporary passcodes to the apartment - all debited to a monthly bill.

Residents of the 309-apartment complex will also use iCommunity - an app that facilitates interactions between neighbours over Twitter and Chinese microblogging site Weibo. It is the modern version of the community notice board with the added money-spinner of classified advertising.

Apartments in Avantra range from \$499,000 for a one-bedroom unit to \$1.49 million for one of the four-bedroom penthouses.

Last year, the 32-year-old Mr Yu, who moved to Australia from China at the age of 17, launched a project in Mascot called Futra. It was one of the first apartment blocks to replace keys with fingerprint recognition technology.

"This product is not new to the world; I saw it a few years ago in Hong Kong," said Herman Chow, who bought a two-bedroom apartment in Futra.

"But this is very high-tech stuff that people haven't come across in Australia. It is only now being introduced into the Sydney market," he said.

It is not just technology that is flowing in from China.

A largely state-owned Chinese development company, Greenland Group, is spending \$600 million to build Sydney's tallest residential tower in the middle of the city.

That is on top of the \$110 million it spent to secure the site at 115 Bathurst Street from the Sydney Water Board.

Greenland Group has just launched plans for a \$500,000 display suite at the base of the building.



The iButler: Mounted on a tablet in the display centre apartment in Mascot. Photo: Janie Barrett

APARTMENT TRENDS

- ▶ IButler and iCommunity apps to book services and interact with neighbours.
- ▶ Automation software uses iPad to control lights, music and climate.
- ▶ Fingerprint and iris recognition entry.
- ▶ Smart glass that electrically switches from clear to glazed glass. Commonly used in bathrooms and bedrooms.
- ▶ "Swiss Army" studios that use collapsible walls/tables to create six different rooms depending on the occasion.

Apartment trends: Australia's most technologically advanced apartment promises to do your shopping and much more.

Featured properties

City | East | Inner West | North & Beach | South |

2702/168 Kent Street, Sydney



Grand Penthouse of International Appeal
A jewel in the crown of one of the CBDs most exclusive...



3 3 2
\$4,850,000

More Details



- [Worry-free Investing](#)
- [Defence Housing Australia Brochure](#)

Advertisement

Weekly meal planner



From apple crumble to lasagne, this menu plan has some great dishes to share with family and friends. [Read more.](#)

Mac and cheese
Avocado, prawn and chilli tacos

goodfood

Hot Suburbs

powered by apm

Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane | Perth

Fastest Growing Suburbs in Sydney

House | Unit |

RANK		MEDIAN PRICE *	
1	Westmead	\$695,000	▲ +31%
2	Darlinghurst	\$1,197,000	▲ +27%
3	Blackwall	\$420,000	▲ +22%
4	Manly	\$1,631,000	▲ +21%
5	Abbotsford	\$1,121,000	▲ +21%

* Median price movements based on the past 12 months.

What's your home worth?

Enter address, postcode or suburb

Advertisement

12 E / 171 Gloucester Street, Sydney



City Living: Fabulous Two Bedroom Apartment
Welcome to city living at its best with westerly...

More Details

2

2

1

410/303 Castlereagh St, Sydney



First Inspection Saturday
3rd August from 10.30-11.00am
Premium two bedroom in the Regis...

More Details

2

2

1



View more properties »

Find a home

Enter postcode or suburb

Ads by Google

Top 50 growth suburbs

realestateinvestar.com.au/growth

Find the best growth suburbs in AUS with free reports worth \$495

The Arctic Mirage

www.arcticmirage.com.au

Real Estate 3D Rendering, Branding, Interior, Web & Graphic Design

Need a New Strata Manager

StrataMatch.com.au/StrataManager

Let Us Find You A New One For Free, Simple & No Hassle. Enquire Now!

Current jobs

MY CAREER

Learn More

Earn More.

Master of Social Work

Graduate Certificate in Project Management

Tweet

Pin it


submit

Email article

Print


Reprints & permissions

Entertainment




Abbott's boy band heads in one direction

Motoring




Volkswagen sales crash

TheVine




55 Flawlessly Misleading Photographs

Dating



Australia's Favourite Dating Site

Essential Kids



Bindi Irwin wants to debate birth control

The Sydney Morning Herald

- Entertainment and Red Carpet
- Latest Sports videos
- Life and Style essentials

Drive

- At the dragstrip: Commodore v Falcon
- Over 500 car reviews a year
- Cars for sale on Drive.com.au

theVINE

- Entertainment & celebrity news
- Latest fashion coverage
- Music news and reviews

rsvp

- Meet Sydney singles
- Get started for free!
- Singles events for all ages

Essential Kids

- Lunchbox ideas & recipes
- Free kids' activities and worksheets
- Family recipe finder

Compare and Save

Best Deals

Mobile

Broadband

Home Loans

Credit Cards

Low Rate

Rewards

Savings Accts

Term

Loans

Find the perfect loan

Best Variable Rate



Australia's cheapest home loan. Borrow up to 90%

Find Out More

Refinance From



Save thousands on your home loan. Compare & switch

Top Refinance Loans

Lock in and Save



1 yr fixed loans from 4.39%. Borrow up to 95%

Compare Now

Ubank Discount



Special 0.25% upfront discount offer. Limited time only

Check It Out

Low Fee Variable



No monthly fee. Free redraw and extra repayments

Variable Rates

Readers' most viewed

brisbanetimes.com.au

Top 5 Domain articles

- 1. Taking control of the design process
- 2. Soccer truant scores a beachside home
- 3. Inner east comes out on top after weekend auctions
- 4. Agent's hot air over mouldy flat
- 5. House price recovery gains strength

WAtoday

Top 5 Domain articles

- 1. Taking control of the design process
- 2. House price recovery gains strength
- 3. Agent's hot air over mouldy flat
- 4. Never a good time to sit on the fence
- 5. Celebrity renovators face reality

THE AGE

Top 5 Domain articles

- 1. Inner east comes out on top after weekend auctions
- 2. Taking control of the design process
- 3. Four in a row for surging Sydney auction market
- 4. Soccer truant scores a beachside home
- 5. Three of the best - Glen Iris

canberratimes.com.au

Top 5 Domain articles

- 1. Taking control of the design process
- 2. Four in a row for surging Sydney auction market
- 3. Inner east comes out on top after weekend auctions
- 4. Soccer truant scores a beachside home
- 5. Month off to brisk start

The Sydney Morning Herald

Top 5 Domain articles

- 1. Soccer truant scores a beachside home
- 2. Four in a row for surging Sydney auction market
- 3. Taking control of the design process
- 4. Chef's order of a cottage to go
- 5. Inner east comes out on top after weekend auctions

SMH Home | NSW | Federal Politics | World | National | Environment | Business | Digital Life | Entertainment | Life & Style | Travel | Cars | Exec Style | Sport | Weather

Sydney Morning Herald
Sitemap
About Us
Contact Us
Advertise with Us
AM Today
Last 8 days
Text Version
Site Accessibility Guide

Connect
Mobile Site
SMH for iPad
Newspaper Replica
RSS
Facebook
Twitter
LinkedIn

Products & Services
Subscribe
Manage My Subscription
My Benefits
Digital Subscription
FAQs
Good Food Guide
SMH Shop
Newsletters
Cracka Wines

Classifieds
Place an Ad
Accommodation
Cars
Dating
Jobs
Property Price Data
Real Estate
Buy and Sell
Tributes
Celebrations
Special Reports

Fairfax Media
Member Centre
Conditions of Use
Privacy Policy
News Store Archive
Photo Sales
Purchase Front Pages
Fairfax Syndication
Fairfax Events
Fairfax Careers
Press Council

smh.com.au

Give Feedback



Our Sites | The Sydney Morning Herald | The Age | MyCareer | Domain | Drive | RSVP | Essential Baby | InvestSMART | APM | Stayz | Weatherzone | TheVine
Our Partners | Business | Electricians | Painters | Lawyers | Rubbish Removals | Tax Refunds | Training course

Copyright © 2013 Fairfax Media