

London's thinnest house sells for \$1.3 million

11th February, 2021



Image - Winkworth

Even though house prices are sky-rocketing around the world, one property's price tag in London is raising eyebrows. A house billed as "the skinniest" in London is on the market for \$1.3 million. In other areas of the UK, one could purchase a spacious seven-bedroom mansion with sprawling grounds for that sum. However, the skinny house is just 2 metres wide, although it does have five floors. The two-bedroom house is in west London and is being sold by real estate agent Winkworth. The agent said: "It started life as a hat shop and was converted by a fashion photographer - the ultimate designer house....It's quirky and charming and great for entertaining."

The eye-catching property is just 1.6 metres at its narrowest point and is 8 metres long. There is a kitchen, dining room and patio garden on the first floor. On the second floor there is a living room, with a spiral staircase that leads up to the third floor, which has a study, bedroom and roof terrace. The main bedroom is on the fifth floor. Despite its cramped space, Winkworth says it is a one-of-a-kind abode. It said: "The interior design has the bespoke approach of a luxury yacht, making the most of small spaces." It added that: "The house is ideal for a young couple or an individual who sees the beauty for what it is and will snap it up. It is a unique part of London history. It's a bit of London magic."

Sources: livemint.com / cnn.com / thesun.co.uk

Writing

All house prices should be fair and set by the government. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

house prices / sky-rocketing / eyebrows / spacious / mansion / skinny / hat shop / kitchen / dining room / staircase / terrace / luxury / yacht / young couple / magic

True / False

- a) The article says house prices are sky-rocketing around the world. T / F
- b) The house for sale in London has seven bedrooms. T / F
- c) The house for sale in London is five floors high. T / F
- d) The house in London used to be a tie shop. T / F
- e) The skinny house is 8 metres in length. T / F
- f) The house has a spiral staircase that connects two of the floors. T / F
- g) The agent said the house is good for old people. T / F
- h) The agent said a magician used to live in the house. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. sky-rocketing | a. perfect |
| 2. spacious | b. extending |
| 3. sprawling | c. method |
| 4. real estate | d. distinctive |
| 5. quirky | e. roomy |
| 6. eye-catching | f. charm |
| 7. cramped | g. eccentric |
| 8. approach | h. shooting up |
| 9. ideal | i. confined |
| 10. magic | j. property |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the good and bad things about a five-storey house?
- c) Is it better to have a spacious house?
- d) Would you like a bespoke house?
- e) What do you think of your current abode?
- f) What is your ideal house?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the real estate agent?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. house prices are sky-rocketing | a. "the skinniest" in London |
| 2. raising | b. of London history |
| 3. A house billed as | c. and charming |
| 4. a spacious seven-bedroom mansion | d. staircase |
| 5. It's quirky | e. eyebrows |
| 6. The eye- | f. kind abode |
| 7. a spiral | g. around the world |
| 8. it is a one-of-a- | h. of small spaces |
| 9. making the most | i. with sprawling grounds |
| 10. a unique part | j. catching property |

Discussion – Student B

- What are property prices like in your town?
- What do you think of a house that is 2 metres wide?
- What was the last thing that made you raise your eyebrows?
- Is it better to own your own house or rent?
- Would you like a seven-bedroom mansion?
- Would you like to live in the property in the article?
- What is the best city to live in?
- How would you describe your house?

Spelling

- raising swreyobe
- a oussicap seven-bedroom mansion
- lsrwqianp grounds
- ortecvned by a fashion photographer
- the tumitale designer house
- It's kuyiqr and charming
- a pilsar staircase
- Despite its cdрмаep space
- the okpebse approach
- a luxury hacyt
- a young couple or an aivuiidnld
- a ieuqun part of London

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. e	4. j	5. g
6. d	7. i	8. c	9. a	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Living Room

You think the living room is the best room in the house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their rooms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the bathroom, the kitchen or the toilet.

Role B – Bathroom

You think the bathroom is the best room in the house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their rooms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the living room, the kitchen or the toilet.

Role C – Kitchen

You think the kitchen is the best room in the house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their rooms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the bathroom, the living room or the toilet.

Role D – Toilet

You think the toilet is the best room in the house. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their rooms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the bathroom, the kitchen or the living room.

Speaking – Rooms

Rank these with your partner. Put the best rooms at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Living room | • Kitchen |
| • Bedroom | • Dining Room |
| • Toilet | • Games Room |
| • Bathroom | • Study |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.