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## The robot building a big name for itself

By Nic Fleming

(Filed: 13/03/2004)

It doesn't need a constant supply of tea and it doesn't wolf whistle at women.

A robot designed to build a house in one day without human intervention and at an eighth of the current cost has been developed by an American professor.

If successful, it could banish hundreds of thousands of brickies, electricians, plasterers and painters from construction sites worldwide.

Taking its instructions from architect's drawings, the Beta Machine builds walls by moving along a gantry repeatedly depositing inch-thick layers of wet concrete from a nozzle, and moulding it with trowel-like devices.

Prof Behrokh Khoshnevis, of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, has patented his "contour crafting" technique and his robot built its first simple wall, 5ft long and 3ft high, last month. It is hoped it will build a one-storey house early next year.

Prof Khoshnevis said: "Building is really not a job for human beings in this day and age. When technology gives us the potential we should leave repetitive tasks to machines and free humans to perform creative work.

"We are aiming to complete a whole house with plumbing, electrics and tiling in one day."

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