WEEKEND

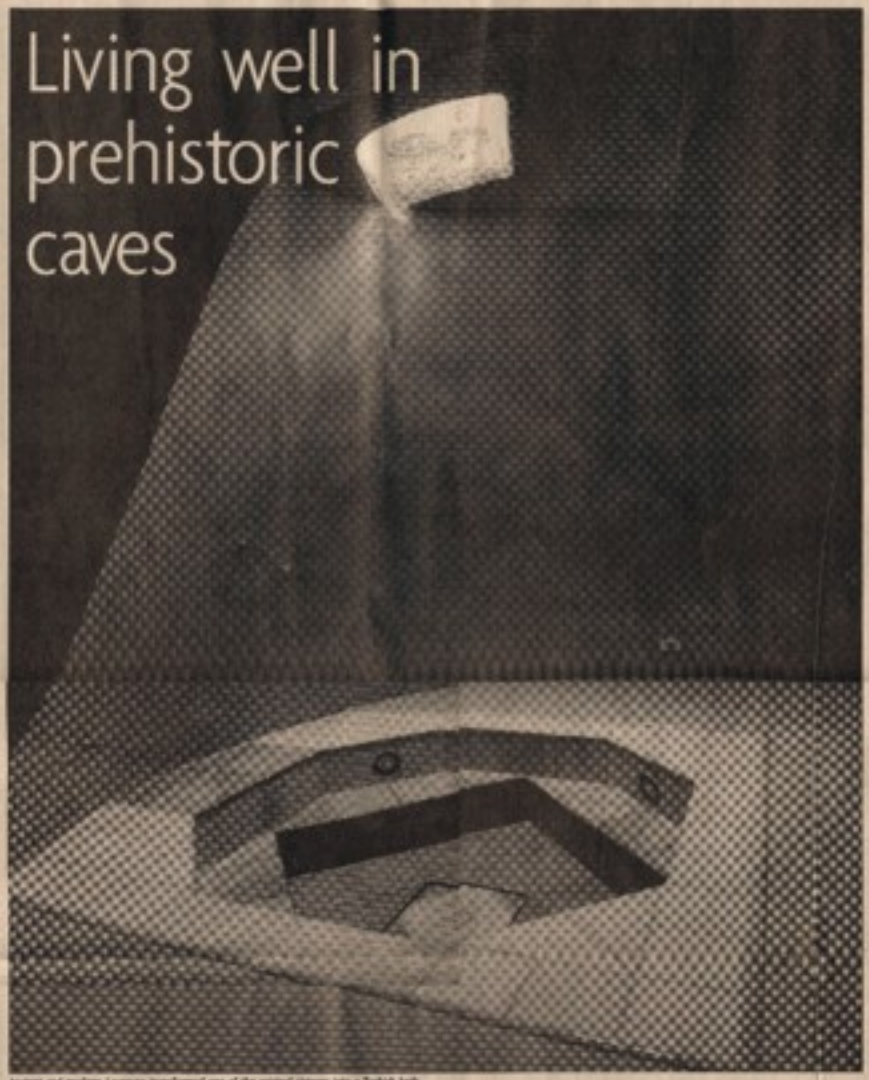
FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE | SATURDAY JULY 2/SUNDAY JULY 3 2005

HOUSE AND HOME

Living well in prehistoric caves

Emily Badcock explores a 4,000-year old Italian settlement re-colonised for the 21st century



Ancient and modern: Lorenzo transformed one of the original cisterns into a Turkish bath

To the elderly who lived in the Sassi until the 1950s, the area represented an infernal youth spent wedged into dark, airless dwellings

When the grotto's former residents came to visit, they were so amazed by the transformation (into a hotel area) that they wept