

## Fossil way

### We recommend this space for

- Weddings and private parties
- Evening events
- Christmas parties

### Guest numbers

Dinner: 200

Reception: 400

Fossil way, part of the Waterhouse building, has beautiful architecture and some of the most complete fossils of prehistoric sea animals in the world.

Guests can dine with a view of the giant sloth<sup>1</sup> and next to fossils that have inspired stories of sea dragons. From the gallery there is direct access to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, a perfect add-on for guests to explore.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/business-services/venue-hire/venues/fossil-way.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/business-services/venue-hire/venues/fossil-way.html)

1. *pareseux géant*

## **File 2 p. 33 • A huge public art installation**

During the construction and refurbishment<sup>1</sup> of their new creative studio and offices, Squire and Partners used their building site as an opportunity to create a largescale interactive public street art and skateboard installation along the entire length of the pedestrianised Stockwell Avenue in Brixton, London.

Featuring several original works by local Brixton artists, the project also invited the community to contribute their own artwork with chalk, paints and stickers, creating a unique exhibition that changed over the course of the installation.

The project explored the dynamic relationship people have with public spaces, encouraging them to interact with this previously unwelcoming alley and with each other, transforming it into a large-scale canvas for everyone to enjoy and celebrating the local culture of the area.

*demagazine.co.uk, 2017*

**1.** restoration

## File 2 p. 34 • Who owns London's parks?

Despite being the metropolitan hub<sup>1</sup> of the UK, London is surprisingly green – 47% green, in fact. Home to around 8m trees, the city has even been classified as a forest. It's no surprise, then, that London's parks are central to the lives of many of its residents – myself included.

Many of London's most famous parks are royal: Bushy Park, Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park, Richmond Park, and St. James's Park are all owned by the Crown Estate. Many of these were historically owned by the Royal Family for recreation, deer<sup>2</sup> hunting and the like. These days, they've been opened to lucky commoners like you and I, but only by the grace and favour of our ruling family.

Haydon Etherington, *citymetric.com*, 2018

1. centre 2. *cerf*

**File 2 p. 35 • Number 11**

Introduction: Rachel, a maid, is having a discussion with the architect, Mr Blake, about the architectural plans for the house.

‘Here’s the first floor,’ he said. ‘That’s where they keep the cars, as you know. And here’s floor number two, which is going to be the children’s playroom, with a full-size bowling alley. Underneath that is the cinema. Then the gymnasium. And then we have the piece de résistance—the swimming pool. Which is going to take up the next three floors.’

‘Three floors? Why three?’

‘Because she wants a diving board. A high one. And palm trees. Palm trees!’ He began to laugh, almost hysterical.

‘We’re going to have to get palm trees in there.’ Soon, he had started shaking again, but with a few more sips of tea he managed to compose himself, and then pointed at the next level. ‘So now we’re down to level eight, which is the wine cellar. Temperature-controlled, of course. Level nine is the vault<sup>1</sup>. A secure vault. You’re going to need to take a special lift to get to that one, the normal lift won’t be stopping there. Level ten—well, lucky you, that’s where you lot are going to be living. That’s the staff quarters<sup>2</sup>.’

‘You mean we won’t be living in the house anymore?’

‘Not above ground, no. You’d better forget about natural daylight, because you won’t be seeing much of that when this job’s finished.’

‘OK,’ said Rachel. ‘And what about this one?’ She pointed at the lowest level on the drawing. ‘Number Eleven. What’s going there?’

‘Number Eleven?’ He laughed. ‘That’s the one she told me about this morning. Number Eleven is new. She’s only just asked for it.’

‘So—what’s it for?’

‘Nothing. She can’t think of anything that she wants it for.’

Rachel frowned. ‘So why are you digging<sup>3</sup> it? Why does she want it?’

'She wants it,' said Mr Blake, 'because she can have it, because she can afford it. And because... I don't know... because no one else has an eleventh floor in their basement? Or she's just heard about somebody who has ten and she wants to go one better? Who knows? She's mad.'

Jonathan Coe, *Number 11*, 2015

1. *salle des coffres*

2. living areas

3. *creuser*

## **File 2 p. 41 • London's mega basements**

As London's very wealthy homeowners run out of space in their mansions, they're no longer trying to add additional floors. Instead, they're looking down. In the past decade, so-called "mega-basements" have gained popularity among London's floor-space-hungry elite. [...]

These billionaire basements are causing disagreements between neighbours over noisy construction work and, in some cases, cracks in walls.

Last year, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page criticized singer Robbie Williams' plans to upgrade his \$25 million mansion in Holland Park; Williams was forced to scale back plans for a two-storey basement extension.

Joan Collins, the actress, has also complained about them, telling a local magazine that she found it "shocking that people are digging down to put in swimming pools and bowling alleys when they only live here for two or three months of the year."

Some neighbourhoods are doing more than just complaining to the press. In December 2014, officials in Kensington and Chelsea limited the scale of basement development, arguing that many of its residents "have experienced years of misery from noise, vibration, dust and construction traffic."

This included a reduction in the maximum extent basements can stretch under the garden, from 85% to 50%, with that 50% being in most cases a single storey (although there are exceptions for large sites). At the end of last year, Westminster confirmed it would limit the size and depth of basement construction. [...]

Robert Davis, Westminster Council's deputy leader, told *The Daily Mail*, "Our residents have been facing an underground epidemic on their quiet residential streets, and I want to help stop the horror stories of people living next to mega-basement construction."