TECHNOLOGY IN THE BOARDROOM

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WHAT IS COMING THROUGH IN THE COMMERCIAL SPACE OF PROPERTY FOR TECHNOLOGY?

The market is seeing an influence of consumer technologies coming into the workplace and the corporate space.

It started a number of years ago with iPhone and iPads making their way in. And with technology improving over time, manufacturers are building great displays for the consumer market. These displays are available into the corporate space as well. It is interesting to note a commercial display panel with the same specifications costs three times more than in the consumer market.

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The next thing is voice. Alexa and Google home and voice devices will be the next big thing as far as a consumer device making way into the commercial corporate environment.

Setting up technology in the boardroom used to be an expensive piece of work for a business of any size. In the commercial environment we are seeing consumer technology, such as Skype and Skype for Business and then applications such as Zoom on the rise.

The cost of office boardrooms has decreased significantly. There is no need to spend thousands of dollars on a conferencing system for a boardroom. Now a commercial space can achieve a similar setup and a good technology experience for one-third of the price.

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It is more about educating the clients and making sure about getting the technology scope right. There is lot of new technology that people understand with systems now. For example, more familiar brands such as Logitech, essentially a consumer base company making keyboards and mice, are now making conferencing systems for the commercial office space.

Technology has become more affordable; the client has become more educated and the systems have become easier to use because we are familiar with them.

There is also pressure from companies such as Microsoft and Cisco who have all-in-one systems. Microsoft with their Surface hub-display which has got speakers, microphone camera built-in and Cisco have got their WebEx board and so on. It's an all-in-one device that you can just put on the wall and set it up ready to use.

In most environments, technology has become simplified and there is less of a design input required. A full set up of plug-and-play options are available easily to install in the commercial space.