

Sky burial

Korea's killer 40-storey cemetery



Obviously you can't afford to live at the current rate you're burning through the credit cards. The problem is, you can't afford to die either with cemeteries all over the globe charging top dollar for ever-decreasing stiff space.

The answer, as any budding Alan Sugar will tell you, is to stack 'em high and sell 'em cheap. Brazil pioneered the above-ground, vertical cemetery with a 14-storey structure, but South Korea has taken things a step further. The plans call for a gherkin-style structure (left) rising some 40 storeys into the sky.

Cremated ashes are stored in pod-like structures called radiolarians and phone numbers will be assigned to ash caskets, with lights on the side of the building that illuminate when rung, thus saving on the flower bill. Then again, if it's Elton John's pal in there the thing will light up like the Towering Inferno...

(Left and below) Light up your life with a dramatic, Matrix-esque death



Shot in action

Russia's visual delights revealed

In July 2004, Simon Roberts travelled west from Russia's easternmost point with his wife and camera. Some 75,000km later he produced *Motherland*, a superb collection of photographs documenting the country 15 years after the demise of communism and the Soviet Union.

"I wanted to counter the representations of Russia that focus on collapse and deterioration," says Roberts of his pictures, which cover everything from sunbathing teenagers to abandoned battleships. And while never glamorous, the pictures certainly illustrate how toughness is inseparable from splendour in the motherland. After all, Ivan Drago and Vladimir Putin didn't get where they did by sitting in a centrally heated room with an Xbox, did they?

*Motherland* is published by Chris Boot, priced £25; An exhibition runs from April 13-May 26 at Photofusion, 17a Electric Lane, London SW9

