

Is this the ultimate in home delivery?

City's world first

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city reporter

ANNA Parle watched her new city apartment being built in a suburban factory last week.

Yesterday, as a world-first construction project unfolded in a city laneway, she saw it bolted to her neighbours' apartments.

"It's pretty amazing watching my apartment (block) being put together like a Meccano set," Ms Parle said.

"Not long ago I was out in a factory watching my apartment being built. It's phenomenal."

Ms Parle's new home, the eight-storey Little Hero building in Russell Place, is the first of its kind.

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— KARL FENDER

All 63 apartments have been built — down to the light fittings and taps — in suburban Brooklyn and are being craned into place over just 14 days.

Karl Fender, president of the Australian Institute of Architects and head of Fender Katsalidis Architects, said the building was the first of its type in the world, and could revolutionise the construction of apartments, hotels and even hospitals.

"It's a very sustainable approach to building because it requires less time, less materials, less weight, less everything," he said.

Mr Fender said building the apartments individually, and off-site, as the concrete foundations were being laid, slashed construction time.

"That's the beauty of this," he said. "While you are doing all the time-consuming (foundation) work, the apartments, or modules, are being built (elsewhere). Then it only



Building blocks: Anna Parle watched her module home, right and above, come together yesterday.
Pictures: REBECCA MICHAEL

takes about half an hour to bolt each one in place."

Marc Johnson, of Unitised Building, said each apartment weighed about 10 tonnes — a third of the weight of a traditional concrete version.

He said all had been sold, for between \$370,000 and \$610,000.

