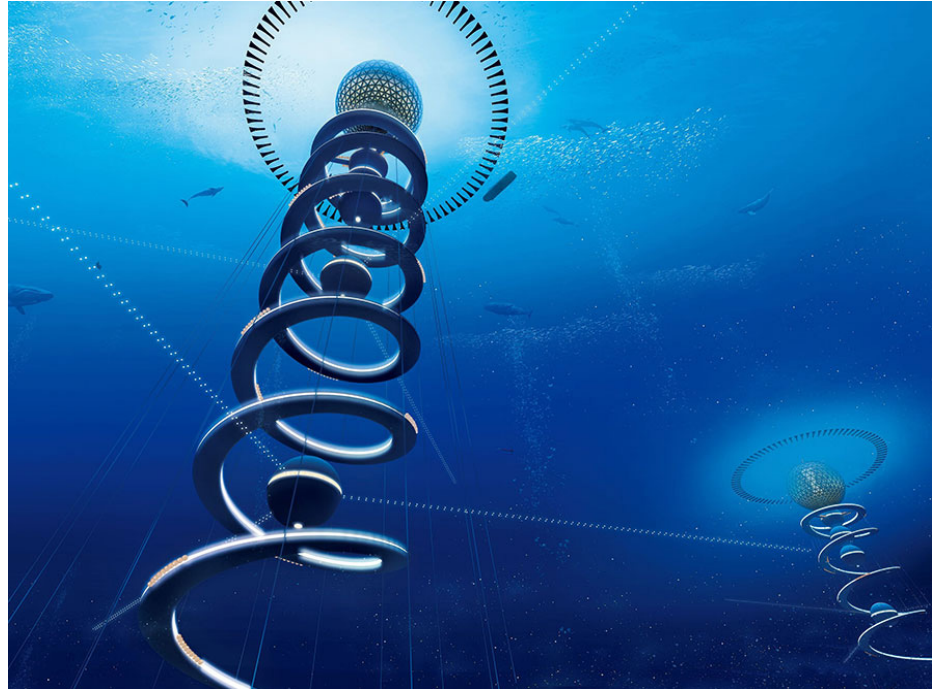


# Designers plan underwater cities

Life on earth may become more difficult in the future so Japanese designers propose an amazing solution — build new cities beneath the ocean waves. Will it ever happen?



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A Japanese company says our future cities will still be on Earth, but on the bottom of the ocean. It plans an underwater city of 5,000 people to show that it is possible to live under the sea. It is very serious and it says it will cost £16bn and that the **technology** we need will be here in 15 years.

## FIND OUT MORE...

Some people already live underwater: the **aquanauts**. A university in Florida set up a research station 20m below the ocean's surface in 1993; it can support up to six aquanauts at a time. The station has hatches but no doors, as air pressure stops water seeping inside. It has a hot shower, a kitchen, electricity and even **wifi**. 'You're inside the **aquarium** and the fish are watching you,' says one of aquanauts.

A **marine** expert says we already have the technology to support a community of around 100 under the sea and 'if you had the money and the need, you could do it today'. But supporting more people would cost even more money and be very difficult. Could underwater cities ever really happen?

## SOME SAY.....

...an underwater hotel might entertain those searching for something new, but no right-minded person would want to live underwater all of the time. No one has yet tried to build even a small underwater village, even though the technology exists. This idea would only appeal to the super-rich, and it would be disaster for sea life.

## OTHERS THINK.....

...building the first city underwater would be expensive, but costs will soon come down. Humans may need alternative ways to live. By the end of the century sea levels are expected to rise by 2.3 metres, which may well swamp big cities like New York and Mumbai. If life on land becomes more difficult, living underwater could be a very important idea.

## DISCUSSION POINT

'We should never trust the ocean.'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

 **YOU DECIDE**

Would you like to live underwater?

 **ACTIVITY**

Design your own underwater city.  
Create a detailed drawing.

 **GLOSSARY**

**Technology** - machinery, tools and devices which are made using scientific knowledge.

**Aquanauts** - people who travel or live for a time under the water.

**Wifi** - allows computers or other devices to connect to the Internet or to one another without wiring.

**Aquarium** - a glass tank for fish to live in so that people can watch them.

**Marine** - anything to do with the sea.