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HOME & OUTDOORS 21 October 2016

'World's most sustainable residential tower' going up in London



The Beacon will feature a roof garden and, below, a living wall in the lobby

A new residential tower block, described as the 'the world's most sustainable', is set to open to residents in 2018. The Beacon is being built in Hemel Hempstead and has a vast range of eco credentials and smart design which apparently will save residents up to £11,000 a year in living expenses.

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'WORLD'S MOST



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They include (deep breath): the highest density solar farm in the world, with 0.8MW from less than half an acre; ground source heat pumps that will extract heat from the basement to heat water; the UK's tallest residential indoor arboretum; air source heat pumps that extract heat from the atrium in the centre of the building; quadruple-glazing on the upper-level flats and triple-glazing on all the others; MHVR systems for ventilation and heating in the flats; 100 per cent rainwater harvesting on the roof and balconies to flush toilets and irrigate plants in the arboretum and balconies; on-site waste compaction and recycling facilities; and thermal emissivity of less than 0.2W/M2K, which means it loses very little heat. Essentially the 'vast majority' of the The Beacon's heat and power needs will be generated by the building itself, which is pretty impressive.



THE BEACON
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The Beacon will also offer an in-house electric car and electric bike share scheme and will be walkable to Hemel Hempstead railway station and, potentially, a Crossrail 2 station, but if residents really feel the need for their own car they can look forward to parking it in the UK's largest underground automated robotic car park. The 319 parking spaces are packed into just half an acre which somehow reduces CO2 emissions by 80 per cent compared to a standard car park.

"Buildings are responsible for approximately 40 per cent of the world's harmful emissions and the World Health Organisation quotes air pollution as the number one risk to human health responsible for 7 million premature deaths worldwide," says Ambi Singh, Commercial Director of Lumiere Developments, developer of the project.

"Hence, it is our mission to promote large-scale uptake of emission-free renewable energy generation and simple energy conservation technologies within residential new-builds and old stock to significantly reduce emissions and by default help save lives. Using The Beacon as a blueprint for zero-carbon residential development, we will be rolling out this unique mixture of sustainable technology and building practice across our future projects."

The 17-storey Beacon will include 272 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom flats (from £217,950), plus a gym, communal roof garden, a bar area and even a cinema.



THE BEACON
EXEMPLAR LIVING



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