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A multirobot construction system inspired by mound-building termites. Independent climbing robots with onboard sensors automatically build user-specified structures out of specialized brick-sized building material. The robots are limited to local sensing and coordinate their activity indirectly by manipulating their shared environment and reacting to what they encounter. See pages 742 and 754, as well as supplementary movies online at www.sciencemag.org/content/343/6172/754/suppl/DC1.

Photo: Eliza Grinnell, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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