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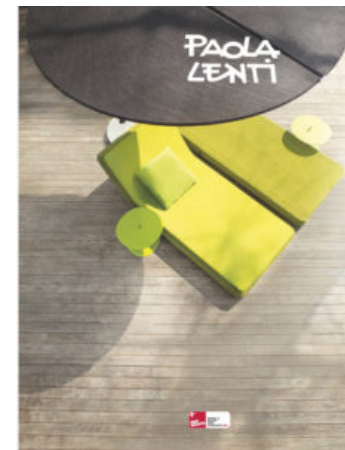
FLOATING HOMES IN MIAMI

By Maria de Juan

(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/author/mdjuan/>)



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/ 22 February, 2019

A innovating form of home has been presented at Fort Lauderdale Boat Show by architects **Koen Olthuis** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koen_Olthuis) and **Arkup** (<https://arkup.com/>).

The first prototype has been built on Miami River in 2018 and is expected to make a revolution in housing history.



(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-1.jpg>)

South Florida, especially *Miami* and the *Keys*, was one of several regions that *Hurricane Irma* pummeled in early September last year.

The Category 4 storm brought winds of up to 70 mph, destroying hundreds of houses and knocking out electric power for 5.8 million homes and businesses in *Florida*.

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A new type of solar-powered home could withstand future storms and rising sea levels. Created by the architect **Koen Olthuis** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koen_Olthuis) and a housing startup called **Arkup** (<https://arkup.com/>), the new design caused great impact at *Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show* in 2018.



(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-2.jpg>)

Floating houses are completely powered by roof solar panels and have systems to collect and purify rainwater. They include systems that collect and purify rainwater for residents to use for their bathing, kitchen and plumbing needs. Each home's layout can be customized.

These moveable homes would be able to withstand winds of up to 156 mph, classified as a Category 4 hurricane. They are designed to be buoyed so that when water levels rise during a storm, they will bob with the water.

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(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-3.jpg>)

The luxury homes, which **Olthuis** and **Arkup** (<https://arkup.com/>) call “*livable yachts*,” will feature hydraulic jack-up systems to anchor and stabilise them during storms and hurricanes. They are designed to lift 40 feet above the ocean to prevent flooding.

The team expects each home to cost \$2 million to \$3 million.

Olthuis is known for designing homes on water. His innovating architecture firm, **Waterstudio** (<https://www.waterstudio.nl/>), has concentrated exclusively in floating buildings for over a decade.

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(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-4.jpg>)

In 2006, they created and built a similar house off the coast of *De Hoef*, in the *Netherlands*. Unlike with the livable yacht concept and other kinds of houseboats, its owner can't drive it away.

Waterstudio (<https://www.waterstudio.nl/>) also designed a floating villa, a floating hotel in *Dubai* and a floating wildlife habitat tower in *Dianchi Lake*, near *Kunming, China*, all completed in 2018.



(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-5.jpg>)



Koen Olthuis is a young *Dutch* architect born in 1971. He studied *Architecture and Industrial Design* at *Delft University of Technology*. He is founder of the Dutch architectural firm, **Waterstudio** (<https://www.waterstudio.nl/>) which specialises in floating structures to counter concerns of floods and rising sea levels. The firm is currently based in *Rijswijk, The Netherlands*.



(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-6.jpg>)

In 2005, together with **Paul Van de Camp, Olthuis** co-founded another company that focuses in developing floating structures.

In 2010, together with **David Keuning, Olthuis** is the author of an innovating book called “Float!: Building on Water to Combat Urban Congestion and Climate Change” (<https://store.frameweb.com/frame-publishers-float.html>)” (Frame Publishers, 2010).





(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-8.jpg>)

Olthuis is currently a member of the *Flood Resilience Group UNESCO* (<https://es.unesco.org/>)-IHE. The Group in *Delft*, focuses on establishing resilient urban water management. Often partnering with both private and public organisations, this Group takes a trans-disciplinary approach to enhance the resistance of cities to extreme weather events by incorporating urban water system planning, design and governance.



(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-9.jpg>)

Koen Olthuis owns eight patent rights on the method for producing floating bases.

The young architect, inventor and book writer was protagonist in *TIME* (<http://time.com/>) Magazine in the article “Are they worthy?”. In 2007, **Olthuis** was ranked as number 122 in TIME readers’ poll as “*the most influential people of the year*“, with a rating of 45 out of 100 possible points. He reappeared in the same ranking on November 2011.





(<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/Floating-Homes-10.jpg>)

Livable yachts and other floating homes are the future of housing, especially in the face of climate change.

We can guess to see more floating neighbourhoods in the next 5 to 10 years. They will probably happen in *Miami*, *New York* and *Tokyo*.

Cities will start to see the water as an asset for the architecture of the future.

Tags: Arkup (<http://www.neomaniamagazine.com/tag/arkup-2/>), Neomania #38

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