



Foto: Arkup Arkup's first floating home debuted in February.

**A \$6 million floating home that
can withstand Category 4
hurricanes is now a reality. Take a**

- After years of development, the housing startup [Arkup](#) has debuted a floating home that can withstand rising sea levels and Category 4 hurricanes.
- The home contains a hydraulic system that lifts it above water and anchors it during heavy winds.
- Arkup envisions a future where entire communities in Miami and other major cities are designed to float.

When the housing startup Arkup revealed its plan to build a floating, hurricane-proof yacht in 2017, South Florida had just witnessed the devastating effects of [Hurricane Irma](#), a Category 4 storm that destroyed [hundreds of residences](#).

The company's models were designed to weather a storm of that magnitude, but it would be another two years before they became a reality.

In February, Arkup debuted its first floating residence at a yacht show in Miami. Climatologists have pointed to the city as one of the areas [most vulnerable](#) to climate change.

Read more: [How to hurricane-proof your home, according to an architect who designs homes that could withstand Category 4 hurricanes](#)

The price tag for a fully furnished residence is steep – just under \$6 million – but Arkup has plans to deliver smaller, more affordable units down the line.

For now, the yacht's solar-powered roofs and hydraulic anchoring system come at a high cost. Its sleek designs also cater to luxury clients who often [prefer to live](#) on or near the water.

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Take a look inside Arkup's first floating home.

As a longtime Miami resident, Arkup cofounder Arnaud Luguet noticed that local authorities were struggling to prepare for the effects of climate change.



Foto: The units are just as mobile as a typical yacht.sourceArkup

Luguet saw floating homes as a way to make

passion for the ocean and renewable energy, to create Arkup in 2016.

“We wanted to provide the next generation of floating homes or house boats that would be self-sufficient, sustainable, and also mobile,” Derouin told Business Insider.

Arkup’s model was inspired by floating houseboats in the Netherlands, where it’s common to live on the water.



Foto: The interior was designed by the home-furnishing company Artefacto.sourceArkup

Luguet and Derouin partnered with the Netherlands-based architecture firm [Waterstudio](#), which specializes in designing floating homes.

Both Arkup and Waterstudio [envision a future](#) in which [entire neighborhoods](#) are built on the water in major cities such as New York and Miami.

Arkup's first-ever model can be built on either land



Foto: Waterstudio sees water as an asset, not a challenge, to new construction.sourceArkup

At 4,350 square feet, the home contains a customizable layout of four bedrooms and four-and-a-half bathrooms. It's also mobile, so it can be driven to new locations.

Hydraulic studs anchor the yacht in place so it can withstand winds of up to 155 mph.



The wind speed of a [Category 4 hurricane](#) ranges from 130 to 156 mph.

Although the home is designed to bob with the water during a storm, Derouin said the studs help stabilize the structure to prevent motion sickness among residents.

“We wanted [residents] to be as safe and comfortable in the house as they would be on land,” he said.

The yacht’s jack-up system allows the vessel to be lifted up to 20 feet above water.



Foto: Derouin said storm surge poses a greater danger to homes than heavy winds.sourceArkup

Scientists predict the US could see [nearly 6 feet of sea-level rise](#) by the end of the century under the most extreme climate conditions. Arkup’s homes

Residents can disconnect from sewage lines thanks to a system that collects, stores, and purifies rainwater.



Foto: Residents of an Arkup home can live off-grid.sourceArkup

The homes also have zero emissions and are powered by rooftop solar panels.

Derouin said Arkup's next venture is to build floating communities and resorts.



The company hopes to use modular construction to build multiple units on the water. Derouin said Arkup has been in talks with private-island owners about developing floating communities.

The company is also interested in creating more affordable models, such as a floating complex of student homes. Derouin said Arkup is looking into building a “ranch” of smaller yachts that are each about 1,600 square feet. By building smaller, he said, Arkup can reduce its price tag.

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