

B1.12 Architecture and Buildings

You can learn:

- How to describe buildings and architecture in general.
- How to describe your house and home.

1



Read what the people below have to say about the architecture and buildings they like in their countries. Notice the adjectives they use.



Attribution to Espen Faugstad

The Royal Palace is the heart of Oslo. It is a beautiful, classical building. There are many other examples of excellent contemporary architecture, such as the Opera House. I also like them, but the Palace is the best for me. Kristen



Attribution to Nora**

1



Attribution to djking

I think that the Great Court in the British Museum is impressive. The ceiling is covered in glass, which is practical for the terrible, British weather. I like its geometric design too. The architect, Sir Norman Foster, is famous for designing it. Hugh



Attribution to aartj

2



Attribution to Charles Fred

The traditional Dutch buildings in Den Haag have gorgeous, ornate facades. The bricks are in different colours and everybody who sees these buildings stops to admire them. We have our skyscrapers too, but I prefer classical architecture. Arjan



Attribution to Perseplumes

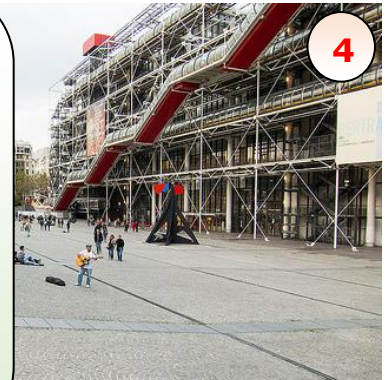
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I like the Pompidou centre in Paris. It was designed by three architects and it was an international collaboration. It was finished in 1977, and it has been very influential, I think. It has many pipes on the outside in different colours. It is controversial, but I love it. Thierry

Attribution to willy-photographer



By Fernando Stankuns



I would choose a traditional, wood-framed German house. I think they are really beautiful buildings. I would not like to live in a high-rise, 1960s kind of block of flats. Some people might say it's old-fashioned, but for me the house in the picture would be my dream house. Agnes

Attribution to djking

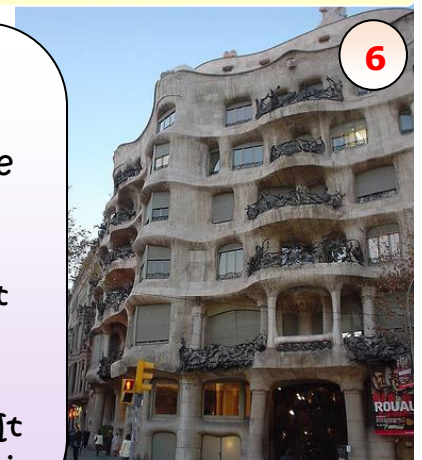


Attribution to sarako



Because I live in Barcelona, I would have to say our famous architect, Gaudi's designs are the best. They are influenced by Gothic style, but they are more modern and also you can see that he liked Art Nouveau. They are stunning! The Sagrada Familia is the most famous one of course. It is a masterpiece. Cati

Attribution to d4yw41k3r



Attribution to cwangdom

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2



Now discuss the questions about architecture, in the box, with your partner.

- Are there some buildings around where you live that you like? Why do you like them?
- Is there a period or style of architecture that you like? Classical? Modern? 1960s? Gothic? Simple? Ornate? Minimalist? Ecologically friendly?
- What kind of material are buildings traditionally made from in your country? Wood, or brick? Or some other material?
- Is there a type of building material that you prefer? Why do you prefer it?
- Who are the famous architects in your country?
- What kind of building would be your ideal home?
- How much does architecture affect people's moods?
- Is it difficult to buy houses in your country? Do most people buy or rent? Is the construction industry busy?
- What is the most famous building in your country? Do you like it? Can you describe it?

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3



Now discuss the questions about your home, in the box, with your partner.

- Do you like the place where you are living now? Why/why not? Is it in a convenient location?
- How have you changed the place where you are living? In the last year? Five years?
- What changes would you like to make to your home? Are they expensive changes?
- Which is your favourite room? Why?
- What things in your home could you not live without? Why is that?
- How do you make a 'house' into a 'home'?
- Do you have a garden? Would you like one?
- What is the best colour for a living room?
- What are the qualities of ideal neighbours?

4

4



Make a list of the ten most important things to consider when choosing a place to live in.

1.) Security is an important consideration. The area must be safe and the building must be secure.

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Notes:

[This section contains 20 horizontal lines for writing notes.]

*"In Los Angeles by the time you're 35, you're older than most of the buildings."
Delia Ephron*