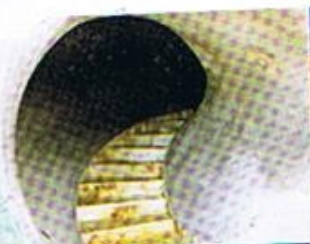




Property news



Views of this original Bubble Home in the South of France

PROPERTY

Space-age home

Hidden in the hills above the Riviera coast, this modern place will whet the appetite of any sci-fi or James Bond fans. Designed in the 1970s by architect Anti Lovag, the Bubble House is made up of a series of semi-spherical pods, linked together to form an open, marble-covered living space and lit from above through a series of port-hole-like skylights. With 850 square metres of living space set in 17 acres of land planted with palm trees, the home, now an officially listed building, has played host to magazine fashion shoots and movie scenes. But it's now in need of renovation, building and decoration work, and the pool also needs some attention.

Although works are expected to cost close to 1 million euros (£700,000), the price of the renovated property is likely to be at least double the current asking price of 3 million euros (£2,080,000). The home is close to the traditional hilltop village of St-Paul-de-Vence and is surely a mere drop in the ocean for a die-hard fan of modern living.

- Attika International: 00 33 4 93 44 67 01
- www.attikainternational.com; info@attikainternational.com



INTERIORS

Tile be back

To add that perfect finish to your French home, tile in style with the range of top quality stone tiles from Como Stone. The company, set up on Lake Como in Italy 16 years ago and now run by Steve and Denise Turner, has outlets in Berkshire and on the Côte d'Azur, and the couple specialise in sourcing top quality marble limestone and travertine for the ideal look, inside or out.

Como Stone already supplies bespoke tiles to various designers, developers and architects, but also welcomes customers who can buy direct via their website, where you can also get advice on the best stone to suit your project.

- Como Stone: 08456 122288 or 00 33 4 93 11 42 60
- www.comostone.com



Stone tiling lends style to your French home



FINANCE

Sipps information

A recent change in the law means that from April 2006, you will be able to use equity released from pensions in property. SIPPs (Self-Invested Personal

Pensions) have always had restrictions on how the money can be used, but now they can be invested in property at home or abroad, or in buy-to-let investments.



Simon Conn, of Conti International Services, offers advice on making the most of your SIPPs under the new rules

Simon Conn, director of Conti Finance Services, tells *French Magazine*, "In the past SIPPs were tightly regulated, being limited to stocks, shares and unit trusts. But the proposal is that from next year investors can also add a range of other assets, including property in the UK and abroad. The only restriction is that the owner of the SIPP cannot reside in the property unless commercial rent is paid."

This is likely to have a telling effect on foreign property markets. "The proposal is that SIPPs owners will consider buy-to-let property overseas," he continues, "giving the opportunity for capital appreciation and rental income."

Yet another excuse to look to France for that second home, then!

- Contact Conti: 01273 772811
- www.mortgagesoverseas.com