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# Tornado Tower creating its own spin even in Kiev, Ukraine

Architects around the world are scrambling to find out about it.

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The Tornado Tower concept by KKT Architects was one of the Tulsa concepts presented to Ukrainian architects. COURTESY/KKT Architects

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By ROBERT EVATT World Business Writer | 0 comments

The Tornado Tower just won't blow over.

Shortly after the concept was unveiled by KKT Architects, it got picked up by the Huffington Post and, subsequently, hundreds of publications in 44 countries, said Andy Kinslow, a principal with KKT.

"All I did for two weeks after it came out was to respond to international requests for information," he said. "It's still republished once a week."

One of these publications was Domus Design Magazine, a Ukrainian architectural magazine. The publication originally reached out to Kinslow for a Skype interview, but Kinslow said he was game for a face-to-face visit.

That's why, earlier this month, Kinslow was able to give three separate presentations in Kiev about the Tornado Tower, the expanded Center of the Universe concept and the way architecture can spur future development.

"Creative architecture can create new business," he said. "For example, the BOK Center is helping create activity in downtown Tulsa."

Kinslow said the presentations, which were picked up by national Ukrainian television, were well-received by a country still emerging from a long Soviet shadow.

"Ukraine is coming out of their post-Soviet architecture style, which is very brutalistic," he said. "They're very excited at looking at new things."

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Modern Ukrainian architecture is still relatively restrained but is gradually becoming more creative as the years pass.

“Right now, they’re being very safe,” he said. “They’re nice buildings, but they’re not something you’d see in Singapore and Hong Kong.”

Kinslow said the Kiev architects were fascinated by the Tornado Tower, which is literally shaped like a tornado, and the proposal to create a transit hub centered on The Center of the Universe area in downtown Tulsa, which would create green space over the existing railroad tracks and a short, subway-like area for passenger trains, buses and other transit options.

That pitch was made by City Councilor Blake Ewing for consideration in the extension of Vision 2025 sales tax.

The Kiev architects now face a new problem — instead of having strict regulations for all aspects of building design, the architects now have zero regulations.

“Now that the very strict rules and regulations are gone, they’re trying to come up with new ways to do things,” he said.

As for the Tornado Tower, it’s still possible the odd concept might become a reality.

“I’ve met with three different groups that have interest in the building,” Kinslow said.

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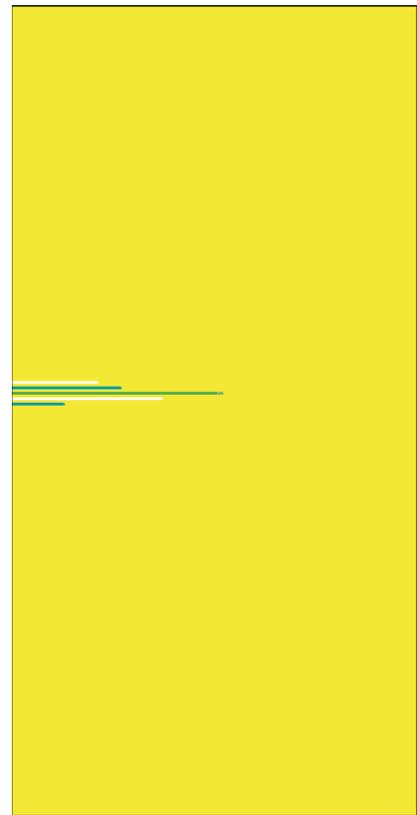
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