



BEFORE READING 1

1. Match the opposites.

roof
wall

tall
wall

glass
window

plastic
window

narrow
metal

garden
room

ceiling
mirror

things inside a house	things outside a house	adjectives to describe a house	materials

READING 1

2. Read the text and tick the boxes in the table.

	windows are different shapes	has glass walls	has a small garden on the roof	rooms are narrow
Japanese steep roof house				
Vietnamese 'garden home'				



3. Read the text again and choose True (T) or False (F).

- 1 Professor Chan's favourite home designs are Korean. _____
- 2 Steep roof houses are small and narrow inside. _____
- 3 Professor Chan says it is important to build more homes in Vietnam. _____
- 4 The 'garden home' is in the centre of a big city. _____
- 5 Wood is more popular than plastic. _____
- 6 In Amsterdam, many architects put mirrors on the walls. _____

Architect's World

EXPERT INTERVIEW

Professor Michael Chan teaches design to young architects at London School of Architecture. He has been at the school for 30 years. There have been many changes in home design in the last 30 years. This week, Michael Chan tells us more about new home design around the world.



Architect's World: What are your favourite home designs?

Michael Chan: I like Japanese designs. Many people in Japan build houses with unusual shapes. For example, the steep roof house (see photo above). This house is very tall and has a steep roof. The windows on the roof are different shapes and sizes. Inside the house, the rooms are very narrow and the ceilings are very high. It is simple and very small inside.

AW: What do you think about 'green' homes?

MC: It is very important to build houses that are environmentally friendly. My favourite green house is in Saigon, Vietnam. It is a 'garden home' (see photo centre above). This house is in the middle of a busy city but there are plants everywhere. From the street, people see a tall garden. But in fact it is a house. There are plants and trees in front of the glass walls. There is also a small garden on top of the roof. You can put chairs and a table there and enjoy tea with your family.

AW: What are popular building materials?

MC: Wood is very popular. It keeps your house warm in winter. Many architects use wood, metal and glass. Sometimes they use unusual building materials. For example, one architect from Amsterdam put mirrors on every wall of the house (see photo above). Other architects design houses with glass or even plastic walls.