

## Business architecture

### Level

Intermediate and above

### Tasks

Guessing the 'odd one out' from a set of modern buildings

Reading an article about a recent architecture award

Identifying words in the article from their definitions

Discussing the students' own workplace and nominating a 'Business building of the year'

### How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the word 'gherkin' on the board and see if anyone knows what it means. Elicit the connection with London. Hand out the worksheet and ask students to guess the 'odd one out' from the buildings in the list. Elicit some possible choices and their rationale. Do they know any of the buildings mentioned?

Teacher's note: The 'gherkin' is the nickname for the new cigar-shaped building in London, which resembles a pickled gherkin. An alternative introduction would be to print out a picture of the building from the Internet and ask students to say where it is / if they have seen it. Use your favourite search engine and click 'Images' or 'Pictures'. Visuals of the other buildings are also available on the Internet and would be a useful addition to the lesson.

- 2 Ask students to scan paragraph three of the article to check their answer to exercise 1.

#### *Answer*

*Petrona Towers: all the others were designed by Lord Norman Foster / Foster and partners, the well-known British architects.*

- 3 Ask students to read the whole article and summarise what they learnt about the winner.
- 4 Ask students to find words or expressions in the article from the definitions given.

#### *Answers*

*(a) commissioned (b) icon (c) practice (d) aesthetics (e) sustainable materials*

Deal with any other vocabulary questions at this point.

- 5 Ask students to work in small groups to discuss their answers to the questions. If appropriate, get students to use the internet to research question (b) and print out a photograph. Ask each group to present their chosen building to the rest of the class. The class then vote for the winner of the 'Business building of the year'.

### Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.fosterandpartners.com/>

[http://www.ajplus.co.uk/b\\_bank/search\\_results\\_details/?report\\_ID=6410&report\\_num=0&channelid=6](http://www.ajplus.co.uk/b_bank/search_results_details/?report_ID=6410&report_num=0&channelid=6)

<http://architecture.about.com/cs/greatbuildings/tp/20thcgreaths.htm>