

ART&DESIGN

A CLOSE-UP ON THE ARTISTS, ARTISANS AND ARCHITECTS ENLIVENING OUR WORLD



DRAWING BOARD

Futuristic technological innovation is encouraging architects and designers to utilise residential interior space ever more imaginatively. PETER SWAIN looks at some of the more ambitious concepts

HOME *bound*



TO A TEE

about Golf's simulator allows you to play PGA courses without leaving home, aboutGolf.com

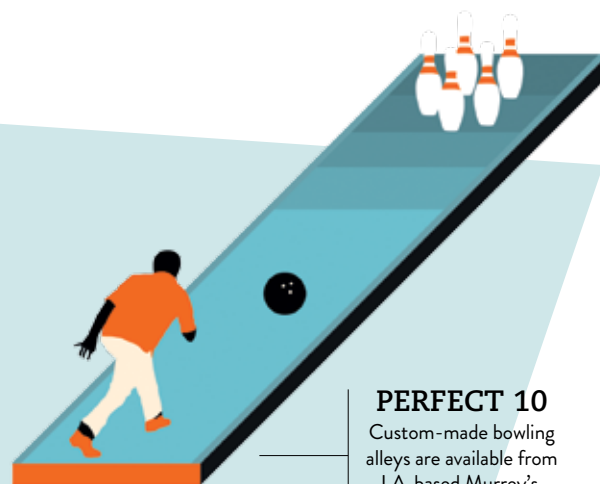
CORKING IDEA

A novel twist on storing wine from the ingenious Spiral Cellars, spiralcellars.com



ACE SERVICE

Thanks to intriguing design innovations, even a tennis court can be created for a city home, entoutcas.co



PERFECT 10

Custom-made bowling alleys are available from LA-based Murrey's, murreybowling.com

Living in precisely the right locale in the world's major cities often means living with less space than one might enjoy in more leafy surrounds. Until recently, this has equated to a sporting sacrifice of sorts for active-minded urbanites who felt cramped, literally and metaphorically, by their residential confines. But now, thanks to an entirely new range of über home accoutrements, innovative architects and developers are filling this recreational and aesthetic gap with bold new designs.

Golf, for instance, is a game that requires space and time, both precious commodities for

city-centre-based players. But as many new houses feature a cinema room that is used less frequently than originally intended, positioning a fully immersive 3trak golf simulator in the exact same footprint is a perfect solution. Systems such as aboutGolf's used by architects Squire and Partners are being installed in residences from Doha to Munich, and even by PGA player Luke Donald in his Chicago home. It uses cameras placed above the player and a projection of 50 of the world's best courses, from Pebble Beach to St Andrews. "I am a firm believer in aboutGolf's technology," says Donald. "A few shots on the simulator and I was convinced – my game was the same indoors as it is out." So, in the same room, a player can watch the 2012 PGA live at Kiawah Island one minute, then play the course

with his own clubs the next.

For truly competitive metropolitans with more room to spare, home squash courts are not unknown, and one property mogul is even building an underground tennis court under his mansion on one of London's most sought-after streets, Kensington Palace Gardens. Meanwhile, not wanting to frequent public bowling emporia, some – particularly in America – are installing private lanes in their own homes. Patrick Murrey is president of LA-based Murrey's, the leading designer of residential bowling lanes worldwide. "In the US a private bowling set-up is becoming part of the ultimate man cave for certain affluent sporting stars. We've even installed a two-laner in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia." Space needed? "110 feet long [33.5m] by about 15 to 20 feet wide [4.5-6m]."

FISH FEAST

Aquarium Architecture can provide bespoke fish tanks big enough for small sharks, aquariumarchitecture.com



And after 18 indoor holes or a tough bowling session what better than a glass of Puligny-Montrachet? The problem is that few city dwellers have room for traditional wine storage, so Spiral Cellars has come up with a unique solution. By digging out a cylindrical plug 2.5m in diameter, 3m deep, and installing a concrete spiral cellar complete with staircase, up to 1,900 bottles and even a humidor can be stored underfloor at the perfect temperature and humidity, and easily accessed. With a variety of cunningly designed glass or wood motorised trap doors, a cellar can easily be retrofitted under any ground-floor room.

Another indulgence often out of reach for urbanites is a private indoor swimming pool. With space at a premium, a dedicated pool is difficult to accommodate, so one novel answer is a retractable floor that can be rolled back when needed. This dual-use solution has been installed in a grand mansion ballroom in London's fashionable Highgate. At the touch of a button, the lighting changes and the dance floor glides back to reveal a 12m pool. By way of variation, every private terrace in Groupe Pastor's magnificent 24-storey Le Simona apartment palace in Monaco accommodates a

16sq m heated pool, which uses the "swimming against the current" system to simulate laps.

Elevating the boundaries of innovative high-rise living still further, the recently completed 30-storey Hamilton Scotts apartment building on the coveted Scotts Road in Singapore features glass car lifts enabling owners to drive in, whiz up and manoeuvre their marques directly on to their very own private sky garage, right outside their individual residence. "It's a unique way of living in a condominium with all the advantages of a landed property," suggests Leny Superman of developer KOP Properties. Of course, as the wall between the car porch and each apartment is glass, the presumption is that any parked limo is itself a work of art.

Aesthetics are as significant as practicality for refined urban living. Aquarium Architecture specialises in designing giant fish tanks in locations as far flung as Nigeria, Italy and the UAE. Often fitted into the walls of residences, the engineering challenge of, say, a 5m x 2m x 1.5m tank suitable for tropical fish, is extraordinarily complex, but the overall effect is stunning. Complex LED lighting above the tank



SPLASH OUT

A retractable floor can conceal a full-sized swimming or lap pool as at Le Simona in Monaco shows, groupepastor.mc

replicates natural sunlight, and with such a large volume of water, budding Jacques Cousteaus can feast their eyes on some of the smaller sharks and rays as well as angelfish nipping at living coral.

With such dazzling developments, it seems that when it comes to modern architectural design, space is no longer the final frontier. ■

For a slideshow of what's possible in residential interiors, visit CENTURION-MAGAZINE.COM

HIGH RISING

A car lift solves parking problems at Hamilton Scotts, koproperties.com

