



Knitted fibres

[Innovation](#) > [Sustainability](#) > [Architects use knitted fibres to make a building column](#)

ARCHITECTS USE KNITTED FIBRES TO MAKE A BUILDING COLUMN

 SUSTAINABILITY

A new process turns soft knitted fibres into hard materials that could be used in construction

Spotted: Architects [Bastian Beyer](#) and [Daniel Suarez](#) have turned soft knitted fibres into hard materials. These could potentially be used in construction to make spatial dividers, columns, roofs and walls. Here's how it works: a soft textile structure is sprayed with an active bacteria culture, which reacts to a secondary treatment, creating a **hard, useable building column**.

The work by Beyer, a researcher at London's Royal College of Art, and Suarez, is part of a larger project — [ArclnTex](#) — a training network of architects, designers, and textile makers working to create sustainable solutions for daily life.

4th February 2019

Email: bastian.beyer@rca.ac.uk

Website: www.rca.ac.uk

Contact: bastian.beyer@rca.ac.uk

Takeaway:

The construction industry is one of the biggest users of raw materials, and not particularly environmentally-friendly ones. In the UK, where the research took place, **construction accounts**

for 60 percent of all raw materials consumed, according to London-based design firm **Arup**. Pressure on the industry to replace landfill materials with organic biodegradable ones has led to a boom in building innovations over the past decade -- a trend that will surely continue.