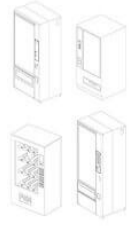




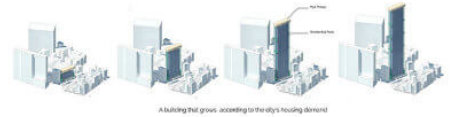
City's Affinity for Automata

Tokyo has long been the leading city for robotics and manufacturing. The city's fascination towards science and engineering has changed how society interact with machines. Its culture and social patterns have long revolved around its obsession with automation and a high regard for automated systems. The proliferation of vending machines in Tokyo is impossible to ignore. They are on nearly every block in Tokyo down alleyways, in front of convenience stores and almost in every neighbourhood. As a result, these machines have minimized the cost of human labour, eliminating the need for sales clerks. The Pod Skyscraper Machine explores the possibility of converting the real estate industry into an automated vending system.



Building on Demand

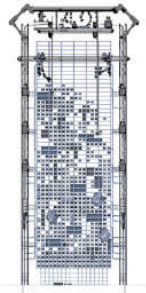
Abandonment of construction projects remains a serious problem in the construction industry. It results in the wastage of materials and resources. It affects not only the immediate house buyers but also other project owners and the general public. In some occasions, it also involves the use of public fund for the revival of abandoned projects. In response to the problem, the scheme proposes a building is constantly under construction. A tower that grows in parallel with the city's housing demand. Taking from the Japanese noun 'Wabi-sabi' the building remains an 'incomplete infrastructure' that changes and adapts over time.



A building that grows according to the city's housing demand

Proposal

A skyscraper that functions as a home dispenser. The building production method adopts an automated system. Ready-to-use pods are manufactured, plugged onto site and can be purchased instantly. A pod printer that 3D prints modular dwellings is installed above the building. The printer will dispense pods and will grow higher as the building grows. Inspired by a commonly used machine that dispenses nearly all of life's necessities for the people of Tokyo, this steel framed structure aims to house a large number of pods equipped with basic amenities for residential and commercial use. The building creates a system that calculates individuality as each pod can be customized differently according to user preference.



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POD SKYSCRAPER DESIGN IS A VENDING MACHINE FOR APARTMENTS



A totally new approach to building skyscrapers has been dreamt up that uses 3D printed reusable apartments.

Malaysian architect Haseef Rafiei was given an honourable mention at this year's eVolo Skyscraper Competition for his inventive Pod Skyscraper concept. Inspired by Japan's culture of automation, robotics and compact living, Haseef's design would see pod apartments being built by 3D printers and lowered down on top of each other by cranes.

It's an idea that takes the Nagakin Capsule Tower of the 1970s (in which each apartment is a module component) into the future, as the Pod Skyscraper will be far more automated and give customers more range of customizability. Each pod will be manufactured on site using 3D printers on the top floor of the structure, then once built will drop down onto the frame. Anyone familiar with the game Connect Four might see some resemblance in the structure.

Any pods that are no longer being used, or have fallen into disrepair, will be taken apart and lifted back up to the top for repair or just flattened and stored away. Pods can be designed for any use, be it apartments, office space, a gym – the options would be endless, and customers would be able to buy bigger slots in the tower to create bigger and more complex pods.

It sounds ingenious and very much suited to Japan's minimal-living culture. It also reminds us of the customizable All Go hotels and the stackable Pitch/Pitch sports fields. And while the Pod Skyscraper

does sound like something Japan might embrace, would the rest of the world warm to completely automated housing?

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