

BETTER LIVING IN SMART CITIES

The future is now. How are new, connected technologies changing our lives?

The world is becoming urban. According to the United Nations, the number of people living in cities is expected to increase from 3.4 billion in 2009 to 6.3 billion in 2050. Habits and traditions are changing, as many of us live alone in cities for longer, instead of moving into suburbs. As urbanization increases, housing shortages lead to a need for more apartments and taller buildings.

City infrastructure now needs to cater for new levels of people flow, while increasing convenience and safety. City planners need to seize the opportunities of smarter infrastructure to move huge numbers of citizens quickly and safely around the clock. At the same time, energy consumption and environmental impact must be kept to a minimum. The same needs apply to individual buildings.

Fortunately, digital technologies and connectivity enable access to new types of services that are cheaper, more energy-efficient and easier to use than ever before. New technologies that were once only available to a few are becoming widespread across the globe.

WHAT DO SMART CITIES MEAN FOR YOU?

What smart cities do, in a nutshell, is use technology to make our lives better. On a personal level, all of us have experienced the shift in our digital lives today. From the transport we use, to the parcels we order, to the goods we design and personalize ourselves. Or the health services we depend on, or even how we pay our bills or heat and light our homes. There is no doubt technology has reshaped how we live and work. Smart, new technologies are being integrated all around us. The future of buildings and cities is happening now.



NEW, INTELLIGENT SERVICES IN BUILDINGS

Smarter buildings mean more sensors and cloud technologies that can harness data within buildings, to make people flow more enjoyable, personal and accessible. These technologies are within reach now.

In the case of elevators and escalators that work around the clock, collecting data with sensors is one part of the equation. But in order to create meaningful insights about what is happening, this data needs to be processed by sophisticated cloud-based analytics systems, or platforms, which can analyze and interpret results. Artificial intelligence for maintenance services will help predict and suggest resolutions to potential problems before they happen.

Cutting edge technologies bring safety, transparency and predictability to services for elevators and escalators, taking maintenance service to a whole new level. For people who use elevators and escalators, this means less waiting time and a more reliable experience.

For Homeowner Associations, new technologies can breathe new life even into older buildings, making them more competitive, more attractive and more useful for residents. Smart access control, with connections to smartphones, personalized ways to move around buildings, smart energy management, improved entertainment capabilities and shared real-time information are

helping apartment buildings to become more desirable today. In an era where buildings compete in valuable spaces, the services on offer become important, which makes modernizing your building important.

WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE?

In the future, think about a voice-activated elevator that recognizes you. It could dim the lights the way you like, play your favorite music, or give you a chance to catch up with the news that you want to see.

In your apartment building, the door could open automatically, without fumbling for your keys. The lobby could have an AI assistant that calls a taxi when you need it. In workplace office blocks, you could communicate with the building and place requests, like asking for an indoor temperature change, or adjustment in lighting for certain areas. Even meeting room preferences for individuals could be linked to arriving elevators.

Ideas like these will create a better connection between you and the building you live in. In the same way that we enjoy personalized apps, music and other preferences on our phone, buildings will essentially tailor themselves to each of us. That is something that is going to put our senses and our individual needs at the heart of the KONE people flow experience.

SMARTER COMMUTING IN 2025

According to a June 2018 McKinsey report, cities are becoming increasingly responsive to the needs of commuters.

- By 2025, cities that deploy smart-mobility applications can cut commuting times by 15 to 20 percent on average
- In a dense city with extensive transit, the average commuter could save almost 15 minutes a day
- This a great example of how technology will make urban environments more livable and responsive

