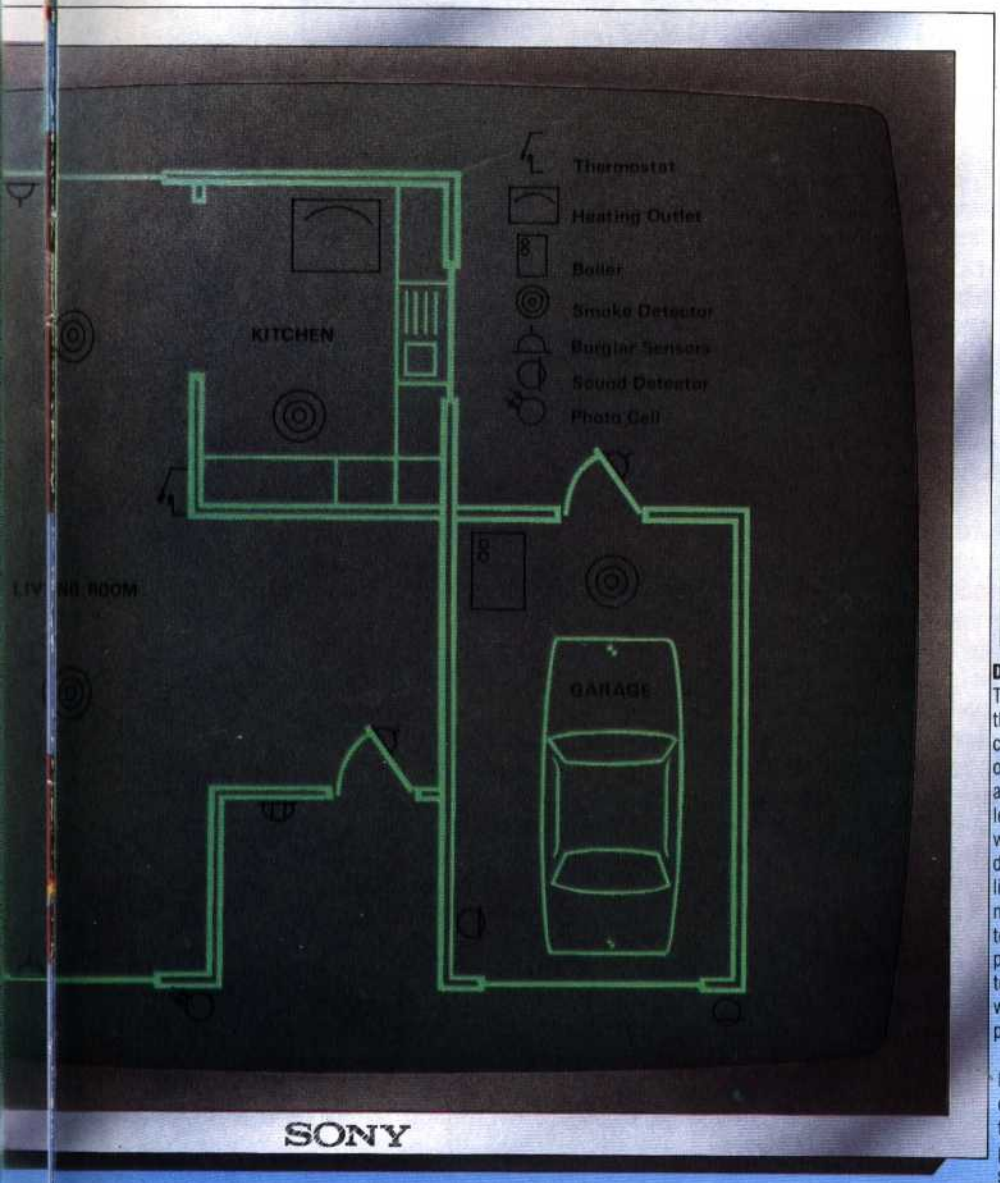
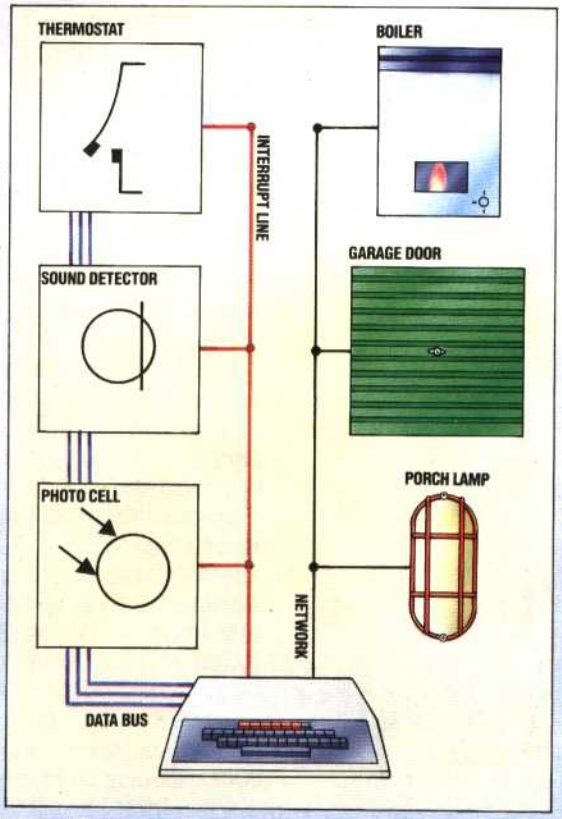
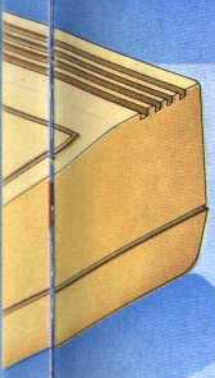




Domestic Address
This diagram illustrates two of the techniques by which a home computer can address a number of domestic appliances. When any of the three sensors on the left has something to report, it will send an electronic pulse down the common interrupt line. This leads directly to the microprocessor, which will temporarily suspend any program it is running and jump to a special routine that will read whatever data the sensor now places on the data bus.

The devices on the right are linked into a network so the computer can activate any of them simply by sending a package of data consisting of, say, the device number of the garage door and the instruction for it to open



Control Centre

A schematic representation of your house displayed on the screen of your computer is not beyond the bounds of possibility. Industrial plant control and computerised security systems use such methods. Of course, if the computer operates under the 'interrupt' method, then there would not necessarily be any need for a screen display, since the software would perform all aspects of control in the background, usually with no noticeable delay to your game of space invaders, or whatever. It may not be many years before houses are designed with built-in internal networks, as commonly as the electrical ring main