Architect's world EXPERT INTERVIEW

1 Professor Michael Chan teaches design to architects at the London School of Architecture. He has been at the school for 30 years. Home design is different today than it was 30 years ago. This week, Michael tells us more about new home design around the world.

architect Michael Chan

2 Architect's world: What are your favourite home designs?

Michael Chan: I really like Japanese designs. Many people in Japan build interesting houses. For example, the roof house is very tall and has a steep[1] roof. The windows on the roof are different sizes. Inside the house, the rooms are very narrow[2] and the ceilings are very high. It is simple and very small inside.

3 AW: What do you think about 'green'[3] homes?

MC: It is very important to build houses which are good for the Earth. My favourite example is a house in Saigon, Vietnam. It is a 'garden home'. 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 the roof. You can put chairs and a table there and enjoy tea with your family.

mirror house

4 AW: What do architects use to build houses?

MC: Many architects use wood. It keeps your house warm in winter. They also use metal and glass. Sometimes they use something different. For example, one architect from Amsterdam put mirrors on every wall of a house. Other architects use glass or even plastic for the walls.

6 Read the interview again. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements. Correct the false statements.

_____ 1 Professor Chan's favourite home designs are Korean.
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_____ 2 The roof house has small and narrow rooms.
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_____ 3 Professor Chan says it is important to build more homes in Vietnam.
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_____ 4 The 'garden home' is in the centre of a busy city.
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_____ 5 The garden of the garden home is only in front of the walls of the building.
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_____ 6 In Amsterdam, many architects put mirrors on the walls.
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