



# Start-up company pioneers solution for squeeze on living space

By John Lawrence

A young company based in the top floor of a house in Durham Road, N2, is hoping its revolutionary method for creating affordable garden basements will help to ease the growing pressure on living spaces in big cities like London.

Buzz Technology is pioneering an excavation technique to create sunken pods or rectangular room-shaped basements to work and live in, using its own electrically powered robot that is faster, quieter and more environmentally friendly than traditional diggers. The robot works by having a number of excavation arms that rotate around a central pole. Earth is dug and simultaneously transported away by in-built conveyors

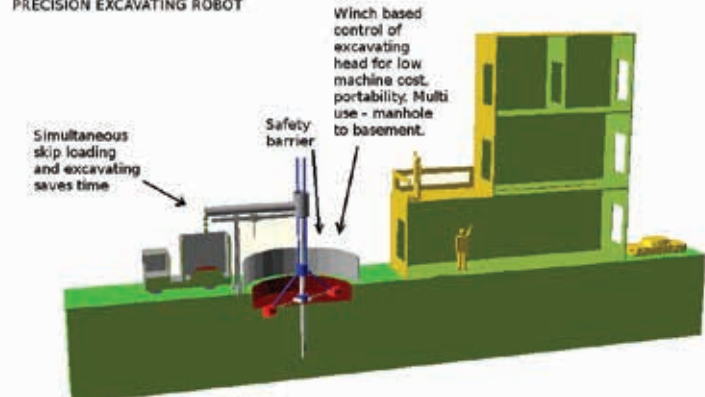
on materials.

## Natural light

Senake said: "I was lucky enough to work on an innovative 52 town house project in New Jersey in the US. Those properties featured full height atriums and glass floors that we have adopted in our design, to allow natural light to flood into even the multilevel below-ground spaces that our robot will create."

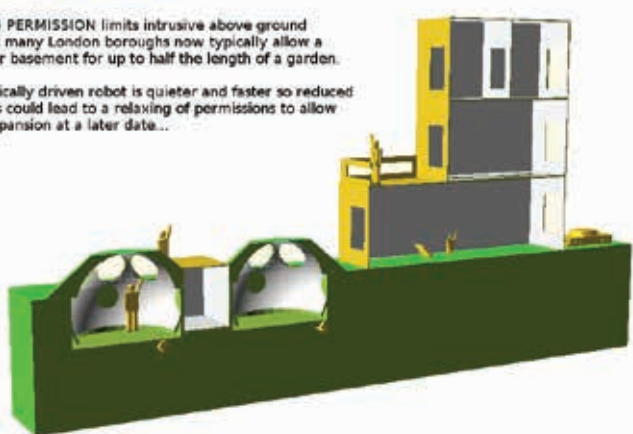
He believes the garden living and bedroom spaces

PRECISION EXCAVATING ROBOT



PLANNING PERMISSION limits intrusive above ground builds, but many London boroughs now typically allow a single floor basement for up to half the length of a garden.

Our electrically driven robot is quieter and faster so reduced complaints could lead to a relaxing of permissions to allow further expansion at a later date...



Basement living: How the sunken areas could look.

to waiting skips, saving time and eliminating the need to backfill.

## Be the first

Buzz Technology was founded by electrical engineer Senake Atureliya and three colleagues. Specialist advisors to their idea include two architects, a firm of structural engineers and a property developer.

The company hopes to contact homeowners in the East Finchley area who might be interested in being a pilot site for their first project. In return for using the finished result as a showcase, the company will offer assistance through a mortgage finance provider and significantly reduced costs

created could be rented out as affordable, self-contained accommodation and are also ideal for young people who have returned to live with their parents.

Senake added: "Whilst we aim to record the build on film, ideally we would also like to work with someone who would be happy to open their garden basement to visitors, say once per fortnight in the year after the build completes, so that we can use it as a showcase site to onboard more customers and investors."

Find out more about the company at [www.buzz-technology.co.uk](http://www.buzz-technology.co.uk) or contact Senake directly on 07958 933248.



Best cellar: The new interior of the Finchley Wine Store

# No sour grapes from long-standing wine merchants

By Diana Cormack

With Sainsbury's Local opening opposite the long established Finchley Wines on the High Road, it was rumoured on the grapevine that the off-licence would close. However this proved to be untrue, with the family run business established by Mr H S Virdee in 1993 deciding to rebrand itself instead.

The interior now has a thoroughly modern look and the business is concentrating prin-

cipally on wine, having shelves well stocked with produce from a variety of vineyards. The exterior is taking on a new look with a change of name sign on the off-licence.

Brothers Pup and Raj offer wine-tasting sessions and have other interesting ideas on tap to enable their clientele to appreciate, enjoy and learn about the drink. There is also enough

space for the linked pop-up events they envisage holding in future.

Pup told us he was not put out by the arrival of Sainsbury's. Indeed he is pleased that both sides of Leicester Road and its corner with the High Road have been given a new lease of life by the opening of the supermarket and their own Finchley Wines revamp.

## Free music on a Sunday evening

Keep an eye (and ear) open for the regular series of free music concerts hosted monthly by East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, N2.

This month's concert takes place on on Sunday 10 February (see What's On, p10 for details). There is always free admission, usually with a voluntary collection in aid of charities and good causes. The church is also a fully accessible venue.

A friendly welcome awaits you

## EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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