

BUZZ

Tube Tech



Wall-to-Wall Entertainment

The world of TV is all around us

COUNT THE ELECTRONIC SCREENS IN YOUR HOME. I'D BET there's one in the living room, one in the bedroom and then maybe a few more scattered around the house. I can see five from where I sit right now at my desk.

All these devices are potentially capable of providing television entertainment. And their numbers will continue to spread throughout the home. After all, the cost to integrate screens in any device is becoming remarkably low. All you have to do is look at the printers at the local big-box electronics store, which feature small but crisp LCD screens used to preview photos.

So how long before any screen (no matter what device it's on) has the potential to play TV entertainment? Now I'm not suggesting you'll watch an episode of *Corner Gas* on your printer's screen, but the availability of low-cost displays means there will be screens everywhere you look.

For example, Hewlett-Packard just launched a beautiful new device called the HP TouchSmart – a 22-inch flat-panel monitor with an integrated computer. It runs Windows Vista Home

Premium, which has Media Center capabilities, so it can be connected to your ExpressVu satellite box. Since the screen is touch-enabled, you can control it with your finger, meaning it's ideal for the kitchen or other common areas in the home.

Besides the kitchen, screens are popping up in the oddest places. Hollandia International (hollandiainternational.com) has developed a bed called the Elite that includes a Sony Bravia theatre system, with a 32-inch retractable flat-panel HDTV integrated into the foot of the bed. A DVD/CD changer, iPod dock and Surround Sound system are also part of the package.

Not to be outdone, Wasauna (wasauna.com) has released a whirlpool bathtub called the Charleston with a built-in waterproof 14-inch TV screen. No word on whether the remote control floats. And those of you who hate missing good ol' *Canada AM* during your morning shave might consider a mirror with an integrated TV – a US company called Séura (seura.com) makes one.

How long will it be before we get to experience screens in every room? It's already happening. —Andy Walker

MIRROR: 2007 SEURA INC. | BED: HOLLANDIA INTERNATIONAL | BATHTUB: WASAUNA

POLL POSITION



If you could put a TV screen wherever you wanted, where would it be?

1: In the shower

2: On the fridge

3: On the microwave

4: On your desk at work

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