

6 Practical design



Continuous staircase in the atrium of the London headquarters of financial services company Macquarie, UK

TED TALKS

ELORA HARDY grew up in Bali with two artist parents. Her creative upbringing led to her becoming a print designer for one of New York's biggest fashion houses. But after some years there, she moved back home and founded Ibuku, a team that builds homes made and furnished almost entirely of bamboo. Using a design process and an engineering system first established at the Green School in Bali, Elora Hardy and her team have found that bamboo offers amazing opportunities to build creatively and sustainably.

Elora Hardy's idea worth spreading is that using traditional natural materials, such as bamboo, in innovative ways can be a force for positive change in the future.



BACKGROUND

1 You are going to watch a TED Talk by Elora Hardy called *Magical houses, made of bamboo*. Read the text about the speaker and the talk. Then work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What is Elora Hardy's background?
- 2 What do you think the advantages of bamboo might be?
- 3 What other natural building materials can you think of? What benefits do they offer?

KEY WORDS

2 Read the sentences (1–6). The words in bold are used in the TED Talk. First guess the meaning of the words. Then match the words with their definitions (a–f).

- 1 The hotel doesn't have regular bedrooms. Each guest sleeps in a small **pod** and uses a separate bathroom.
 - 2 The first few **shoots** appear in late February, signalling an end to the winter.
 - 3 The people who repair the stonework on the city's ancient buildings are traditional **artisans**.
 - 4 We make some standard products but mostly our customers ask us for **bespoke** furniture for their homes.
 - 5 The insects eat the inside of the tree, leaving the trunk **hollow**.
 - 6 She revealed her **blueprint** for the redevelopment of the city centre at the council's annual general meeting.
- a without anything inside
b a small self-contained space for sleeping, washing or living in general
c custom-made, made-to-measure
d a design plan
e craftsmen or women
f a leaf or stem of a young plant, showing just above the ground

AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS **Word boundaries**

When we link words in fast speech, the word boundaries are often blurred, particularly in familiar or commonly used phrases. It is then difficult to hear the individual words in a sentence. For example, when spoken at natural speed, this sentence:

'First of all, I'd like to know if you can see the screen' sounds like:

'Ferstival, I'd like to nowiff you cn seether screen'

For this reason it is important to:

- be aware of how words are linked in general
- become familiar with linking in common phrases

3a **21** Work in pairs. Look at the Authentic listening skills box. Listen to the extract from Elora Hardy's talk. Underline the phrases where the words are linked so that boundaries are difficult to distinguish.

'Now, we do have all the necessary luxuries, like bathrooms. This one is a basket in the corner of the living room, and I've got to tell you, some people actually hesitate to use it.'

3b Practise saying the sentences yourself, linking the words in a similar way.

3c **22** Listen to the next sentence from the talk and write the words you hear. Then compare answers with your partner.

'So I _____, but one thing I have learned is that bamboo will treat you well if

2 _____.'