

Dutch city to unveil world's first 3D-printed housing complex

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The southern Dutch city of Eindhoven plans to unveil the world's first 3-D-printed housing complex next year, which its inventors believe could revolutionise the building industry by speeding up and customising construction.

Printed in concrete by a [robotic arm](#), the project backed by the city council, Eindhoven Technical University and several construction companies aims to see its first three-bedroomed home go up by June 2019.

Known as Project Milestone, a [housing](#) complex of five homes of various shapes and sizes will be built over the next three to five years, financed by [private investors](#), said Rudy van Gurp, one of the project's managers.

"This is just the beginning. It's revolutionary technology and a new way of building that will develop over time," he told AFP on Thursday.

One of the great advantages of 3-D-printing is that the pod-like homes can be completely customised—and even built around natural objects, said Van Gurp.

"Everything is possible, we can exactly fit the design to the area. We are guests in nature," he told AFP.

Apart from speeding up the building process—from months to

weeks—3-D-printing also solves another pressing issue: the scarcity of skilled artisans in the Netherlands, which drives up prices.

"In a few years we will not have enough craftsmen like masons for example. By introducing robotisation into the construction industry we can make homes more affordable in the future," said Van Gurp.

Currently the technique is still more expensive than traditional methods, prices are set to come down as 3-D technology improved, he added.

Hundreds of potential tenants have already expressed interest in the housing project, with monthly rental set to be between 900 to 1,200 euros (\$1,053 to \$1,400).

Using 3-D-printing "people have more influence on the design of their house and the way it is built," Eindhoven's deputy mayor Yasin Torunoglu told AFP.

"It will change the market and I guess it's a game-changing innovation," he said, as 3-D-printing continues to improve and become more popular.

Recently in France, the University of Nantes unveiled a single 3-D-printed [home](#) which now serves as social housing.

The Netherlands in October 2017 unveiled the world's first 3-D-printed bridge in Amsterdam.

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