

Reading Part 2

The five students below are learning about unusual homes around the world. Each student wants to find out more about one unusual home, which they will write about for an architecture project.

Read the information about each student and think about the things they are interested in. Read the descriptions of eight unusual homes (A-H) quickly. Decide which home would be the most suitable for each student (1-5) to write about.

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| 1.
Marcelo loves all kinds of sport and wants to find out about a modern home that has been designed for a famous sportsperson. He loves buildings by the ocean, too. | 2.
Gloria is very interested in old buildings. She would like to write about one which is in the countryside, and has fantastic views of the landscape. | 3.
Harry wants to find out about a well-known architect who designed a building which the architect then lived in. He also has an interest in furniture. | 4.
Sofie is keen to learn about a building that is the smallest of its kind. She likes city buildings and wants to find one that is located in an interesting neighbourhood. | 5.
Kurt wants to learn about a modern home that is better for the environment than other buildings and has won competitions because of its original architecture. |
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A Keret House

Keret House could be the world's narrowest home and is just 122 cm at its widest point! A Polish architect living in the country's capital walked past the space between a house and an apartment block one day and decided to build something there. The area around it is full of things to do and see.

B Crossway

Located in the most beautiful part of England, this home was designed by architect Richard Hawkes to live in. Less than 20 years old, it is a 'passive' house: it uses little energy, the sun produces all its electricity, and it has a 'living' roof which reduces pollution. These unusual features have earned the house prizes.

C House NA

The architects who built this house wanted to feel like they were living in the trees. This led to a modern house made of glass in a quiet part of Tokyo, Japan. The floors are at different levels, like branches, making it easier for the people who live there to move around - and it's good exercise for them, too!

D Freston Tower

This historic tower in southern England has lasted for several centuries. There are six floors with a single small room on each one. The sitting room is right at the top of the building, and from here, you can see the beautiful river, where people go sailing, and the fields beyond.

E Pas House

This unusual house near the beach in California, USA, is divided into three separate spaces, each ideal for skateboarding: the floor, walls and ceiling join together into one enormous tube. The idea came from a former world champion, who wanted somewhere exciting to live.

F Old Light

Located off the coast of England, the Old Light is situated in one of the least busy areas of the country. The building was once a lighthouse, which warned ships at sea of nearby rocks. The house is now divided into two guest flats. The lighthouse is not as tall as some, but is in a beautiful position near the sea - perfect for swimming!

G Gropius House

Other architects may be more famous, but the buildings Walter Gropius created are among the most important of the last century. He designed Gropius House in the USA as his family home which can now be visited. Inside there is a collection of chairs and other items which belonged to the family.

H The Heliodrome

This recently built original house is situated in peaceful countryside in France. It was built so that its rooms, furniture and paintings are in the shade during summer. Even better than this is that in winter, the sun does enter through the windows, making the house warm without heating - and therefore cheaper to live in!