

5 A Place to Call Home

Reading

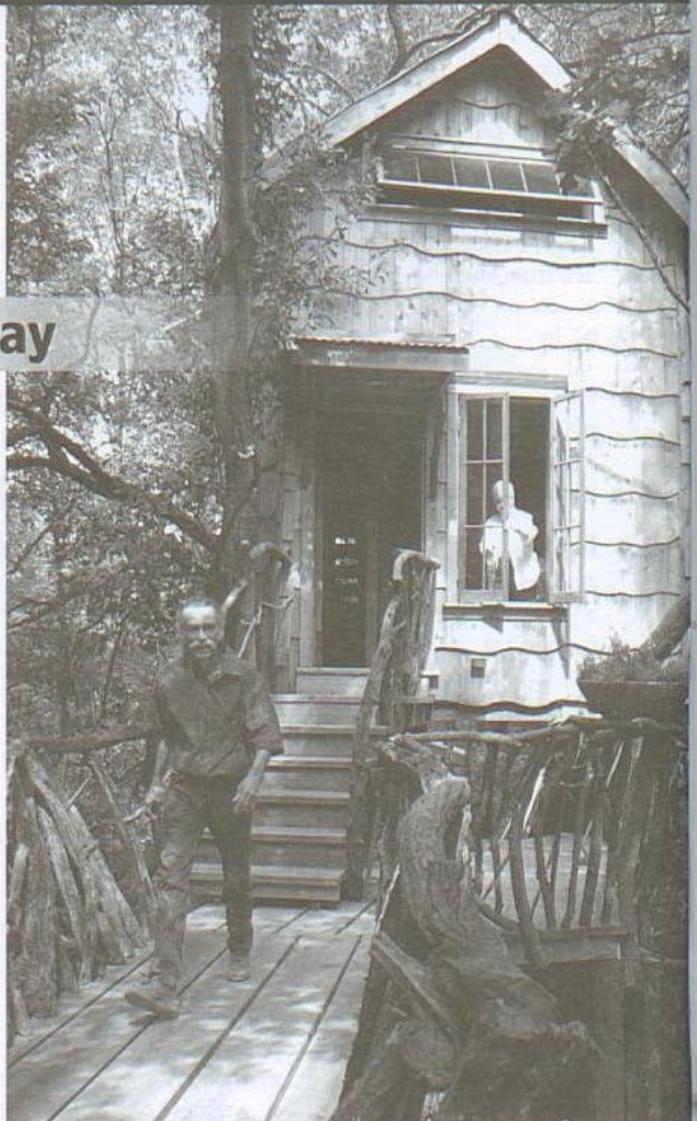
Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap 1-5. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Building houses the green way

Throughout history, people have used the materials around them to build their homes. For example, Eskimos constructed their igloos with blocks of ice and African villagers used mud to build their huts. Such materials are readily available in the local area and free. 1 In order to build a house, you need cement for the foundations, wood for the frame that keeps it standing, glass for the windows, marble or ceramic tiles for the floor and much more. All these materials have to be cut or manufactured and then transported, two processes that add to existing problems with pollution, and are also expensive.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Concern for the environment has led people to investigate greener ways of building and decorating their homes by using recycled materials and items that have been thrown away by others. 2 There are so many materials we haven't even thought of using when constructing our homes. The fact is, we are only really limited by our imagination. Take, for example, a floor. Did you know that you can make a floor with the corks from wine bottles? This idea is fun, unique, affordable and great for the environment because the material already exists, so there is no need to manufacture it.

Dan and Marsha Phillips from the USA are creating environmentally-friendly homes. They founded the Phoenix Commotion to help people who don't have much money to build affordable housing by using recycled materials and materials that no one else wants. The things we throw away end up in landfills and the more rubbish we create, the bigger the landfills become. 3 So Dan looks for material before it's thrown away. For example, he goes to large shops that sell building supplies and asks for anything they no longer need. Often, when wood is cut there are pieces left over that the shop can't sell. By giving



it all to Dan they don't have to get rid of it themselves and so they save money. 4 Things like window frames, door frames, doors, bathtubs and taps that are just thrown away before the building is demolished.

But make no mistake. The homes Dan builds with these reusable materials do not look cheap or badly-made; they're attractive and original. That's because Dan isn't just a builder, he's an artist, too. He finds creative ways to reuse the materials. 5 Each one has its own unique style and each one is a fantastic example of green building at its best.

- A By doing this, it's possible to save money and the environment.
- B Sometimes Dan finds used items in good condition when buildings are knocked down.
- C And, unlike the majority of houses in most areas, Dan's homes don't all look the same.
- D If we can keep good material out of landfills, we can keep the environment cleaner.
- E You can share building materials with other builders.
- F But in the modern world, this isn't the case anymore.

