

As Usual, This Year's CES Show Featured Some Exciting New Home Technologies



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Formerly called the Consumer Electronics Show, CES 2023 made headlines in January for its focus on electric vehicles and EV technology, but it also featured many home-related technologies and products which made headlines at *Realtor Magazine*. Here are their Top 10 innovations displayed at the show.

First was LG's **ArtCool Gallery**, a wall A/C unit disguised as a framed photograph or artwork provided by the user. In 2022, I showed a Willow Springs listing which had this kind of wall unit in various rooms of that home. Here's a picture from that listing. The picture next to



the window is the A/C unit. Curiously the listing agent didn't state on the MLS that this was a heat pump system — a big selling point!

I don't think the units in that listing were from LG, because the LG website shows the availability and price of theirs as "TBD." Such units are clearly driven by a heat pump, but nowhere on LG's website could I find the words "heat pump." Rather, the website refers to a "dual inverter unit." I find this peculiar because heat pumps are now all the rage. The website also did not mention the substantial tax credits and

rebates now available for heat pump installations under the IRA.

Second was Kohler's "**Sprig Shower**" device, coming this spring, which infuses a shower's water stream with scents and oils. Kohler will initially offer six different scent pods, including lavender, chamomile and eucalyptus. The unit will cost \$119, and a 6-pack of single-use pods will cost \$21.



If you're looking for an interesting alternative to stainless steel, you might be interested in LG's new **MoodUp Refrigerator**, which can display 190,000 different color combinations on the LED screens covering the front of the fridge.

Meanwhile, Samsung is bringing to market this spring its "**Bespoke**" refrigerator which has no handles. Both doors open by touching them.

For \$6,500, you can replace your home's front door with **Masonite's "M-Pwr Smart Door,"** which incorporates a downlight and two side lights which turn on when you approach it, plus both a smart lock and Ring video doorbell. It is connected to your home's electricity, but includes a battery backup so you can still get in if there's a power failure.



For \$11-17,000, you can replace your staid old bathtub with Kohler's "**Stillness Infinity Experience**," which brings a "Zen-like, multi-sensory experience, combining water, lighting, mist, essential oils and soothing sounds." Water cascades

over the top into a wooden moat, from which it is filtered and pumped back into the tub. I'll pass on this product!

Is pushing buttons or using a key difficult or too much effort for you? For \$189.99, you can buy **Lockly's "Flex Touch"** fingerprint deadbolt, shown here.



Do you have a Roomba robotic vacuum and wish there was a robot that could mow your lawn and clear snow from your driveway, walkway and sidewalk? Well, your ship has come in! It's the **Yarbo 3-in-1 Intelligent Yard Robot**, below, which has attachments for those two tasks

and many others, which are demonstrated at www.Yarbo.com.

Completing *Realtor Magazine's* Top 10 products for CES were touchless window shades from **Eve** which respond to voice commands; a 2-wheeled family robot, at right, from **Enabot**; and the "**M3 OLED Smart TV**" from LG, which is totally wireless except for the power cord.



I have put a link to the *Realtor Magazine* article, which has links to all 10 items, at GoldenREblog.com.

Do you have a favorite new product that has made your life better, more interesting, or more sustainable? Tell me about it (my email address is below), and maybe I'll feature it in a future column. And let me know if you purchase one of the products featured above!



Canadian Company Develops Recycled Rubber Roofing

The picture at right is of **Euroshield®** roofing made from recycled tires. It is manufactured by G.E.M., a company in Calgary, Alberta.



Henry Kamphuis founded the company in 1999 to solve the problem of old tires clogging up landfills and dumpsites. Several years later, after much research and trial-and-error, he came up with a green roofing system that is 95% made from the rubber in old tires. It takes over 400 such tires to provide the rubber for a typical roof.

The roofing tiles are connected by a tongue-and-groove design and can be made to look like slate tiles, shown here, or wood shakes.

The roofing is sold and installed in the Denver metro area by Johnson Construction Company LLC, which you can reach at **303-719-7663**, or via their website, www.roofsbyjohnson.com.

RoofsByJohnson.com. The cost is more than twice that of a conventional roof, but it comes with a 50-year warranty against damage from up to 2" hail with no pro-rating and no deductible. The company installed a Euroshield roof in Golden's Amberwick subdivision after a 2017 hail storm. Those roofs survived two subsequent hail storms without any visible damage.

Just Listed: Golden Ranch With Walkout Basement



This rare ranch-style home with a southwestern feel at **634 Entrada Drive** is on a mini cul-de-sac, giving it an oversized backyard with a water feature (stream & pond) that you can enjoy from the newly rebuilt wood deck off the living room and primary suite. A 10'x13' office is used by the seller as a 3rd bedroom minus only a closet. An open floor plan links the spacious living room to the kitchen over a breakfast bar. The living room has a gas fireplace. There's attractive use of glass brick in the dining room and kitchen and also in the garage. New carpet has been installed, making this home move-in ready. The walk-out basement is unfinished but with a half bath installed. Interior photos and a narrated video tour are at www.SouthGoldenHome.com. Broker associate **Jim Swanson, 303-929-2727**, is holding it open this **Saturday, 11am to 1pm**.

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