

Read the article. For questions 1-6, choose the correct answer.

Meet the Rubbish Warrior

He has been called 'The King of Rubbish', 'The Rubbish Architect' and most recently 'The Rubbish Warrior'. Michael Reynolds doesn't just collect rubbish and recycle it; he turns it into sustainable green homes known as 'earthships'. These eco-friendly houses are made from natural and recycled materials. Anything from old tyres, glass, plastic bottles and tins to old electrical appliances and cars are used as building materials. The homes are self-sufficient with solar panels and wind turbines to generate electricity. They also have rainwater collection systems and a constant inside temperature that allows residents to grow a small vegetable and fruit garden indoors. All these design factors contribute to the total independence of the home by using natural resources. By providing their own power and water, operation costs of these earthships are low with little to no utility bills. Building materials are also inexpensive, making these homes affordable for everyone. Trained as an architect, Michael responded to concerns back in the 1970s about the ever-increasing rubbish problem and environmental crisis by building sustainable homes out of the rubbish.

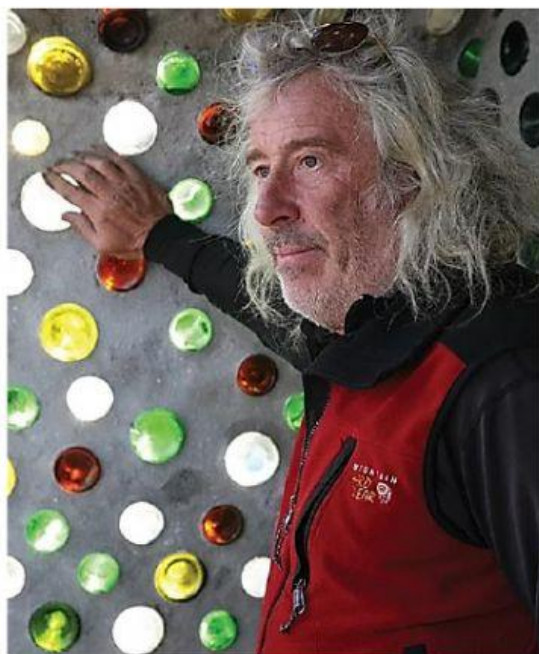
Thirty-five years ago, I saw dark clouds on the horizon... Lots of people also saw the environmental crisis coming but weren't inspired to do anything. They thought I was a fool going to the dump and recycling rubbish before recycling even existed,' Michael says, looking back.

Well, no one is laughing at him anymore. After years of being snubbed by the architectural community and battling outdated building laws, Michael's work is now being taken very seriously. He started with building homes for himself and like-minded people in New Mexico. The owners appreciated the homes and understood their importance but publicly they were still seen as radicals. The value of Michael's work came into the spotlight when he and his team were invited to the tsunami hit area of the Bay of Bengal in 2004.

Michael and his team passed on their knowledge to the desperate people there while at the same time building several critical shelters with the tons of rubbish left behind from the disaster. This provided Michael with the opportunity to experiment and create some of his most inspired designs while not being restricted by building regulations. The homes are earthquake and hurricane proof and built to collect rainwater.

Michael and his crew have visited other disaster areas to help rebuild communities including areas hit by hurricane Katrina and more recently the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. As word catches on, his designs have spread to every corner of the globe. Michael has even created a name for his type of work, 'biotecture' to describe the designing of buildings with the goal of sustainability. According to Michael it's a sort of 'combination of biology and architecture' that addresses a number of serious problems now facing mankind. When rubbish becomes the building material, less waste goes to overburdened landfill sites.

Shortages of water and energy are eased when households create their own supply. Michael calls himself and others working like him 'biotects' and sees their creations not just as homes but as an alternative way of living. "Earthships are a model of the future that goes beyond house and architecture," he explains. Residents become an active part of their local ecosystem, living hand in hand with nature and not just consuming it. It's a sustainable way of living that this warrior will continue to fight for.



1. How did Michael Reynolds get the name the 'Rubbish Warrior'?

1. due to the large amount of recycling he does every day
2. from being the first to recycle
3. from his use of recycling
4. because he recycles almost every type of rubbish

2. 'Earthships' _____

1. do not cost anything to run.
2. can generate their own electricity.
3. recycle their own water.
4. don't consume energy.

3. What problem did Michael encounter when he started building earthships?

1. His designs did not comply with building regulations.
2. He couldn't find materials.
3. Other architects interfered with his work.
4. Nobody wanted his work.

4. What finally helped Michael's work become accepted?

1. changes in building regulations
2. the architectural community
3. rebuilding after disasters
4. building homes in New Mexico

5. Michaels believes 'biotecture' _____

1. is the answer to all environmental problems.
2. will spread around the world.
3. will solve our energy shortages.
4. will solve some important environmental issues.

6. Michael feels 'biotects' _____

1. create new ecosystems.
2. create a new lifestyle.
3. shouldn't use natural resources.
4. should fight consumerism.

