



A rendering of the floating Krystall hotel beneath Norway's Northern Lights
Picture: Architect Koen Olthuis, developer Dutch Docklands

DESIGN PROPERTY & ARCHITECTURE TRAVEL

Northern Lights watch from the floating snowflake hotel

Set to be built in Tromsø in Norway, Krystall will be a glass-roofed floating hotel wedged between two fjords

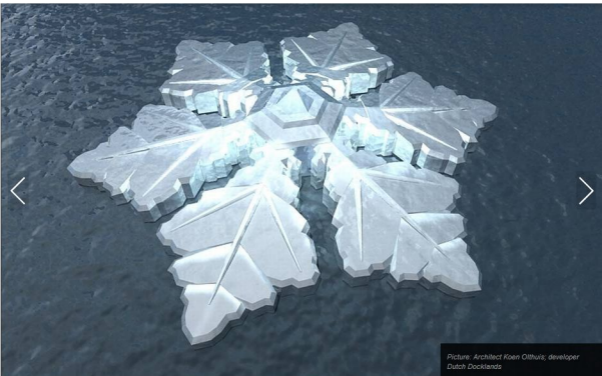
BY JOHN O'CEALLAIGH
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Travellers who dream of seeing the Northern Lights will have the opportunity to do from a glass-roofed, snowflake-shaped floating hotel come 2017.

Developed by [Dutch Docklands](#), a company that specialises in the construction of floating structures, the Krystall hotel will be a luxury property stationed between fjords near [Tromsø](#) in northern Norway. In the Arctic Circle, the city is one of the best places in the world from which to see the Northern Lights.

Construction of the 86-bedroom hotel is expected to start in mid-2015, with the hotel due to open about 18 months later. It will be built in sections in a wharf and towed into position. Inspired in part by the floating houses already in the Netherlands, the property will be built with a concrete base and tethered with cables to the adjacent fjords. The lack of firm foundations mean the complete structure could sway from between six to 10 feet to each side of its epicentre but guests should be oblivious to these gradual shifts in position.

In addition to observing the Northern Lights, guests will have access to the expected attributes of a five-star hotel. Krystall will be managed by a luxury hotel group, although Dutch Docklands has yet to confirm which hospitality group is backing the project or how much it is expected to cost. Addressing the latter issue, Koen Olthuis, creative director of Dutch Docklands design affiliate [Waterstudio](#), said its development costs have been budgeted as "almost the same as a land-based hotel of this type, but with an additional 15 per cent increase to cover the cost of the floating foundation."

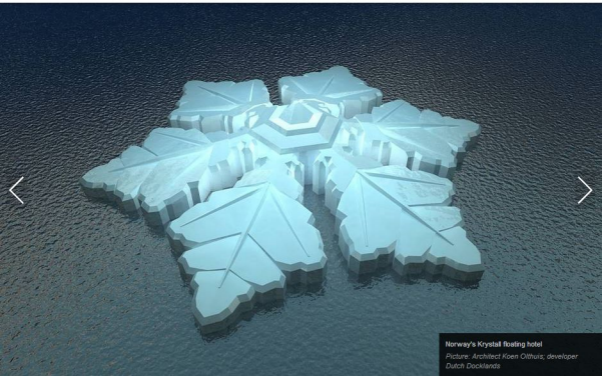


Picture: Architect Koen Olthuis, developer Dutch Docklands

The development of a luxury hotel in Norway's Arctic region is an unusual occurrence, and it is Krystall's limited impact on the local landscape that has allowed its construction to go ahead. The hotel is marketed by [Waterstudio](#) as a "scarless development" that can be removed in the future without any long-term visual impact to the locality in which it was placed.

Should the development of Krystall keep to schedule it should be the first floating hotel to operate in Europe but Dutch Docklands is also planning to open a [Ocean Flower](#), a floating resort in the [Maldives](#). Additionally, Italian designer Michele Puzzolante has proposed the development of another floating hotel in the [Maldives](#) and there are plans afoot to build a floating city, complete with museums and a theme park, in [China](#).

For more on the outlandish properties that might cater to holidaymakers in the years to come, see our gallery showing [hotels of the future](#).



Norway's Krystall floating hotel
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