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ENGLISH FOR ARCHITECTURE:

CONCEPTS AND COMMUNICATION

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Tahta Media Group

UU No 28 tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta

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ENGLISH FOR ARCHITECTURE: CONCEPTS AND COMMUNICATION

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PREFACE

This book, *English for Architecture: Concepts and Communication*, is designed as a learning resource for readers who wish to develop their English language skills within the context of architecture. In today's globalized professional environment, the ability to communicate ideas effectively in English has become increasingly important, particularly in fields that involve international collaboration and the exchange of knowledge. Therefore, this book integrates language learning with architectural concepts that are relevant to academic, professional, and general contexts.

The materials in this book are organized into thematic chapters that present essential topics related to architecture, such as self-introduction in academic and professional settings, landscape description, architectural scale, the qualities of an architect, and notable figures in architecture. Each chapter introduces key vocabulary and reading materials, followed by activities that encourage the development of writing, speaking, listening, and reading skills in an integrated manner. The learning components are designed to be practical and contextual, encouraging readers to actively engage with the materials while improving their communication skills.

In addition, this book incorporates authentic texts and examples from architectural practice so that readers can relate language learning to real-world situations. Through the materials and activities provided, readers are expected to enhance their confidence in using English for presentations, discussions, and professional communication related to architecture.

The author hopes that this book will serve as a useful reference for students, lecturers, professionals, and anyone interested in learning English within the field of architecture. Constructive feedback and suggestions are warmly welcomed for the improvement of future editions of this book.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
 UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH FOR ARCHITECTURE: CONCEPTS AND COMMUNICATION	1
Get Ready.....	1
 Vocabulary List.....	4
Reading Comprehension	9
Writing: Self-Introduction	11
Speaking	12
 UNIT 2: DESCRIBING LANDSCAPE.....	13
Vocabulary Focus: <i>Landscape</i>	13
Speaking	25
Reading Comprehension	29
Writing.....	32
 UNIT 3: SCALE IN ARCHITECTURE	33
Vocabulary Focus: Scale in Architecture.....	33
 Reading Comprehension.....	48
Speaking	52
Writing.....	54
 UNIT 4: QUALITIES OF AN ARCHITECT.....	55
Vocabulary Focus: Qualities of an Architect.....	55
 Reading Passage	67
 UNIT 5: PEOPLE IN ARCHITECTURE	70
Vocabulary Focus: People in Architecture.....	70
Listening Comprehension	80

 Speaking Practice	84
 Reading Comprehension	98
Writing: Short Biographies	106

■ UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH FOR ARCHITECTURE: CONCEPTS AND COMMUNICATION



Learning Objective

Students are able to introduce themselves, explain their educational background, describe their interests in architecture, and state their professional goals using simple English.

Get Ready

Read the following Biodata of one professional architect.

Name : Zhanaya Elshanum Artisya
Profession : Junior Architect
Education : Diploma in Architecture – Pontianak State Polytechnic (2022)
Skills : AutoCAD, SketchUp, Adobe Photoshop, project presentation and communication, teamwork, sustainable design, BIM (Building Information Modeling)
Experience : ArchiNova Design Studio, Jakarta (2019–2022)

- Developed architectural concepts and drawings for over 15 residential projects
- Collaborated with engineers and clients



- to ensure design feasibility
- Assisted in preparing permit documentation and 3D visualizations

Profile

Zhanaya Elshanum Artisya is a junior architect who graduated from Pontianak State Polytechnic. She is passionate about sustainable building design. Zhanaya worked on a small housing project during her internship, where she learned how to manage design tasks and coordinate with construction teams. She enjoys using digital tools to visualize her ideas and wants to contribute to eco-friendly architecture in the future.

Activity 1.1. Choose the best answer

1. What is Zhanaya Elshanum Artisya's profession?
 - a. Engineer
 - b. Senior Architect
 - c. Junior Architect
 - d. Interior Designer
2. Where did Zhanaya complete her diploma education?
 - a. Jakarta Architecture Institute
 - b. Bandung Creative Polytechnic
 - c. Pontianak State Polytechnic
 - d. Central Java Design School
3. What design approach is Zhanaya especially interested in?
 - a. Minimalist design
 - b. Classical architecture
 - c. Sustainable building design
 - d. High-rise structure design
4. Which software is not mentioned in her list of skills?
 - a. AutoCAD
 - b. SketchUp

- c. Revit
 - d. Adobe Photoshop
5. What role did Zhanaya play during her internship?
- a. She supervised site construction
 - b. She managed finance and budgets
 - c. She managed design tasks and coordinated with teams
 - d. She taught architectural theory
6. How many residential projects did she work on at ArchiNova Design Studio?
- a. 10
 - b. Over 15
 - c. Less than 5
 - d. 25
7. What kind of architectural projects has Zhanaya primarily been involved in?
- a. Commercial shopping malls
 - b. Public monuments
 - c. Residential projects
 - d. Highway planning
8. What does Zhanaya want to contribute to in the future?
- a. Luxury architecture
 - b. Eco-friendly architecture
 - c. Skyscraper development
 - d. Construction safety laws
9. Which of the following is one of her teamwork responsibilities?
- a. Managing marketing campaigns
 - b. Coordinating with engineers and clients
 - c. Handling legal disputes
 - d. Organizing community events
10. What type of presentation is mentioned in her skill set?
- a. Budget presentation
 - b. Graphic presentation
 - c. Client presentation
 - d. Project presentation

Vocabulary List

No	English Term	Indonesian Equivalent	Description (EN)	Example Sentence
1.	academic background	latar belakang akademik	The history of one's education and qualifications	She shared her academic background in architecture.
2.	diploma	diploma	A certificate awarded for completing a course of study	He received his diploma in architecture last year.
3.	architecture	arsitektur	The art and science of designing buildings	Modern architecture emphasizes simplicity and function.
4.	internship	magang	A temporary position for gaining practical experience	I did my internship at a sustainable architecture firm.
5.	junior architect	arsitek pemula	An entry-level architect	The junior architect was assigned to assist the design.
6.	sustainable design	desain berkelanjutan	Designing with minimal environmental impact	They focus on sustainable design for urban housing.
7.	work experience	pengalaman kerja	Practical experience in a professional field	His work experience includes residential projects.

8.	design tools	alat bantu desain	Instruments used to create architectural designs	SketchUp is one of the design tools we use.
9.	building materials	material bangunan	Substances used in construction	Wood and concrete are common building materials.
10.	design process	proses desain	Steps taken to create a design solution	Understanding the design process is essential.
11.	urban planning	perencanaan kota	Designing and organizing city spaces	Urban planning must consider transportation systems.
12.	construction drawing	gambar konstruksi	Detailed plan for building construction	We submitted the construction drawing to the contractor.
13.	project team	tim proyek	Group working on a specific project	Our project team includes engineers and architects.
14.	presentation skills	keterampilan presentasi	Ability to effectively share ideas publicly	Good presentation skills are vital for architects.
15.	blueprint	cetak biru/gambar rencana	A detailed architectural plan	The blueprint showed all floor levels and sections.

16.	portfolio	portofolio	A collection of work samples	She presented her design portfolio during the interview.
17.	client	klien	A person who commissions a project	The client requested more natural lighting.
18.	concept development	pengembangan konsep	Process of shaping ideas into a design	We had a meeting on concept development this morning.
19.	spatial organization	organisasi ruang	Arrangement of spaces within a building	The spatial organization allows for better ventilation.
20.	design requirements	kebutuhan desain	Conditions or needs to fulfill in design	Safety is one of the key design requirements.

Activity 1.2: Word Match

Match the vocabulary words on the left with their meanings on the right.

Word		Bahasa Indonesia	Definition
1. architecture			a. Practical experience in a professional field
2. junior architect			b. Designing with minimal environmental impact
3. design process			c. Designing and organizing city spaces
4. project team			d. The art and science of designing buildings
5. design tools			e. A certificate awarded for completing a course of study
6. academic background			f. Ability to effectively share ideas publicly
7. design requirements			g. An entry-level architect
8. urban planning			h. Instruments used to create architectural designs
9. blueprint			i. A collection of work samples
10. diploma			j. Process of shaping ideas into a design
11. sustainable design			k. Steps taken to create a design solution
12. presentation skills			l. A temporary position for gaining practical experience.

13. construction drawing			m. A person who commissions a project
14. work experience			n. Arrangement of spaces within a building
15. portfolio			o. Group working on a specific project
16. building materials			p. Substances used in construction
17. internship			q. Conditions or needs to fulfill in design
18. concept development			r. The history of one's education and qualifications
19. client			s. Detailed plan for building construction
20. spatial organization			t. A detailed architectural plan

Reading Comprehension

Activity 1.3: Read the following text and answer the questions!

What is Architecture?

Architecture is more than the physical shape of buildings—it is the fusion of art and science designed to create spaces that are functional, aesthetic, and aligned with human needs and the environment. It reflects the cultural, historical, and social identity of a community, embracing Vitruvius' classical principles of *firmitas* (durability), *utilitas* (utility), and *venustas* (beauty)

Since the modernist revolution, the principle of “form follows function” emphasized that a building’s shape should derive from its intended use rather than ornamental beauty. However, this idea has been critiqued by figures such as Christopher Alexander, who argued that purely functional designs can feel sterile and neglect the psychological and emotional well-being of users.

Alexander introduced the concept of “living structure,” which promotes harmony, balance, and deeper connections between architecture and its cultural or natural context. His approach advocates for built environments that not only serve practical purposes but also foster comfort, identity, and emotional attachment in the people who inhabit them.

Today, architecture continues to evolve through experimental and sustainable practices. Innovations such as self-healing concrete, renewable timber, and adaptive building technologies are employed to design energy-efficient, eco-friendly, and socially responsive spaces that can meet the demands of an ever-changing world.

Source: Janetius, S.T. (2020). What is Architecture? ResearchGate Publication

Comprehension Questions

1. What are the three classical principles of architecture proposed by Vitruvius?
2. How does the reading define architecture beyond just the design of buildings?
3. What is the meaning of the phrase “form follows function” in architectural design?
4. Why did Christopher Alexander criticize the modernist approach to architecture?
5. What is the concept of a “living structure” as introduced by Christopher Alexander?
6. According to the text, how should architecture connect with its environment?
7. List at least two modern innovations in architecture mentioned in the reading.
8. How does sustainable architecture contribute to environmental protection?
9. What emotional aspects does architecture need to consider, based on the text?
10. In your opinion, how does the evolution of architecture reflect changes in society? (*Open-ended*)

Writing: Self-Introduction

Activity 1.4: Writing a short paragraph

Write a short paragraph (approx. 100 words) introducing your academic background and interest in architecture!



Worksheet Space:

- Name:
- Institution:
- Why Architecture:
- Favorite Subject or Tool:
- Career Goal:



Guide Questions:

- What is your name?
- Where do you study?
- Why did you choose architecture?
- What subjects or tools do you enjoy?
- What are your career goals?



Lines for Writing:

Sample Answer:

My name is Muhammad Arsyakha Isnaini. I am a second-year student at the Architecture Program of Pontianak State Polytechnic. I chose architecture because I love art and enjoy solving spatial problems. My favorite subject is building technology, and I also like working with SketchUp and AutoCAD. Last semester, I participated in a team project to design a public library. It helped me improve my teamwork and presentation skills. In the future, I want to become an architect who creates sustainable and inclusive public spaces that improve the quality of life in urban areas.

Activity 5.16: Writing People in Architecture

Part A — Identify Biography Components

Read the short biography below and answer the questions.

Sample Text (shortened):

Carlo Scarpa was an Italian architect and designer known for combining modern materials with traditional craftsmanship. He worked on museums, exhibitions, and historical renovations. One of his famous works is the Brion Cemetery.

Questions:

1. What is the architect's nationality?
 2. What is he known for?
 3. What types of projects did he work on?
 4. Mention one famous work.
 5. What makes his design style special?
-

Part B — Vocabulary Review

Match the keywords with their meanings:

1. *Influence*
 2. *Achievement*
 3. *Architecture style*
 4. *Innovation*
 5. *Legacy*
 - a. A new creative idea or method
 - b. The impact someone leaves for the future
 - c. A major accomplishment
 - d. The way someone typically designs
 - e. The power to affect others' ideas
-

Part C — Sentence Building

Use the sentence starters to write 5 complete sentences about one architect:

1. He/She was born in ...
 2. He/She is famous for ...
 3. One of his/her important works is ...
 4. His/Her design style focuses on ...
 5. His/Her work influenced ...
-

Part D — Writing Task

Write a **70–100 word biography** about an architect of your choice.

Use the structure:

- Background
- Expertise
- Achievements
- Famous works
- Influence

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