

# Charters Berkshire

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A stunning apartment complex in Sunninghill, Berkshire features the first UK application of a unique control solution by SmartComm.

This groundbreaking electronic concierge service, which won the Innovative Design category at the recent Crestron UK Integration Awards, uses Crestron technology to perform the tasks a butler might, but in a fully automated way.

Charters, near Ascot, is a rare Art Deco architectural gem set among 20 acres of landscaped gardens, built by Sabre Developments. Its expansive proportions, striking exterior and mature parkland setting make Charters hugely desirable to anyone seeking a home that is private and secure, while offering unique access to the best in sport, leisure and cultural facilities.

34 two- and three-bedroom apartments are complemented by private onsite facilities including a spa, luxurious sports and health facilities, tennis courts, running track, 50-foot heated swimming pool, fully-equipped gym and billiards room.

**Crestron technology performs the tasks that a butler might. Designed specifically for this type of luxury home, it integrates administration, amenity and maintenance services through a Crestron touchpanel.**

For most people, personal and domestic security is a huge issue, and an increasingly important factor to home buyers. Charters benefits from a superior level of onsite security, including a discreet 24-hour, 7-day site management service that ensures the safety of residents with no intrusion on privacy.

Charters' high-tech security installation includes an AV entry system for residents to manage the arrival of guests via personal video phone units. The concierge is connected automatically to this AV system, so guests and unexpected visitors are never left unattended. In addition, residents have their own portable security cards to go in and out. CCTV surveillance and a car number plate recognition system are also in place.



The concierge service featuring Crestron technology adds to the development's exclusivity. Designed specifically for this type of luxury home, it integrates a resident's administration, amenity and maintenance services through a stylish Crestron touchpanel. This is the first installation of the system in the UK, and Steve Worrell, MD of Smartcomm, believes it is the ideal way to harness the benefits of home automation in a multi-dwelling application. "Home automation is not about flat screen TVs and automatic garage doors – it's much simpler than that," said Worrell. "If you look beyond the media hype, what you're really buying into is lifestyle convenience – and at Charters that can be had in spades. The residents have a wonderful array of features at their fingertips, and when you combine this with the superb concierge facilities onsite, they have the world at their fingertips, almost literally."

Smartcomm designed the system to allow Charters residents to access a huge range of lifestyle features at the touch of a button. For example, residents can reserve a table at a local restaurant, order take out, request a car from the valet or schedule maintenance services – talk about luxury living! In addition, residents can use the technology to automatically reserve tennis courts, racquetball courts, spa sessions and book golf tee times, all of which can all be accomplished from their Crestron touchpanel.

Smartcomm installed a CAT5e wiring infrastructure to support each apartment's telecom, data and Internet applications and ensure that communications are up-to-date and futureproof. The

home entertainment is well thought out and comprehensive, with drawing rooms fitted with home theater systems featuring mirrored plasma screens and surround sound speaker systems, all controlled via wireless Crestron TPMC-8X touchpanels. There is a choice of LCD or plasma screens in the kitchen, master and second bedrooms, while waterproof aqua TV screens are featured in the master en suite bathrooms. Alongside this, HD-ready audio and video distribution systems allow residents to view, listen and control different sources such as SkyTV, DVD, music and radio in different rooms. A lighting control scheme offers the ability to set the tone for all times of the day and night.

Crestron touchpanels are in all the main rooms. Whether wireless or wall-mounted, these cutting-edge devices allow residents to control the lighting, drapes, HVAC, TVs, DVDs, music, intercom, and view of site-wide security cameras at the touch of a button, from anywhere in the apartment. Smartcomm linked the home automation system directly to the 24-hour concierge service for the ultimate in convenience and peace of mind.

