



ATHERTON UNDERGROUND: COLLECTIBLE CAR GARAGES

By Sean Supple

A therton residents thinking (or dreaming...) about a collectible car garage must first decide, where. Some build free standing garages (or car barns), like this one with arched roof timbers, or they convert rooms in their homes to garage space, or they build underground, perhaps with a car elevator. If space is a premium, many stack cars on lifts, doubling the capacity.

Completely stand alone, this car barn has an elevated walkway for viewing, custom lighting, and an indoor hand-laid brick floor. Notice that there's little ingress for ultra-violet light - the enemy of exterior paint and interior leather. Garages like these can be built from steel, heavy timber, recycled wood, and even stone, depending on your taste. Some collectors want a kitchenette, bathroom, humidor, game room, office, an indoor car wash, dehumidifiers, entertainment systems, Wi-Fi, video and motion sensors, and a place for tools and extra parts.

With limited space, some collectors build underground and use elevators and spinning turnstiles to move cars. Even more so than above ground stand-alone garages, underground garages require even



Car barn. Photo by Daniel Contelmo Jr.

more attention to temperature, humidity, ventilation, fire suppression, firewalls, and security.

Once we're done building the fun begins. www.garageart.com has a wide variety of memorabilia for foreign and domestic cars. www.collectorstudio.com has a great collection of automotive art and obscure pieces, like original Ferrari luggage, old timing watches, and racing trophies from bygone days.

Sean Supple - the exclusive provider of contractor/building editorial for *Atherton Living* - is the founder and owner of Supple Homes, specializing in additions, remodels, and whole house design/build, adept at any style - traditional, craftsman, Mediterranean, contemporary, and modern farmhouse. See more at supplehomesinc.com, or call Sean at 650-380-9352. ■



American Custom Lifts builds push-button car elevators. This one is called the Phantom-Park Subterranean. See more at aclifts.com. Photo provided by ACL.

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