

Contributor

## FOLLOW

I cover real estate.

Opinions expressed by Fortes Contributors











+ Follow Comments

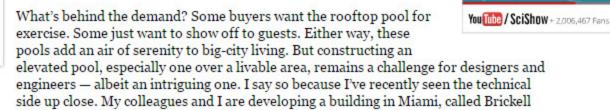
## Rooftop Pools To Make Your Head Swim

+ Comment Now + Follow Comments

Even in the world of luxury real estate, there's an amenity reserved for the highest of high-end residences: the rooftop swimming pool.

For the fortunate few who can indulge in luxury homes and favor a swim hundreds of feet in the air, good news. Thanks to engineering advances and increasingly demanding consumers, rooftop and balcony pools are proliferating. And the newest pools are fancier than ever.

Flatiron, with an open-air pool on its 700-foot roof.



WHICH ANIMAL CAN

ROLL OVER TO ANSWER

REGENERATE ITS LIMBS?

First, the building structure must support the weight of a pool. After all, water is very heavy. A single cubic foot contains 7.48 gallons and weighs more than 62 pounds. So just the water alone in a standard lap pool — in feet, figure 75 long, 15 wide and four deep — weighs nearly 281,000 pounds. The pool must be shaped in a way that evenly transfers the weight of the water to the supporting walls and columns. The pool vessel can then be placed within what engineers call a ring truss, keeping the building top wellconnected. A series of steel posts carry the load of the pool onto the level below.

Next comes the decision of what material to use for the pool vessel itself. The proper material must be selected so as not to cause leaks. Concrete, for the pool in your backyard, is prone to cracking and not a wise choice. Perhaps it's good enough when you're building over a parking garage — but not when there are people living below.