On the extent of importance and demand of the Smart Kitchen

Shu-Mei Chen  
Kunshan University, Department of Real Estate Management, Professor

Shwuhey Wang  
Far East University, Department of Business Administration, Instructor
National Changhua University of Education, Department of Business Education, PhD Student

Tzai-Zang Lee  
Kunshan University, Department of Business Administration, Professor
Email: leetz@mail.ksu.edu.tw

Peng-Hui Lee  
Kunshan University, Graduate Institute of Business Administration
E-mail: down562000@hotmail.com

Abstract

Faced with the challenges of globalization, enhancing the quality of life with high-tech has become an important issue in the policy of technologically advanced countries. Therefore, the Executive Yuan of Taiwan in 2008 initiated the "Smart Taiwan" and "Quality Life" focus issues, to promote the use of new technologies, including the broadband infrastructure, remote health care, smart living spaces, smart living technology and applications, in response to the challenges of the future needs and to improve people's satisfaction in their lives.

This study aims to analyze what the users want in a smart kitchen, so that a design centered on the Smart Kitchen can be realized in a quality smart living space. This enables designers to address the characteristics and requirements of clients and design adequate user interface and functionality, and let the users get closer to have better and more convenient products. Therefore, this study employed purposive sampling method to conduct the survey. We sampled "primary users of home kitchens" in homes equipped with internet in five metropolitan regions and two sub-metropolitan regions, and send out 1445 paper questionnaires and 213 online questionnaires.

The results indicated that the importance and extent of demand on functions and equipments of the Smart Kitchen is positively pair wised correlated. The main user stated the prior functions could be reference for the designer's when designing the system. The factor’s ranking of the main user’s attitude toward the function and demand of the Smart Kitchen is as the following: safety, energy-saving, health, convenience and comfort. Kitchen’s functions need to get advanced from basic needs to enjoyed needs.

The daily activities generate vitality because of human; the so-called dwelling is transformed to be “home” for the sake of people. Therefore, the function of kitchen should not be limited in the scope of cooking only, it should be empowered to have the functions of daily dinning, family member’s affection connection, health concerning as well as the place of life enjoyment.

Key words: living space, smart kitchen, importance, demand