

ARCHITECTURE

http://www.ted.com/talks/moshe_safdie_how_to_reinvent_the_apartment_building

Go to the website at the top of the page; here you will find a video in which the architect Moshe Safdie gives a short talk on “How to reinvent the apartment building”.

Task 1: Listen and watch the video; then complete each statement below, circling either A, B, or C.

1. He got a travelling fellowship...

- A. after he finished his studies
- B. before he finished his studies
- C. when he started working

2. Almost 50 years later the apartments he designed ...

- A. are a desirable place to live
- B. have proliferated
- C. haven't been built yet

3. In China, in the 1970s, there were...

- A. many cars
- B. hardly any cars
- C. any cars

4. The most important characteristic of the building he created for Lower Manhattan is that...

- A. it is permeable
- B. people can have their own private garden
- C. it has office buildings and apartments

5. In China there is a bylaw that says that every apartment

- A. must have access to a garden
- B. must be insulated against low temperatures in winter
- C. must receive three hours of sunlight

Task 2: Listen and watch the video again; then answer the following questions.

1. Who lived in public housing buildings?
2. Safdie explains suburbs couldn't be sustained, what idea did he have to solve this?
3. What revolution was taking place in China when Safdie travelled there?
4. Which problems do high-rise buildings create in Sao Paulo?
5. What did Safdie decide a few years ago?
6. What is in the air on the 25th level?
7. What can we find on the roof of a building in Singapore?

Task 3: Complete the gaps in the transcript with the correct tense of the verbs provided. You can watch the video again to check your answers.

When, in 1960, still a student, I _____ (GET) a travelling fellowship to study housing in North America. We _____ (SEE) public housing high-rise buildings in all major cities: New York, Philadelphia.

In 1973, I _____ (MAKE) my first trip to China. We _____ (TRAVEL) the country, _____ (MEET) with architects and planners. Shenzhen _____ (NOT EXIST, EVEN) as a city. Thirty years later, this _____ (BE) Beijing today. If you're wealthy, you live there, if you're poor, you live there. São Paulo, you can travel in a helicopter 45 minutes seeing those high-rise buildings consume the 19th-century low-rise environment. And with it, _____ (COME) congestion, and we _____ (LOSE) mobility.

So a few years ago, we _____ (DECIDE) to go back and rethink Habitat. Could we make it more affordable? Could we actually achieve this quality of life in the densities that _____ (PREVAIL) today?

I want to touch on one more issue, which is the design of the public realm. A hundred years after _____ (BEGIN) building with tall buildings, we _____ (BE) yet to understand how the tall high-rise building _____ (BECOME) a building block in making a city, in creating the public realm.

WRITING FOLDER 4: Choose a significant building in Asturias (ex. Oviedo Cathedral, San Miguel de Lillo, Santa Cristina de Lena, Oscar Niemeyer International Cultural Centre...). Write its history and explain its characteristics and why it is or was relevant. Remember to use the appropriate tenses and time structures. Write 150-180 words.