

Unit 9 – Lesson 7



Hanging on to History

..... there is a historic building in your neighborhood, but it's no longer useful. The town has two options: tear it and build something new or a way to use the building for a new purpose. Today, many architects and designers are to use old buildings in new ways. They **repurpose** the buildings. Imagine a train station a hotel in the United States, an old theater becomes a bookstore in Argentina, and an arena for the Olympics becomes a waterpark in China. These are just a few of the buildings that have been around the world.

Repurposing old buildings for new uses has many advantages. First, there are to businesspeople. Repurposing may cost a builder less than building a new The building may also be finished faster than starting something brand new, and time usually means saving Often old buildings are a part of town that is no longer used. Creating a beautiful space out of an old building can bring new businesses to an area. For example, a hospital built in Traverse City, Michigan, in the United States in the 1880s, was turned into The Village at Traverse City Commons, a shopping and eating area. There are also many hiking and biking trails around the People come to nature and spend money in over 30 new stores and restaurants in the building.



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Second, there are advantages to the community. People historic buildings that preserve some of the area’s history. Who wouldn’t want to sleep in an old train car, read about art in a new bookstore, or think about Olympic swimmers while going down a water slide?



Many buildings that are include information about the old building. For example, in The Village, there are stories and on the wall about the hospital, and they even offer tours, including walking through a tunnel that was built in 1883. People enjoy the old architecture of buildings. Kat Hurdman, a to Traverse City, said, “I enjoy shopping at The Village. It feels like you’re stepping in time.”

Finally, reusing old buildings can help the and sustainability. The materials from the old buildings are instead of being discarded. According to Juliette Morgan, head of development for a company in England, “The best way to reduce carbon is to reuse existing buildings. By recycling, we can save up to 40% of emissions.” It’s recycling on a very big scale! Even if a new building is energy, it can cost a lot of energy just to build it. So, what would you say—tear down or