Part 6

You are going to read four extracts from articles in which architects discuss their profession. For questions **37–40**, choose from the architects **A–D**. The architects may be chosen more than once. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

The nature of architecture

Four architects talk about their profession

A What I love about architecture is that it's the only one of the applied arts that can change how we perceive the world around us. But however much I love buildings, even I recognise that, as much as we may want to, we will not be able to save them all. Buildings are constantly being degraded, attacked by the elements as well as by simple use. In any case, there are plenty of buildings that we wouldn't want to hold on to. Building design is a complex thing, and a space which ultimately doesn't work has never been created that way deliberately. It's just that it's impossible to predict everything before a building is complete. Going forward, there has to be a recognition of what is good for the planet in terms of building design. Our needs are changing rapidly, particularly regarding energy use, and energy efficiency will be a major theme in architecture.

B Modern life places demands on buildings which are different from those of the past, meaning that not all heritage buildings can or should be kept. Decisions must be made as to which are of most benefit to a community. It's the same with the design of new buildings. Their primary function is to improve the lives of the occupants. What good are stunning aesthetics if someone inside is stifled by heat from a badly placed window? As to creativity, an architect has to design according to the client's brief, so self-expression, such a key factor in the world of art, plays little part. Opinions on the new building will inevitably differ, and thanks to modern technology, these can be shared far more widely and quickly than in the past – often even as a building is under construction. This immediacy of feedback is sure to play a big part in building design over the coming decades.

C Architecture as a profession grew from the human need for shelter, but buildings have become a form of identity for the culture in which they're located, and their design must revolve around this idea. A well-designed building is a work of art which improves the appearance of the area in which it is placed. In addition, we can, and must, learn from it. How can we create a vibrant environment consisting of exciting and remarkable built forms if we allow the great achievements of the past to crumble away? Even the buildings which might be considered 'bad' still have something to offer. They are a reminder that perfect architecture doesn't exist. Architects don't have the luxury of creating a prototype, unlike, for example, a car designer, so unforeseen mistakes will creep in from time to time.

D When I look at those buildings which are almost universally criticised, or which clearly don't work for their users, I see the hand of an arrogant architect who believes that their right to self-expression should be given priority over aspects such as local context. I'm not denying for a moment that architecture is an art form, but the primary consideration must always be the user of the building. As architects, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to create designs in which the experience of the building's inhabitants and others who interact with it will be enriched. While I don't see that changing, other things will come into play over the next few years. As the world's population rises, space and resources are becoming more limited, so inevitably, concerns over increasing global temperatures and greenhouse gas emissions will be reflected more in the buildings we create.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which architect

has a similar opinion to D regarding future influences on architecture?	**37**	
shares an opinion with A on whether architecture should be preserved?	**38**	
expresses a different view from the other three on whether architecture is art?	**39**	
has a different opinion to B on the most important factor to consider when designing a building?	**40**	

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