

G R E E N FURTURE

常州大学山书馆藏书章



©2013 by pace books limited isbn 978-988-16214-0-5

pace books limited RM 704, 7/F., Hong Kong arts centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong t: +852 2897 1688 f: +852 2975 3146 www.beisistudio.com booknews@beisistudio.com

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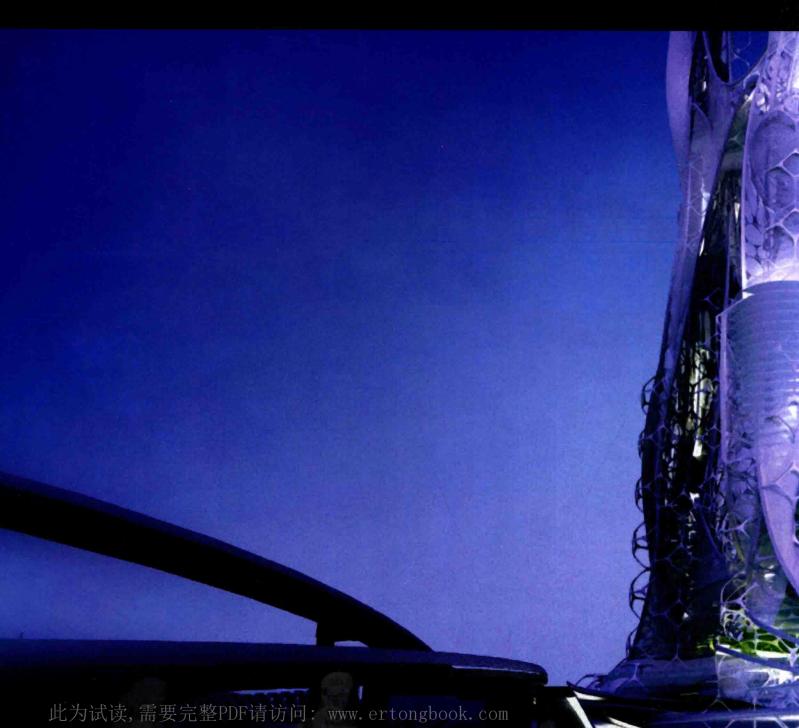
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Introduction





Ryszard Rychlicki & Agnieszka Nowak Rain Collector Skyscraper

Design: Ryszard Rychlicki and Agnieszka Nowak

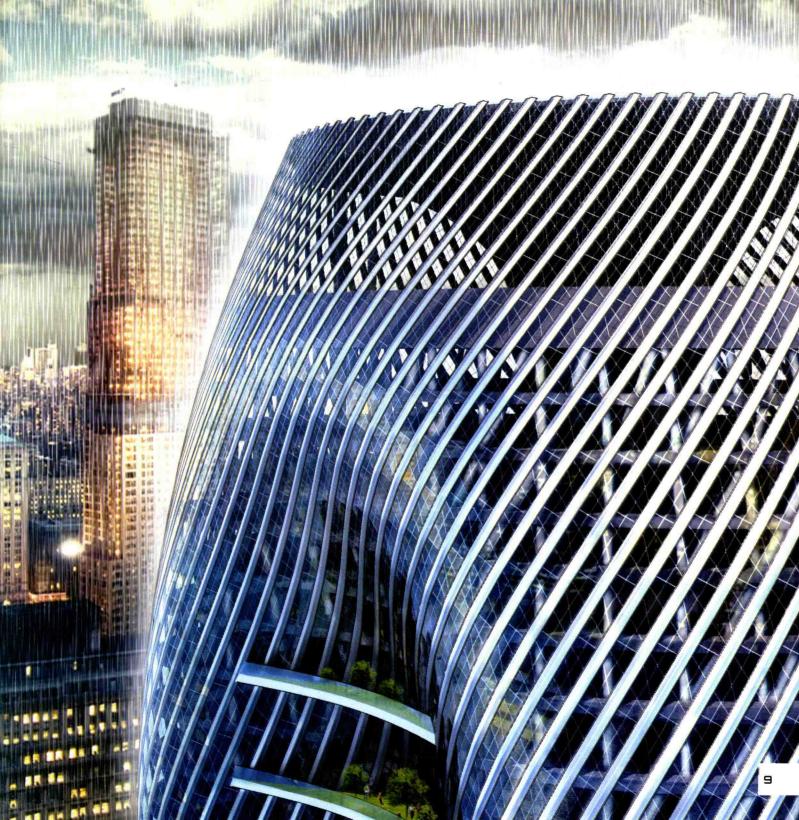
4th year students of architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan Poland

Awards: Special Mention, 2010 Skyscraper Competition eVolo **Images:** contributed by Ryszard Rychlicki and Agnieszka Nowak

The Rain Collector Skyscraper is a building whose roof and external shell are designed to capture as much rainwater as possible to meet the daily needs of its inhabitants.

Average daily water consumption per person is currently 150 liters, of which 85 liters could be replaced by rainwater. Within the last thirty years water consumption has significantly increased. There are many factors that have contributed to this increase, such as the growth of washing machines and dishwashers, garden sprinkler devices and flushing toilets. A third of the water used in households in western countries is flushed down toilets. Since 1900 the total water consumption in the US has increased by 1000%. At present, an average American uses five times more water than a citizen in a developing country. In Denmark, however, collecting rainwater for washing and watering plants is practically a national hobby. Within the last ten years the average consumption of drinking water in Denmark has dropped by 40% and inhabitants of the so-called 'eco-villages' consume a third of the national average. In view of these figures, the architects decided to design a tower whose structure would allow for capturing and processing as much rainwater as possible to provide water for its inhabitants. Inspired by the systems of capturing and processing rainwater which plants have developed over millennia to cope with water shortages and surpluses, the architects set out to copy these simple mechanisms. The starting point for the design was the shape of the roof, whose surface was modeled to capture as much rainfall as possible. Under the roof's surface, there are water reservoirs in the form of a large funnel and reed fields which serve as a botanic water treatment unit. The unit processes the water to make it usable before it is transmitted to the apartments.





A network of collectors on the exterior of the building is designed to capture rainfall flowing down the building. This rainfall is transmitted to each floor and any surplus is stored in a reservoir under the building. Water captured and processed by the building may be used for flushing toilets, washing clothes, watering plants, cleaning floors and other domestic applications.

