



Mission

The Drexel Smart House is a student-led, multidisciplinary project to construct an urban home to serve as a “living laboratory” for exploring cutting edge design and technology. Participants will conduct research and develop designs in the areas of environment, energy, interaction, health, and lifestyle with the ultimate goal of improving quality of life in the urban residential setting.

Overview

The Drexel Smart House is a unique project with the goal of creating a building that functions as a home while serving as a test site to continually conduct research on innovations intended to improve living environments. By implementing the creative ideas of young minds, under the guidance of experienced teachers, the Drexel Smart House will provide the perfect model and testing environment for an improved approach to home life by integrating recent technological advances.

The project will model the home of the future, demonstrating how quality of life can be improved through smart design and technology: simplifying daily life, decreasing environmental impact and providing a healthier living environment.

Social Impact

The goal of this project is to introduce new technologies, aimed at improving life, into an environment where they can be properly tested. The best way to properly test these technologies is by living with and using them every day. Students will eat, sleep, and work in the space interacting with and testing the technologies 24/7.

We plan to push the project beyond typical boundaries and to accomplish what has never been imagined in the past – imagine a house twenty years from now. Technologies and designs that originate in the Smart House will not just stay there. What good is a Smart House if others do not see the resultant work? We plan on opening the house for tours and allowing people and corporations to see the developments and learn ways that they might be able to change their own homes. This project does not just affect Drexel. It affects the world.

Many different projects will be involved in the first phase of the house, but the task does not stop there. As time goes by, new ideas are formed, and resources grow, new ideas will be brought into the house so that even fifty years from now, the house will be ahead of its time. As technologies prove themselves feasible in a household, students will focus on taking them out of the Smart House and bringing them to the public through commercialization.

We have set out to question the concept of everyday living and everyday space. Does a room have to be the same room all the time, or could it become something entirely different on your command? Why can we not have all of our computer files accessible from any device on any screen? Can groceries be automatically ordered and delivered into your refrigerator? Why not use the sun as the primary source of light during the day? We have been stuck in an old model where people simply have not posed these questions because the field lacks innovation and creativity. The young minds from fields as varied as art and medicine who are involved in the project bring a new freshness to a field which is too standardized and stale.

We want to change your life. We want to make it Smart. Drexel Smart House is better living through smart design and technology.