



Forbes: This Proposed Vending Machine Skyscraper Will Dispense 3D Printed Houses

The unique idea behind the building earned an honorable mention at eVolo Magazine's 2017 Skyscraper Competition.

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As demand for housing continues to climb in communities across the globe, the next generation of architects is pointing to the potential behind 3D printing as a solution.

According to Forbes, Haseef Rafiei, a Malaysian architecture student currently based in England, has proposed a skyscraper that doubles as commercial pods and a vending machine for 3D printed space. The skyscraper would serve as a frame for different modular homes, and would be printed in pods. First, you would need to decide on the number and type of pods that need to be printed. Then, you have to choose the location for the pod within the skyscraper. That order would then be sent to a large 3D printer located above the building, which will

produce the pods as they're requested. The skyscraper would then grow as more printing takes place.

David Farnsworth, a principal of renowned engineering and design consultancy Arup in New York, told Forbes, "This wouldn't just be a piece of real estate, but a fully expandable product that could meet local market demand."

However, despite that praise, Farnsworth recognizes that this project won't be built in the near future. But even though this type of building isn't viable right now—due to cost alone—3D printing is likely to disrupt the housing industry down the line.

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Photo courtesy of Haseef Rafiei.