

The meaning of architecture

A. What can you remember from the film? Complete the gapped text using the words in the box.

emotions - sustainable - places where they work - human society - irrational -
architecture - souls - environmentally friendly - service - feelings

- 1 „Our daily lives are defined to a certain extent by the _____ that surrounds us every day. [...] Architecture creates the necessary framework in which we act. Without architecture _____ would not be conceivable.“
That's how art historian Jürgen Tietz describes the significance that he believes architecture has for society.
- 5 In his book "Men and Space", published in 2005, the Swiss architect Justus Dahinden describes architecture as a _____ for the whole human being. For him, architecture has both practical and _____ needs to fulfil. Humans require well-functioning buildings to live in, _____ or can buy things, even, train stations. But humans are not just practical and thinking creatures, but also beings with _____. Justus Dahinden wonders which _____ a building arouses in us.
- 10 That's important too. Architecture should appeal equally to our bodies and _____. At the same time, architects and builders are setting greater store by building in a _____ manner nowadays. Renewable energy and _____ building materials are becoming more and more indispensable for modern-day architecture.

B. Analytic Reading - Reread the text and answer following questions:

1. Which unknown words and names can you find in the text? Underline them, write them on the back of your worksheet and look them up in a dictionary or on the Internet.
2. Describe in your own words what meaning architecture has for art historian Jürgen Tietz.
3. Summarize what Justus Dahinden understands by "architecture".
4. Explain the word "sustainability" (i.e.: building in a sustainable manner)
5. List at least six environmentally-friendly building materials. Search in the Internet, in books and ask in DIY stores.
6. Suggestions for a class discussion: What do you understand by "architecture"? Which houses appeal to you? How should buildings be built nowadays in your opinion? Imagine you are architects: How would you build and how would you model your environment?

C. Assignment:

- a. Aesthetics, functionality and sustainability are state-of-the-art requirements in modern architecture. But what type of building activity was undertaken in the Middle Ages? Describe which claims were made to architecture during medieval times.
- b. List the building criteria and requirements for building in the Middle Ages. Distinguish between the types of buildings (castle, farm, town house, monastery).