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## Weathering the storm

### HOME BUYERS' SURVIVAL GUIDE

TV's favourite property guru shares his tips on what to buy now and how to make sure your new home is as recession-proof as possible.

**Phil Spencer, pages 22-23**

FIONA MURRAY

### Gaze at the Thames from a golden tub in this £1.35m Da Vinci-inspired flat

A 'PART-HOME, part-exhibition' flat in Battersea with design inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's art is up for sale.

With a price tag of £1.35 million, the one-bedroom gallery home is the work of artist Mark Humphreys, who used a mix of materials to create his home of 20 years in the Montevetro Building on Battersea

Church Road. A set of panelled cabinet doors, hand-painted with 17 verre églomisé "dancing portraits", partition the living space from the bedroom. On the other side, there is a freestanding golden Cleopatra bathtub, right, looking out over the River Thames.



### Highest uptake in small solar power systems for five years in race to beat soaring energy bills

THE NUMBER of solar panel systems installed at UK properties leapt by 10 per cent, or 110,000, ahead of last month's energy price hikes, new analysis by Savills reveals. The year to the end of September saw the highest uptake in small-scale solar panel systems for five years.

Britain's privately owned housing stock is largely made up of draughty period properties, with 85 per cent of pre-war homes in England holding an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D or lower according to Savills' head of research, Lucian Cook. "Owners of older homes are increasingly looking at their energy source," Mr Cook said.