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## Posh developments are now using robot valets

By Mark Ellwood  
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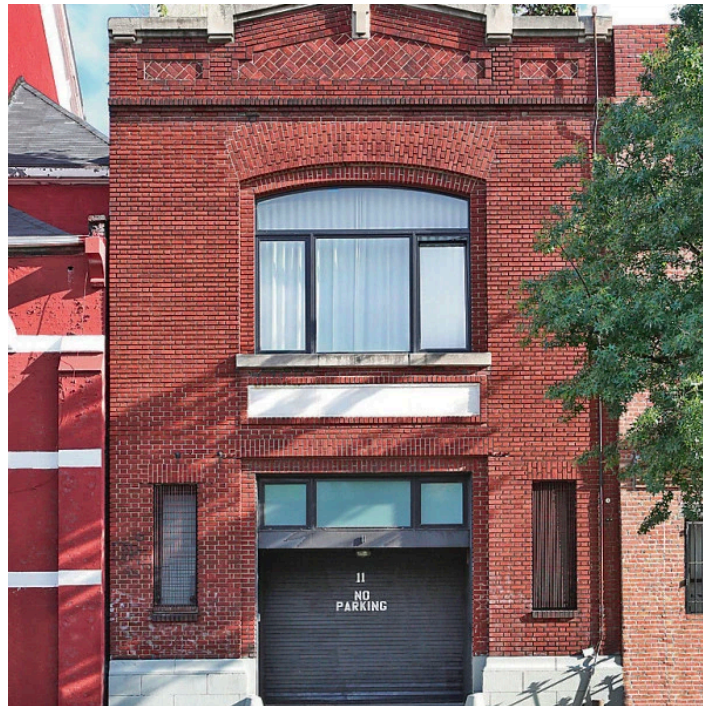
*The automated parking system at 565 Broome treats pricey whips like rare works of art, showcasing them in an above-ground glass enclosure. Tom Grimes*

**T**hese days, developers won't dare offer your car a home that isn't as swanky as your own — call it an autominium.

The garage in the Zaha Hadid-designed 520 West 28th is operated directly by the building, rather than a subcontractor, which ensures both white-glove service and A-list-worthy security for (reported) residents such as Ariana Grande. Its fully automated robotic parking system is a relief to buyers with pricey vehicles. “Collectors think, ‘The idea of someone else handling my car scares me,’” says Corcoran’s Julie Pham, the superagent who handles the building. Compare that with the automated parking system

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inside the Renzo Piano-designed 565 Broome nearby, which turns those Teslas and Ferraris into museum pieces, showcasing them in an above-ground glass enclosure so passersby can watch as they're hoisted into a climate- and humidity-controlled hideaway.



*The garage at Brooklyn's 11 Scholes Street doubles as a luxe man cave. Tom Grimes*

"AAA says that more than half of all accidents are caused during backing up, so [robotic parking] is cheaper than putting dents in your car," says Bill Schwenker, president of CarTurner, which produces the turntables used in these upscale autominiums. The process also allows cars to be parked closer together, saving precious square footage.

In single-family homes, garages are serving double duty as modern man caves. Take the converted firehouse at 11 Scholes Street in Williamsburg, where onetime horse-and-carriage stables have been converted into a massive garage with 13-foot-tall ceilings and a wall of natural light; there's room for a supersize SUV and several motorbikes, as well as those who want to sit and admire them. The 80-foot-long space is aimed at an arty gearhead, though: The pièce de résistance is its own onsite photo studio.

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