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Underground Parking at Home

By [BOB TEDESCHI](#)
Published: June 2, 2010

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Louis Coleman is director of sales for Vasari, a Guthrie, Okla., business that recently began selling residential car lifts. Hydraulic lifts in multicar garages are nothing new, but what makes Vasari's system special is that instead of raising one car above another, it lowers one car into a subterranean chamber, allowing another car to be parked on top of the lift's canopy (which now serves as the floor of the garage). Prices start at around \$40,000, installed.

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Sarah Phipps for The New York Times

O.K., say you're a reporter who lives in the suburbs, and you want a Ferrari but your wife thinks a Civic is fine. Using a credit card she doesn't know about, how quickly could you put one of these in my garage? Hypothetically, that is.

To install it might take two or three weeks.

You can do it while she's at work, though, right?

Yes, but she might notice the holes and the equipment when she gets home.

Deal's off. Start naming names: Who has one?

There is a famous singer that has one. And she's — no, I can't. I can't name names. We've got developers, people in government, entertainers.

You're killing me.

I can't. Sorry.

What's the biggest thing you've put underground?

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We had one person who did a lot of entertaining, so she had a lot of catering trucks delivering floral arrangements, and she didn't want to see that in her driveway. So they'd drive the trucks onto the lift and they'd drop off everything in the basement.

So how is Oprah doing these days?

Sorry. I don't know that we've ever sold to Oprah.

What would you qualify as an over-the-top use of your technology?

One man had a giant outdoor grill that was blocking his view of the ocean, so we built a lift that dropped it out of sight.

I would have gone for a see-through grill. Or maybe not. So you don't just do cars?

We can do anything. If you've got 747s, we could work something out.

You're in luck. I have two.

Great. I don't believe we've done a personal plane lift before.

What's the most over-the-top lift you've done for a car?

One gentleman wanted his trophy car displayed behind his downstairs bar, so he'd drop the Maserati into his basement and drive it into his man cave.

How about a Bat Cave — can you work that out?

What do you mean, "Work that out?"

O.K., I'll say it: I want a Bat Cave.

We'd work with an architect and a builder who'd structure the cave. We'd just be the lift.

Just? That's the coolest part of it.

You know, people love their cars, their homes, but they really get excited about this toy. You can buy it for safety, or convenience. But when the neighbors come over and watch your car go up and down, that's kind of neat.

That brings up an important point. It's kind of hard to show off.

Especially since the garage needs to be closed when you use it, for safety reasons.

Information: (877) 333-9334 or vasari-lifts.com.

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