Section 4

We've been discussing the factors the architect has to consider when designing domestic buildings. I'm going to (1) ……..……., and I'll illustrate this by referring to the new Taylor Concert Hall that's recently been completed here in the city.

So, as with a domestic building, when designing a public building, an architect needs to consider the function of the building - for example, is it to be used (2) ……? The second thing the architect needs to think about is the context of the building, this includes its physical location, obviously, but it also includes the social meaning of the building, how it relates to the people it's built for. And finally, for important public buildings, the architect may also be looking for (3) ……..……., a sort of metaphor for the building and the way in which it is used.

Let's look at the new Taylor Concert Hall in relation to these ideas. The location chosen was a site in a run-down district that (4) ……..……. It was occupied by a factory that had been empty for some years. The whole area was some distance from the (5) ……..…….……and shopping centre, but it was only one kilometre from the ring road. The site itself was bordered to the north by a canal which had once been (6) ……..…….……when the area was used for manufacturing.

The architect chosen for the project was Tom Harrison. He found the main design challenge was the location of the site in an area that (7) ……..…….. To reflect the fact that the significance of the building in this (8) ……..……., he decided to create a building centred around the idea of a mystery- something whose meaning still has to be discovered.

So how was this reflected in the design of the building? Well, Harrison decided (9) ……..…….and to make use of the presence of water on the site. As people approach the entrance they therefore have to cross over a bridge. He (10) …….. as they see the building first from a distance, and then close-up, and the initial impression he wanted to create from the shape of the building as a whole was that of a box. The first side that people see, the southern wall, is just a high,

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flat wall uninterrupted by any windows. This might (11) ……..……..……..

of the building that the person approaching is intrigued and wonders what will be inside. And this flat wall also has another purpose. At night, protectors are switched on and it functions as a huge screen, or to which images are projected.

The auditorium itself seats 1500 people. The floor's supported by ten massive pads. These are constructed from rubber, and so are (12) ……..…….and prevent them from affecting the auditorium. The walls are made of several layers of honey-coloured wood, all sourced from local beech trees. In order to (13) ……..……..…….

and to amplify the sound, they are not straight, they are curved. The acoustics are also (14) ……..……..…….and the type of music being played. In order to achieve this, there are nine movable panels in the ceiling above (15) ……..……..…., and the walls also have curtains which can be opened or closed to change the acoustics.

The reaction of the public to the new building has generally been positive. However, the evaluation of some critics has been less enthusiastic. In spite of Harrison's efforts to use local materials, they criticise the style of the design as being international rather than local, and say it doesn't (16) ……..……..…….for which it is built.

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