

Cross Current



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A Tower of Strength

The future of architecture is up in the air — the next generation of skyscrapers is on the way.

In the cities of Moscow and Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, construction is well underway on two Dynamic Towers conceived by architect David Fisher who says his buildings are, “*Designed by Life, Shaped by Time*”.

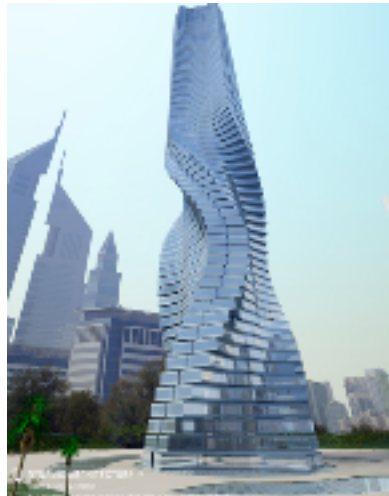
His are the world’s first moving skyscrapers. Since each floor of the towers is independent of all the others and rotates on a central concrete core, every level of the buildings can move at a different speed, in different directions, so the shape of the building is always changing.

That shape is determined by each floor’s direction and speed, with one rotation taking between 60 minutes and 24 hours. The floors are commanded by the architect, or anyone with the computer password.

Unlike conventional towers, these are assembled entirely in a factory, saving construction time, energy, and money while increasing worker safety. The prefab units are then moved onsite, hooked together mechanically and hoisted up the concrete core. Thanks to this new system, the buildings are much easier to maintain and repair.

Not only that, these dynamic towers take energy efficiency extremely seriously by generating electricity with wind turbines between each floor and solar panels on the roof. Each building is self-sufficient, powered by the wind and sun. Any energy surplus will be used to benefit surrounding structures.

Inside the towers, luxury villas are completely custom-made to re





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flect personal needs and preferences. Special elevators let residents take their cars directly to the entrance of their villas, on any floor.

When completed in 2010, the Moscow building will be 70 storeys high and the one in Dubai will have 80 floors. The next one will likely be in New York but interest is also high among investors in Canada, Germany and Switzerland, despite an estimated cost of \$700 million.

According to the architect, his design for the dynamic tower was inspired by the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who said, “Do not wait for the future to come to you... Face the future.” That’s good advice for each of us as we stand on the cusp of a new year.

And the best way to face the future is to be part of a strong, dynamic community where God is the central core around which each of our lives is built. We, too, are designed by Life and shaped by time. The key is to be shaped into the character of Christ.

That will happen best if we let God shape us where we are, then move us to where we need to be, connecting us to others in the church. When that church is what it should be — a loving, supportive family — each of us will have the freedom to move at our own speed and in the direction God calls us. When we’re anchored to his love and will, our growth will be controlled by the Architect of life itself. Then, even when we fail, our hearts will be easier to repair and maintain.

When the author and sustainer of the universe and beyond is at the centre of our lives, we find power for living in the energy of his Son and his Spirit, who is often likened in the Bible to the Wind. We can also use that power to benefit those around us.

Though God does expect us to be of one heart, mind and purpose in the church, he makes room for individual needs and preferences, and we must do the same for each other. Then those on the outside will see an active, energetic church, strong and uncompromising at the core but flexible and ever-changing to meet the tough challenges of the times.

“Praise the Lord who is my... tower of safety... Joyful indeed are those whose God is the Lord,” says Psalm 144:1,2,15. In the coming year, be safe, be strong, and be connected. You can’t do that on your own. So let God and his people take your faith to new heights.

