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May - July 2017





Bunkers scattered
across a hillside

VIVOS LUXURY SHELTERS

by Katherine Arteché

WORST CASE SCENERY

A COMFORTABLE SPACE TO CALL HOME
WHEN CATASTROPHE STRIKES



OCCUPANTS ARE GRANTED BESPOKE FITTINGS FOR THEIR TWO-STORY BUNKERS

ABOVE

An inspiration for the underground living quarters

RIGHT

Tunnelled entrance to a hidden fortress

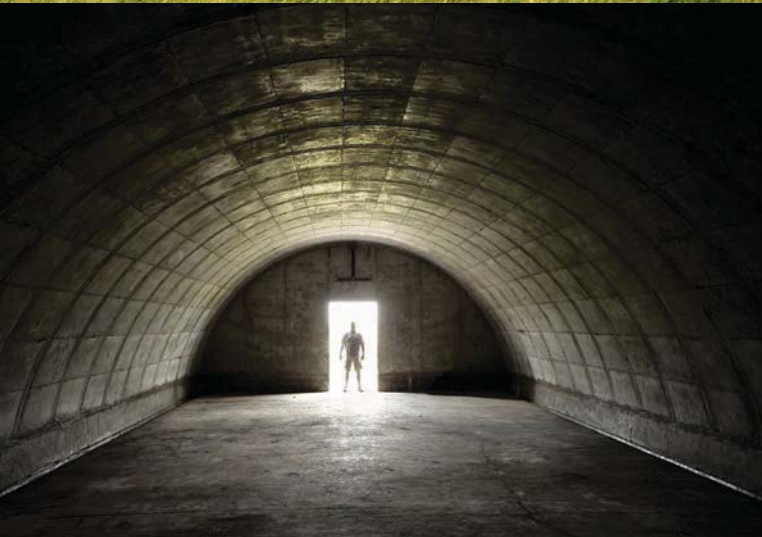
The German village of Rothenstein, where a Soviet-era underground complex is located

Dystopian and post-apocalyptic films have their own versions of doomsday. *Mad Max's* societal collapse, *2012's* geological calamity, and *Independence Day's* large-scale alien invasion are a few. You may not believe that the world's destruction will happen in this lifetime, but there are those among us who wouldn't be caught unprepared.

One fervent believer is Robert Vicino, founder and CEO of Vivos, a California-based company that specialises in creating underground shelters as a refuge from cataclysm. His mantra: "We can't stop the threats, but we can protect you from them." Events in recent years, such as hurricanes shutting down major cities, bolster Vicino's case. After all, Vivos Shelters are built to withstand volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and man-made threats such as nuclear explosions and terrorist attacks. The company says some of these fortresses were built by governments during the Cold War.

Vivos offers various shelter concepts, ranging from co-owned spaces to private fortified complexes. The largest of the latter is Vivos Europa One, carved out of bedrock underneath a 122-metre tall mountain in Germany.






Shelters across the USA and Europe come with different configurations and customisation options

Measuring over 21,000 sqm underground, the facility comprises a common area and 34 private living quarters, each of which can house a family. The compound can be navigated using continuous tunnels that collectively measure five kilometres long. Currently operational, the facility is said to be capable of withstanding close-impact disasters such as airliner crashes and floods, as well as electromagnetic pulses and biological and chemical agents.

Occupants are granted bespoke fittings for their two-story, 232-sqm bunkers, including additional facilities, such as swimming pools, gyms and home theatres. Upon interior completion, Vivos will extend its concierge services to constant upkeep and maintenance until lockdown during a catastrophe. When such a time comes,

the company will dispatch helicopters to fetch shelter owners from nearby airports and transport them to their bunkers, safe and secure behind tunnels, blast doors, rock walls and all.

Clients may also have a shelter built on their own land, or under their houses. These, as well as other Vivos shelters, will be retrofitted with systems for ventilation, sewage, and power and water generation, as well as biological, chemical and radiation air filtration. They will also come with medical centres and food supplies.

While one may still be weighing the necessity — or even plausibility — of it all, Vicino believes the time for deliberation has passed. He says: “People don’t believe something will happen, until it does.” 



VIVOS EUROPA ONE IS CARVED
OUT OF BEDROCK UNDERNEATH
A 122-METRE TALL MOUNTAIN

