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Old English Pub Packed with Smart Home Surprises

Secret biometric button on a statue of Beethoven swings open a door to a safe room in this smart home.

📅 June 29, 2017 ✍️ Lisa Montgomery (<https://www.electronichouse.com/author/lmontgomeryehpub-com/>)



Video and music are a given in any pub, be it one at an establishment in town or in your own home. But a safe room? Not so much. A secret button tucked underneath a statue of Beethoven that reveals that room? That's even more unusual. Biometric technology embedded in that button that scans and reacts to the fingerprint of only a few certain people? Now that's one high-tech bar.



In the midst of renovating their 6,500-square-foot home, the owners of this space pulled out all the stops, incorporating high-tech touches throughout the residence. The newly added bar area, though, received the royal treatment, thanks to the creative minds at Futurian Systems, (<http://futuriansystems.com/>) of Vail, Colo. It also received honors as the Best Unique Space in the Electronic House Home of the Year Awards program, 2017. [Check out some of the winners from 2016.](https://www.electronichouse.com/downloads/going-gold-download-free-2016-home-year-special-edition/)

Beethoven and Sinatra Unleash the Magic

"The homeowners are very tech savvy and wanted something unique for their new 'Old English Pub.' Their request was very specific and straightforward, 'I want this to be the nicest home bar in all of Vail,'" says Futurian Systems president Jeremy Beck. "Over the course of the construction, wiring, and design of the bar area, we collaborated with the homeowners to develop some solid ideas in terms of the technology that would be incorporated. The biometric scanner adds a sense of mystery and makes this bar like no other."



[\(https://www.electronichouse.com/home-of-the-week/old-english-pub-packed-with-smart-home-surprises/attachment/bar7/\)](https://www.electronichouse.com/home-of-the-week/old-english-pub-packed-with-smart-home-surprises/attachment/bar7/)

The door to a safe room swings open when the biometric reader is engaged.



(<https://www.electronichouse.com/home-of-the-week/old-english-pub-packed-with-smart-home-surprises/attachment/statue1/>)

A bust of Beethoven holds a "secret key" to a safe room.



(<https://www.electronichouse.com/home-of-the-week/old-english-pub-packed-with-smart-home-surprises/attachment/statue2/>)

Tipping the statue reveals a biometric reader that only opens the door if it recognizes the user's fingerprint.

Stationed at the end of the bar, the statue of Beethoven sits atop a pedestal. Pivoting the bust backwards slightly reveals a button that when touched signals an electronic lock to unlock and a door to a safe room to swing open.



Lighting behind a pane of glass casts an amber hue, setting off the colorful bottles at the bar.

The statue of Beethoven inspired other innovative high-tech twists. For example, when the owners touch a button labeled "Entertainment Mode" on a handheld [Control4](https://www.control4.com/) remote, wall-mounted Control4 touchpanel, or a Control4 app on a mobile device, Beethoven's Symphony #5 blasts through a pair of [Paradigm](https://www.paradigm.com/) bookshelf speakers. Joining in are colored LED lighting behind a pane of glass at the front of the bar and fixtures that brighten and dim automatically to the owners' preferred levels. In an instant the room is ready to entertain family and friends.

While Symphony #5 sets the scene, the owners can easily switch to a different piece of music by using one of their Control4 devices to access Sirius XM or stream tunes from their songs via Airplay. One of their favorites, says Beck, is Frank Sinatra, so Futurian

Systems created a special "Frank Sinatra" button that pulls up the Frank Sinatra Sirius XM channel.

Bar Cues Homeowner to Arriving Guests

The audio system is also able to give the homeowners a "heads up" that guests have arrived. Futurian Systems tied the Control4 audio system—which can deliver music to not only the bar speakers but every speaker in the house—to a sensor mounted near the driveway. When the sensor detect that a car has entered the property, it triggers the audio system to interrupt the music temporarily and play a chime. The chime sounds again when the sensor detects that vehicles are leaving.





ian didn't stop at providing only entertainment in this bar, however. From the same control devices that provide access to video and music, the owners can operate an Elk security system (<http://www.elkproducts.com/>). Control4 smart light switches throughout the house, and direct music and video to other speakers and TVs.

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Want your music to move with you?

If you plan to distribute audio and video content throughout the house, you need to make sure you have the TVs and the technology to accommodate your system.

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GET THE CHECKLIST! ([HTTPS://ELECTRONICHOUSE.EHMEDIA.CO/EH-CHECKLIST-HOME-AUDIO](https://electronichouse.ehmedia.co/eh-checklist-home-audio))



Lisa Montgomery (<https://www.electronichouse.com/author/lmontgomeryehpub-com/>)

Lisa Montgomery has been a member of the Electronic House editorial team for nearly 20 years; most of that time as the Editor. With a knack for explaining complex high-tech topics in terms that average consumers can understand, her style of writing resonates with people who are interested in addition electronic systems to their homes, but are unsure of the steps involved and the solutions available. From basic lighting control systems to full-blown automation systems, Lisa understands the home electronics market well, and is able to point consumers in the right direction on their quest for a smarter, more convenient, efficient and enjoyable home. Over the years, she has developed close relationships with key manufacturers and seasoned custom electronics professionals, giving her a keen sense of what home technologies are hot now and what's on the horizon. She shares this wisdom regularly through feature stories, product roundups, case studies technology spotlights and comprehensive guides and books, which can be found on the Electronic House website, www.electronichouse.com. Have suggestions or something you want to read about? Email Lisa at lmontgomery@ehpub.com (<mailto:lmontgomery@ehpub.com>)

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