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PARK LIFE

Whether you collect classic or supercars, where you keep your vehicles should make as much of a statement as your home

Words: Cheryl Markosky

Above: Parked cars become artworks at this high-octane Hampstead property in north London





As befits the former head of the McLaren Formula One team, Ron Dennis is building something definitively 21st-century beneath his Wentworth Estate mansion – an extensive subterranean garage with a revolving turntable. Like other well-heeled homeowners, Ron wants a safe place to house his collection of expensive vehicles.

However, F1 tycoons aren't the only automobile aficionados desirous of the finest facilities for their collections – it's now a worldwide trend. Inger Stringfellow of Sotheby's International Realty in New Canaan, Connecticut says more people are driven to possess multiple garages with lifts for their sports cars.

"Garages holding a minimum four cars are regarded as standard and Tesla plug-ins are becoming increasingly common," Stringfellow says. In an affluent suburb where Maseratis and Mercedes abound, she adds, some owners are even constructing garages with equipment to wash and service cars.

When you purchase a top-end property – particularly in Palma where parking in the old cobbled lanes is at a premium – there are creative solutions to avoid beautiful cars getting a lot of scratches, declares Paul Smith from Fine & Country Mallorca. One noteworthy home he's selling features an unobtrusive underground garage – "it's very 'batcave', with its secret drive and hydraulic lifts," says Smith – where the current owner stores his vintage race cars, some of which will remain as part of the sale.

A car showroom space for eight artistically lit cars, a turntable and racetrack footage on a loop is the highlight of a north London house marketed by Arlington Residential's Marc Schneiderman. "Somebody of a similar ilk to the car enthusiast owner will view this as a sophisticated feature that goes several stages beyond the typical garage," he says. Read on as we round up some of the greatest garages on the market. »



LONDON | HAMPSTEAD

It's one thing to love this seven-bedroom Winnington Road home for the cinema room, gym, wine cellar and Lutron lighting system. But when you see the equally optimally lit eight-car garage and car showroom, you – and your petrol head guests – will be wowed on viewing it through the glass walls of the entertainment room (below right).

£15.75m
arlingtonresidential.com



PROPERTY

MALLORCA | PORTALS NOUS

Once owned by Norwegian oil baron Ola Peter Tollefsen – whose hobby is restoring American vintage cars to their former glory – this six bedroom Andalusian style mansion comes with grand entrance gates, walled gardens and the largest residential saltwater pool on Mallorca. It also has a garage that housed the Tollefsen collection. The lucky purchaser will get a Ford Thunderbird coupe (bottom right) and Sprint race car thrown in with the deal. »

€5.25m (£4.52m)
fincandcountry.com





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USA | NEW CANAAN

This historic Philip Johnson two-bedroom house on more than two acres in Connecticut is stunning as it is. But plans are in place for a purchaser to add a Mies Van der Rohe-inspired companion structure with three bedrooms and sky-lit underground garage (above). This futuristic space might just be the American Dream for any car collector...

\$7.7m (£5.9m)
[sotherealty.com](https://www.sotherealty.com)



PROPERTY

USA | POTOMAC

What to do when two three-car garages aren't enough? In this six bedroom Maryland home you can rest assured that there's also an underground garage for up to 12 cars below the main house (a hidden "batcave" featuring full mechanicals, air, exhaust systems and tool room). All this *and* you get the ultimate party room with grilling lanai, heated pool/spa and waterfalls. Start your engines...🚗

\$7.95m (£6.11m)
christiesrealestate.com

