

Recyclable hotel

LONDON – A British hotel chain is building what it says is the first recyclable hotel constructed from pre-built, container-like crates imported from China, stacked on each other and bolted together.

Budget hotel operator Travelodge said last week the steel modules could be dismantled at the end of the 120-room hotel's life and moved elsewhere, and that the model could ultimately be used to build temporary hotels for sporting events or festivals.

The modules came with bathrooms already installed, with windows fitted and furnishings and decorations added once the containers have been put together. But for future hotels, the firm hopes even the furnishing and decoration could be done in China.

"It could facilitate the creation of hotels on a temporary basis at times of peak demand in certain locations, such as festivals or sporting events," the firm's director of property and development Paul Harvey said. Such a structure could be built in "as little as 12 weeks and removed quickly" when the event ends.

Travelodge said using the Chinese-built modules is 25 per cent faster and 10 per cent cheaper, making it a core part of its strategy to become the largest hotel operator in London by the 2012 Olympics.

The recyclable hotel, being built in the west London district of Uxbridge, is due to open in June. Rooms will cost £19 (\$53.70) a night.

The firm hopes to open a similarly built hotel near London's Heathrow airport by the end of the year.

Reuters