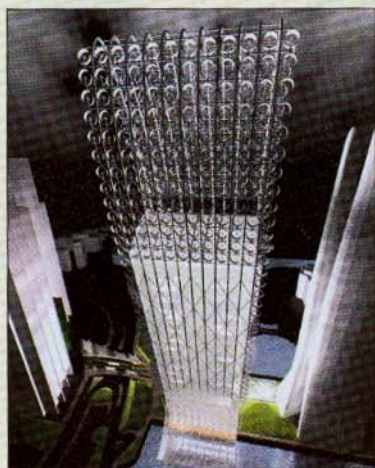


THE FUTURE IS LOOKING UP: DESIGNS BY TOMORROW'S ARCHITECTS

One of the most striking U.S. exports is the unimaginative rectangular skyscraper. The style—popularized by corporations in the 1960s and '70s—today dots skylines from Moscow to Mumbai. That lack of creativity troubles Antony Wood, visiting associate professor of architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology and executive director of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat in Chicago. So he's training future architects to think more broadly about the function and design of skyscrapers. He also holds an annual competition for students from IIT and the University of Nottingham in the U.K. to design buildings that are more appropriate to their surroundings, more environmentally sound and less conventional in function. Why not, he reasons, turn the side of a building into a rock-climbing wall, or add a charging station for electric cars? "We challenge conventional buildings on a number of levels," Mr. Wood says. Here's a sneak peek at the future of the skyscraper.

Sarah A. Klein



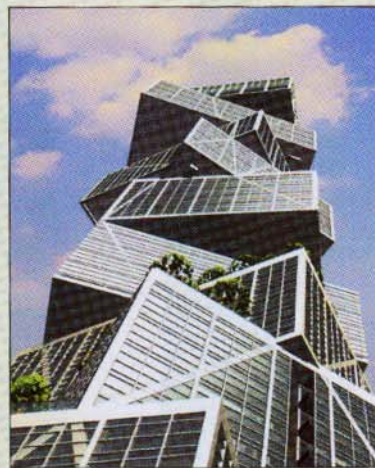
WIND FARM

This tower leans to shade itself from the sun and rises high enough to harvest wind for its turbines, cutting down on demand for outside energy. It was designed by students Adam Chambers and Alex Dale-Jones.



BUILDING AS FRAME

As cities become denser, they face the challenge of adding new buildings without obscuring the old ones. This design, by student Annette Ward, creates a frame around a church. One leg contains residences, the other office space. The former shades the latter from excessive sun, while gardens on the residential side reduce wind pressure.



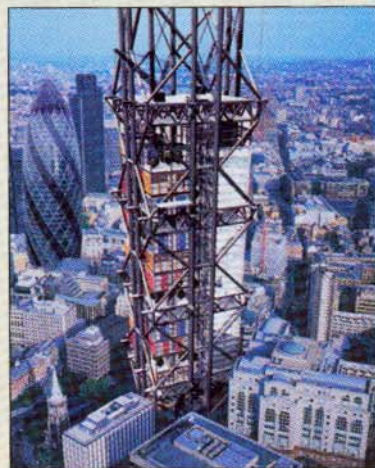
HIGH-RISE VILLAGES

Twisting, turning buildings are all the rage. This design, by student Eva Young, shifts the floor plate of its sections to optimize light and views. The residential sections are oriented to the sun. The office space is shaded from it. "The interesting thing about this is that each box is oriented to a different point in the city. They respond to more than the site just around them," says Philip Oldfield, research coordinator of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.



RIBBONS

The residential and office spaces in this design share the central core. The steel ribbons, which twist around them, help viewers distinguish the two. It was designed by student Anna Holden.



SKYFRAME

Most office buildings are past their prime after 30 or 40 years. With its steel frame, this building, designed by student Ahmed Barclay, is meant to be upgraded rather than replaced. "The idea is that the steel frame can last 200 years," Mr. Oldfield says. Because the office space has no load-bearing function, sections can be removed and updated without disrupting workers in other parts of the building.