WHAT'S NEXT FOR 3-D PRINTING?

Futuristic Fashion
Sci-Fi Food
Breathtaking Buildings
The sensors detect human forms, and people's silhouettes appear, allowing the blocks to shift, stack, and topple in response to movement and gestures.

PROJECT: DIGITAL BLOCKS; Washington, D.C.
BY: LAB at Rockwell Group
SUPPLIER: Unity3D, openFrameworks software, and Microsoft

Rockwell Group's hands-on exhibition at the National Building Museum, PLAY WORK BUILD, includes a set of its celebrated Imagination Playground construction toys, along with an interactive installation called DIGITAL BLOCKS. A Unity3D video game engine, openFrameworks software, and two Microsoft Kinect sensors are used in concert to allow museum-goers to manipulate oversize blocks projected onto a large wall. The sensors detect human forms, and people's silhouettes appear, allowing the blocks to shift, stack, and topple in response to movement and gestures. The LAB at Rockwell Group, an interactive design team, worked to balance the technology's sensitivity and reactivity, making the illusion as free-form and immersive as possible. PLAY WORK BUILD will remain on view through November 2014. —DM