# Victorian flat in Brockley sparks safety fears with unguarded staircase opening



A striking Victorian flat in Brockley, South London, has attracted significant attention due to a peculiar feature that many potential buyers deem alarming. Listed at £500,000, the two-bedroom property seems to offer the quintessential London living experience with its modern interior and stylish aesthetics. However, the startling absence of safety features surrounding a large open space—commonly perceived as a 'death trap'—has generated considerable concern among those who have encountered the listing.

Initially, the flat presents as a desirable option. The advertisement portrays a bright and fashionable top-floor space, complete with a sleek, neutral-toned kitchen and polish floorboards, indicative of its Victorian roots. Yet, the focal point of many potential buyers' trepidation lies in a vast, gaping hole that cuts through the middle of the living area, exposing a staircase leading to the floor below. The lack of a railing or any form of protective barrier around this opening has sparked outrage online, with comments ranging from disbelief to outright horror. "Deathtrap stairs to master bedroom. Yikes. How is there no railing around that??" one user commented, encapsulating the general sentiment expressed across social media.

Reactions were swift and pointed. Many viewers expressed concerns about the safety of such a design, with one individual quipping, "I’d be dead in a week if I lived there. How have they survived?" This mixture of incredulity and genuine fear reflects a growing trend among house hunters prioritising safety as a key criterion in their property searches. As more properties come onto the market without essential safety features, there’s a growing call in the community for stricter regulations governing residential designs to prevent such risky architectural decisions.

This Brockley flat, listed by Conran Estates on popular site Rightmove, positions itself within a neighbourhood acclaimed for its leafy boulevards and rich Victorian architecture. Such listings typically attract significant interest, particularly from first-time buyers eager to stake their claim in one of London’s more affordable boroughs, prior to the property boom pushes prices northward. Similar two-bedroom flats in the area have been reported at higher price points, such as one on St. Asaph Road priced at £825,000, underscoring the continuing demand for housing in this sought-after location. With various properties currently on the market, ranging from stylish apartments in Forest Hill to modern builds in Nunhead, prospective buyers have an array of choices.

Yet, the presence of questionable design features raises important questions about the real estate market. Is it enough to have a fashionable interior? Buyers increasingly demand both aesthetic appeal and safety compliance. The Brockley flat exemplifies a burgeoning tension between innovative design and practical living—a tension that buyers seem less willing to overlook today. In an age where health and safety standards are closely monitored, reactions to the property reveal that many house hunters are not content to sacrifice them for chic decor.

The listing has initiated a broader conversation about the expectations placed on property designs in London. As urban living continues to evolve with space limitations and unique architectural challenges, striking a balance between creativity and safety will become critical. While this flat may remain on the market for some time due to its 'wild' design choice, it serves as a cautionary tale for both sellers and potential buyers in the capital.

As the property landscape continues to change, so too will the demands of those looking for their dream homes. Safety should never be an afterthought, and the voices of concerned buyers echo a sentiment that resonates deeply in today's housing market: beautiful does not have to mean unsafe.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760817/London-flat-sale-500000-terrifying-feature.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/property/london/brockley/?pn=2)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760817/London-flat-sale-500000-terrifying-feature.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/Brockley/flats.html), [[5]](https://www.hamptons.co.uk/london/brockley-rail-station/sales/tag-flat)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.kfh.co.uk/south-east-london-and-north-kent/forest-hill/flats-for-sale/2300334/), [[6]](https://www.nestoria.co.uk/upper-brockley-road-se4/flat/sale)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14760817/London-flat-sale-500000-terrifying-feature.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/Brockley/flats.html> - This Rightmove page lists various flats for sale in Brockley, London, including a two-bedroom flat on St. Asaph Road priced at £825,000. The property features a modern living area and a sleek kitchen, situated within a traditional Victorian bay-fronted terrace. It's conveniently located just five minutes' walk from Brockley Station and nine minutes from Nunhead Station, both in Fare Zone 2. The listing was added on 29/03/2025 by Munday's, London.
3. <https://www.kfh.co.uk/south-east-london-and-north-kent/forest-hill/flats-for-sale/2300334/> - This KFH listing offers a two-bedroom ground-floor period apartment in Forest Hill, London, priced between £500,000 and £525,000. The property boasts a private front garden, a communal rear garden, and a spacious living room spanning 764 sq ft. It's chain-free and includes a freehold tenure. The nearest stations are Honor Oak Park (0.4 miles) and Forest Hill (0.6 miles). The listing provides additional details on council tax band and EPC rating.
4. <https://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/property/london/brockley/?pn=2> - Zoopla's Brockley property listings include a variety of flats for sale, such as a one-bedroom apartment on Upper Brockley Road priced at £350,000. The apartment offers a beautifully renovated interior with bare brick walls and is ideally located in the Brockley Conservation Area. The listing was added on 28th August 2024 and provides contact details for further inquiries.
5. <https://www.hamptons.co.uk/london/brockley-rail-station/sales/tag-flat> - Hamptons International presents a selection of flats for sale near Brockley Rail Station. Notable listings include a two-bedroom river-facing modern apartment on George Beard Road priced at £350,000, and a large ground-floor one-bedroom disabled access apartment on Copeland Road listed at £116,250. The listings provide detailed descriptions, including features, prices, and contact information for each property.
6. <https://www.nestoria.co.uk/upper-brockley-road-se4/flat/sale> - Nestoria's listings for Upper Brockley Road, SE4, feature properties like a two-bedroom apartment backing onto a communal garden, located on Wickham Road. The apartment is situated in the heart of the Brockley Conservation Area in South London and has been recently renovated to balance historic features with modern amenities. The listing includes images and contact details for further inquiries.
7. <https://www.onthemarket.com/details/13398312/> - OnTheMarket offers a one-bedroom flat on Upper Brockley Road, SE4, priced at £500,000. The apartment is located within an elegant Victorian residence in the heart of the Brockley Conservation Area. It features a bright and airy feel with wide sash windows overlooking a quiet, leafy street, and includes a private garden with climbing shrubs. The listing provides detailed descriptions and contact information for the agent.