

UNIT 1

Unit 1, Architecture, The Q Classroom

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Teacher: Today we begin with Unit One. Every unit in Q starts with a question. As we go through the unit, we will discuss this question. Our answers can change as we talk about the topic. The Unit One question is, "What are current trends in architecture?" What do "modern" buildings look like?

Sophy: Well, there are more and more skyscrapers, you know, extremely tall buildings. Architects like glass, steel, and lots of straight lines. It never changes. It's boring!

Teacher: What about you, Marcus? What are you seeing? Do you agree with Sophy?

Marcus: Yes and no. Cities do have a lot of skyscrapers, but there are a lot of really interesting new buildings, too. For example, architects are trying to be more conscious of the environment and build "green" buildings.

Teacher: Really? How so?

Marcus: Well, new buildings use energy from the sun, and they're putting gardens on top of the buildings—that kind of thing.

Teacher: What about you, Felix? What do you think?

Felix: I don't know. I don't pay much attention to architecture. I've never really noticed.

Teacher: What about your city, Yuna? What are current trends in architecture there?

Yuna: It's interesting. I come from a small city, and people there are trying to keep things small. They don't allow tall buildings, and new buildings are using traditional styles and materials.

Unit 1, Note-taking Skill, Activity B

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College Professor:

Landscape architects

The areas around a building are just as important as the building itself. Landscape architects design outdoor spaces such as public parks, private gardens, and the green areas around large buildings. This is a good career if you like working outdoors and have a good knowledge of plants. People are thinking more now about the environment and the importance of green space. For this reason, this career offers many new opportunities.

Urban planners

Architects focus their efforts on individual buildings. Urban planners plan entire cities or neighborhoods. They need to think about the best locations for office buildings, stores, factories, and homes. They consider the needs of the

people who live in the city, as well as the "look" of buildings and neighborhoods.

Interior designers

It is important for buildings to be attractive on the outside, but they also have to be attractive, safe, and functional on the inside. This is the job of interior designers. They make plans for using the space inside the building. One new trend in architecture is to have buildings where people can live, work, and even shop or eat at restaurants all in the same building. The interior designer's job is to make this possible.

Unit 1, Listening 1, Activity A, B, D

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- Ayisha:** Hi, Julia. What are you doing? Do you have a minute? Can I ask you a question?
- Julia:** Hmm, right now I'm working on my article about the president's speech. But I can take a break. What's up?
- Ayisha:** I just got back from a meeting of the city council. The architect Oscar Valerian presented his plans for the new city library. I have to write a story about it for tomorrow's paper. I don't know what to say. I mean, it looked **ridiculous!**
- Julia:** What do you mean, "ridiculous"?
- Ayisha:** I mean that the design was too strange. It was this big round, uh, ball. It's round and has these little windows. It looks like something from a science fiction movie.
- Julia:** Wow! You're joking.
- Ayisha:** Oh, no, I'm not. At first, I thought it was a **joke**, but it wasn't. There were about 20 people there, the mayor, members of the city council, and people who are giving money for the new library. But, no one laughed. They just sat there and looked at the plans. I don't understand it.
- Julia:** Well, that's part of what architecture is. It's about following **trends**—you know, keeping up with the latest styles. People are afraid. If they say that they think the plans for the library are ridiculous, then other people are going to think they aren't "into" the latest trends.
- Ayisha:** But what are people thinking? Do they really want to see a big round ball in the middle of the city? And even more important, it isn't a good design for a library. We need a bigger building with lots of room for books and computers, not a space-age ball.
- Julia:** Yeah, but this architect is sort of a **celebrity**, you know. A lot of people **admire** his work. So the people in our town want to be able to say, "The great architect Oscar Valerian built our library!"

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- Ayisha:** Maybe so, but I still think people should be more **critical** of the design. After all, they have to use this building as a library for many years. That's why this design is really important.
- Julia:** Well, you can write an article and criticize the design, but that can also cause problems.
- Ayisha:** Like what?
- Julia:** Well, for one thing, you're going to make a lot of people unhappy. The city is putting a lot of money into this project. They don't want to change plans now or possibly make Valerian angry. That would be very expensive.
- Ayisha:** But, I'm a **journalist**. I need to give my honest opinion of the plans for the library even if it's **risky**.
- Julia:** Oh! Here's an idea. Write about what you didn't like and give some ideas to improve the design. That way the article won't be too critical or too risky!
- Ayisha:** Good idea! Now I just have to find some good suggestions to improve it!

Unit 1, Listening Skill, Activity A, B Page 8, 9

College Professor: It's not only the buildings that are changing in the 21st century with new design ideas; it is also the furniture that goes in the buildings. These are some of the most **notable** trends in furniture design for this century. First, like buildings, furniture is also going "green." For example, because of concerns about **deforestation**, furniture makers are using more recycled materials.

Then, as with new buildings, technology is having a big **impact** on furniture design. Furniture pieces now make room for all kinds of modern **gadgets**. Desks have USB ports so you can charge your cell phone or your laptop. Entertainment centers have space for big TVs and all the other **stuff** that many people use these days.

Finally, some people still prefer traditional or older styles. **Vintage** furniture is becoming more popular. People feel a certain **nostalgia** for the things they remember seeing in their grandparents' homes. So, for example, they design a kitchen that is modern, but has the look of the 1950s.

In short, the trends in building designs are **echoed** in the trends in furniture designs.

Unit 1, Listening 2, Activity A, B, D Page 10, 11

Professor: Good morning! This is Architecture 101, and today we're talking about trends in modern architecture. Of course, we all know about the trend

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toward building taller and taller buildings and all that. But who can tell me about other more interesting trends?

Max: Well, there's a trend toward something called **sustainable** architecture.

Professor: And what does that mean?

Max: It's about the **relationship** between architecture and the environment. For one thing, it means that architects use materials in a way that doesn't harm the environment. For example, they reuse building materials like wood or stone from old buildings. "Sustainable" also refers to the kinds of energy the building uses. Many buildings now use solar power for their electricity, heating, and air conditioning. There's no limit to the amount of energy we can get from the sun. This isn't true of energy we get from oil or gas, for example.

Professor: Excellent! However, you have to think about the **economics** of sustainable architecture. If these buildings are too expensive, people won't want to build that way. So, are there any economic **benefits** to sustainable architecture?

Rakan: Oh, yes. For example, using solar energy is economical. Solar systems are expensive, but in the end you save money because you don't have to pay high electric bills.

Professor: Hmm. But what do these sustainable buildings look like? After all, architects want to build beautiful and interesting buildings not just **eco-friendly** ones. Can buildings be beautiful, economical, and sustainable? The **combination** of those three qualities is a lot to ask for!

Kim: Yes, I think they can. This whole movement is giving architects new opportunities to be creative. As just one example, in Milan, Italy, they're building something called the "Bosco Verticale" or "Vertical Forest." There are two tall apartment buildings and each apartment has a large outdoor balcony. They're planting trees on all of the balconies. You should see the pictures. The buildings look like a tall **forest**. The trees help clean the air inside the building and keep it cool.

Jen: Wow! I like that. It reminds me of something I read about—Green Roofs. These are **roofs** that are covered with plants—a garden on top of the building. They help keep the building cool in summer and warm in winter, and they're beautiful.

Kim: I think it's really important for buildings to be attractive, interesting, and—uh—different, so they give people something to think and talk about.

Professor: OK, so putting all this together, we can say that sustainable architecture is about the relationship between architecture and the environment. In the future, we need to think about the materials we use to build new houses and buildings. We also need to think about how we are providing the energy for the buildings and the effect this is having on our planet. We'll look at this in more detail tomorrow. Tonight I want you all to read chapters three and four of . . .

Unit 1, Grammar, Activity B

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1.

Norman: Hey, Jack, what are you doing?

Jack: I'm reading the chapters for Professor Martin's business class.

2.

Norman: Yeah, I have to do that, too. He gives a lot of homework. It seems like I'm constantly reading stuff for that class.

Jack: I know what you mean.

3.

Jack: Architects aren't designing very interesting or original houses these days.

Norman: I agree. What happened to creativity and fun?

4.

Jack: Hey, what are you doing?

Norman: I'm looking at bikes. I want to buy a new one. Do you like this one?

5.

Jack: So, what's Jim doing these days?

Norman: He's working for an architecture company on State Street.

6.

Jack: Wow! That's great!

Norman: Well, you know Jim. He likes a challenge. He's constantly looking for new things to do.

Unit 1, Pronunciation, Example 1

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Wow! That dress is fantastic! I love it.

Unit 1, Pronunciation, Example 2

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Oh! I didn't know you were coming.

Oh! I failed my driving test again.

Oh! Someone parked their car right behind us. Now we can't get out.

Unit 1, Pronunciation, Activity A

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1. **Speaker 1:** Well, I think this is the right answer.

Speaker 2: Well, I think this is the right answer.

2. **Speaker 1:** Yeah, and after we finish this project, we're going to do another one.

Speaker 2: Yeah, and after we finish this project, we're going to do another one.

3. **Speaker 1:** Yeah, I lost my presentation.

Q2e Listening & Speaking 2: Audio Script

Speaker 2: Yeah, I lost my presentation.

4. **Speaker 1:** Oh! Mr. Lombardi is going to be in Tokyo next week.

Speaker 2: Oh! Mr. Lombardi is going to be in Tokyo next week.

Unit 1, Unit Assignment, Consider the Ideas

iQ Online Resource

City Council Speaker: Good afternoon, everyone. I want to welcome you here today. I am happy to announce that yesterday the city council approved the plans for a new office building in our town. The city council supports this building because it gives the city a lot of necessary office space for new businesses. This is a good thing for the city's economy, as it creates new jobs. However, we know that some critics are expressing concerns about the size and design of the building. They're asking, "Is this building right for this community?" We are here today to explain our ideas for the new building and to answer your questions. Yes, sir, what is your question?