

# The mega-luxe 'SHOW GARAGE' is now officially a thing

Forward-thinking architects are reinventing your parking  
space as the coolest room in the house

**+** Matt Fajkus  
Architecture designed  
a cantilevered living  
space to frame the  
car collection of a  
pair of former racers  
in Austin, Texas

Photographs Charles Davis Smith; Jeremy Witte



It's the epitome of a First World problem: if you own a beautiful car, and therefore wish to keep it in a garage, you can't lovingly gaze upon it. The struggle is real!

For proof, consider the increasing demand for elaborate (read: expensive) architectural solutions. In response to the boom in car collecting spurred by the ever-increasing prices being achieved by rare autos, designers are showering attention on that most under-loved of rooms: the garage. For time immemorial this has been an undefined space – part of the house, but also kind of not – which is why it has been adapted for so many different things over the decades (rehearsal space, start-up HQ, maker lab). Now, it is being reinvented as a new typology in its own right.

Exhibit A: the Autohaus in Austin, Texas. This turns the natural hierarchy of rooms on its head, putting the garage at the heart of proceedings – the other rooms all have sight-lines down to the cars within. Designed by Matt Fajkus Architecture for a pair of racing drivers-turned-car collectors, the two-storey property features cantilevered living quarters that create a space outside for showcasing a vehicle outdoors, sculpture-style.

It's a building-scale riff on the "show garage" trend that has come to the fore in recent years. In its simplest form this is about replacing the connecting wall between garage and living space with glass – as with the Couto Homes-designed show garage for a BMW aficionado in Granbury, Texas (*below*). More elaborate versions include car lifts that elevate your precious ride into an indoor "garage" space within the main house. You've got just the spot, right? **CB**

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**The Autohaus  
upturns the  
hierarchy of  
rooms, putting  
the garage at  
the heart**

