



MAKE YOUR HOUSE A
home



Conversations involving the property market are never ones of great positivity. Research has suggested that moving house is one of the most stressful events of your life. But what happens if you don't need to move? **Zara de Haldevang** investigates Metropolitan Basements to discover an ingenious solution

Steven McDicken is an artist in his own right. Having reinforced the Marron Civil Engineering Group's campaign throughout London with their Metropolitan Basements brand, Steven is now renowned for being one of the leading basement builders in the city. It is safe to say that this man has perfected the art of creating something magical out of what was once previously unused space. If you cannot build up and out, Steven will show you a way to build downwards, thereby adding a new dimension to your house, a new value on your property and, perhaps most importantly, an extra personal mark on you home.

Steven, a quantity surveyor, and his business partner Colin, an engineer, are embarked on a mission to consolidate their position as the alternative, credible force in basement construction.

Every build of Metropolitan Basements is treated individually with tailor-made precision and care. A notable favourite for Steven is a recent build in Chiswick: an impressive conversion of an old garage into four separate basements. Not only was this refurbishment a very special example of remarkable engineering skill, but also Eugene Brady, the property developer of Create and Construct who purchased the garage, took the initiative to show that there is more to a property than initially meets the eye. What made this build particularly distinctive was its magnitude and the fact that, in order to start the project, the building had to be approached from all angles.

The project had already been granted permission for building work; by fast tracking the paperwork process, it gave the professionals more time to discuss the most appropriately cost-effective and economical scheme for the project. Every build is a careful process. No corners can be cut, no steps can be missed and with every old building, the reality that the foundations can move must always be taken into consideration. The results of this project are phenomenal. Not only did it have a huge impact on the value of the property but it created an extra 900 square feet inside the building (the size of two or three bedroom house).

The extra space has no limits. Whether it is an escape for the parents, a hideaway for the children or a place for guests to relax, the soundproof basements create additional living, however the clients wish it. London residents can shut out the bustling city life and venture into a sanctuary in their own home. Steven freely admits that having a basement of his own would be ideal. A basement to him is like a "free piece of land". Clients who once had the misconception that all basements are dark and dingy, are taken to the Chiswick build where their preconceptions are dramatically altered to realise that a basement is an integral part of the house.

In the past few months, house sales have increased significantly. Steven is often met with the families stuck in the same scenario,



where they have no desire to move yet extra space is now a necessity. Metropolitan Basements can give you double the space for half as much as a standard move. In simple numerical figures, it would cost you half a million to upgrade but a quarter of a million to stay and gain the same space. A house with a Metropolitan Basement can increase the value of the property by at least 30%, whether it's sold in a year or thirty years.

Vine wanted to get to the heart of Steven's passions. It was refreshing to meet a man who believes so much in his company. Perhaps after others read this, it will compel those, who have once been hesitant in the past, to go with their instincts and create a place they can truly call their own..



Unit 39, Sheraton Business Park, Wadsworth Close, Greenford, UB6 7JB. Call **0845 402 6799** or visit www.metropolitanbasements.com