

Checking out the guestroom of the future

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High-tech hoteliers offer a room with a view - of the year 2010

The hotel room of the future may be closer than you think.

In fact, it was in Orlando just last month.

The room, officially called Guestroom 2010, was a major attraction at HITEC, an annual conference for financial and technology professionals in the hospitality industry. Featuring 70 new and near-future technologies, it offered a peek at what lodging may look like in the years to come.

Now in its second year, the project is more about feasible technology than science fiction. Some of the technologies on display are already in production; others are prototypes still in search of a viable market. Each was included because it represented an innovation in design, usability, energy efficiency or environmental protection.

The products and technologies in the exhibit promise to reinvent every aspect of the lodging experience. From PDA-based concierge services to motion-sensitive lighting systems, the ultimate goal is to help travelers make better use of their time. 'These should be common things,' says Deborah Hansen, president of décorus Worldwide, a Guestroom 2010 participant, 'and eventually they will be.'

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