Module 5

- **EMPOWER YOUR ENGLISH SKILLS IN YOUR PROFESSION**

SUMMARY

Introduction

Architects furious over new BCA bureaucratic requirements

The architectural community in Malta is up in arms over new bureaucratic measures introduced by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), prompting the Chamber of Architects to instruct its members to boycott the measures.

A directive issued by the Chamber of Architects this week condemns the BCA's unilateral introduction of two new forms without consulting the chamber, in clear violation of previous promises made by the government.

These forms mandate architects and contractors to notify the BCA of third-party properties affected by development or excavation work and to declare insurance coverage for ongoing works.

President of the Kamra tal-Periti, Andre Pizzuto, criticised the lack of consultation, emphasising that the imposition of new forms exceeds the BCA's legal authority. Consequently, the directive advises all members of the profession not to submit these forms.

Pizzuto lambasted the forms as "an inept knee-jerk reaction to the (Sofia) public inquiry," arguing that they do not enhance safety practices but only add unnecessary bureaucracy. He advocated for mandating insurance coverage for all contractors and streamlining the process by requiring a single insurance policy covering all their work.

Former KTP president Christopher Mintoff echoed Pizzuto's sentiments on social media, denouncing the increase in bureaucracy as a distraction from genuine site safety and built quality.

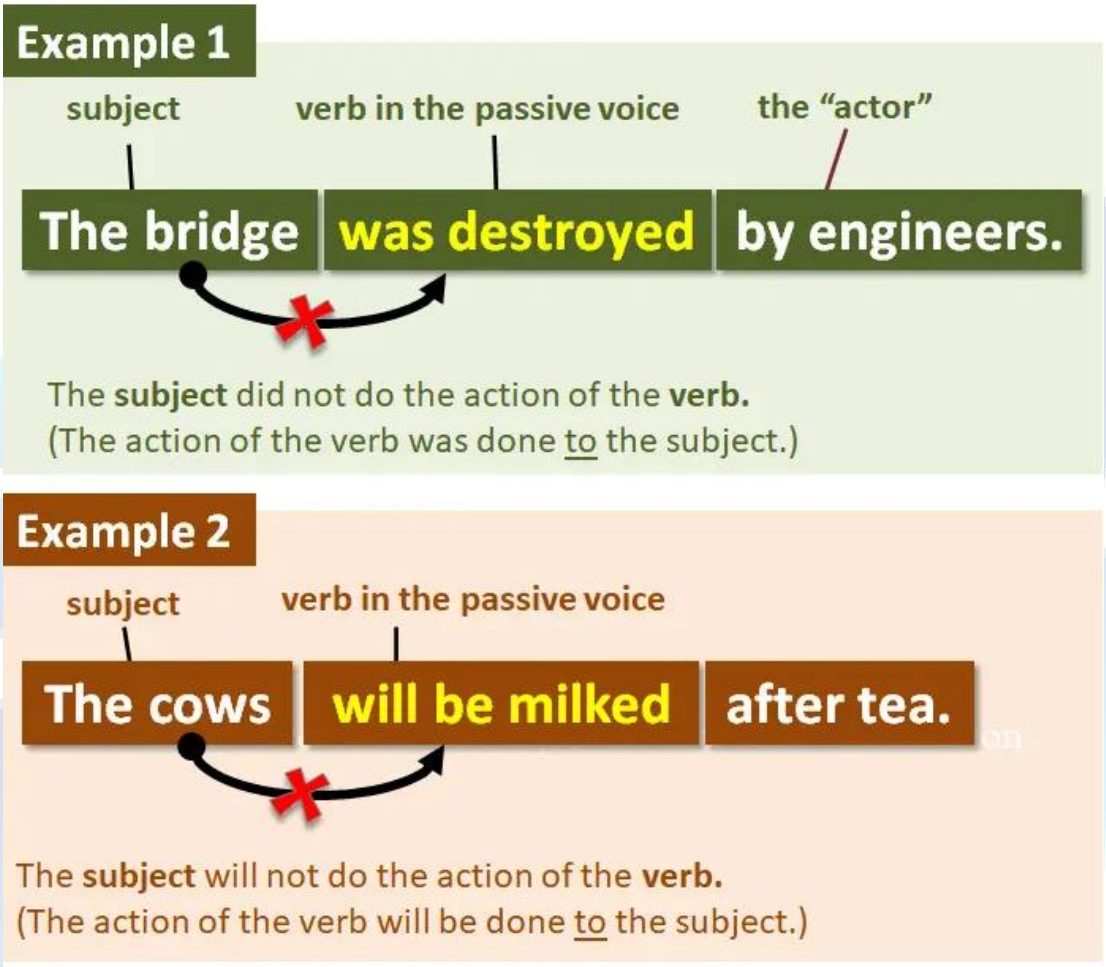
In response, the BCA defended the measures, asserting that they would enhance third-party protection and streamline the insurance process. However, the chamber criticised the BCA's statement, describing it as "unexpected" given the lack of dialogue and consultation.

The chamber reiterated that the BCA's imposition of the new forms without consultation **was unlawful**, directing its members to refrain from filing them. It urged members to await further communication from the council.

UNIT ONE

Passive Voice

describes a verb whose subject does not perform the action of the verb, but receives it



You've probably heard lectures against the passive voice since you were in grade school. It's practically the boogieman of grammar: always lurking, ready to creep into your writing the moment you let your attention wander.

But why is the passive voice such a problem? Why do we combat it with such fervor? And what are the pitfalls of using it in communications and business writing?

Passive voice vs. active voice

Think about a passive person. They just sit there and things happen to them. A gift is given to them. A show is watched by them. They do not act; life acts upon them.

Now think of an active person. They do things! They give gifts. They write books. They are the subject and the hero of their own story.

That's the difference between active and passive voice writing in a nutshell.

This might all sound like grammatical nerdery.

But even if you aren't paying attention to the terminology, the application still matters in day-to-day communications work.

First, passive voice just uses more words. When you're writing social copy, a speech or something for a digital signage board, every word counts. Why waste them on words as boring as "to be"? You're not Hamlet.

Second, the passive voice requires us to unspool a sentence in our minds. Wait, what happened to whom? English is set up to generally default to subjects acting upon other objects, rather than writing the sentences in reverse. You're introducing more steps between reading and comprehension, and in an industry where you're constantly fighting for attention, why would you want to do that?

But in some contexts, the passive voice can do more than simply impede comprehension or rack up your word count. It can just get you into trouble.

The passive voice avoids responsibility

Flash back to being a child. Your parent comes home from work and finds a crime scene: a shattered vase.

"Do you know what happened to the vase?"

"It got broken," innocent childhood you replies. Because even back then, you knew that passive voice was a way of getting out of taking responsibility for something that happened.

You didn't break the vase playing football in the house. It merely was broken by the forces of the universe. No one to blame, really. The vase was broken. How sad.

Now take this out of your childhood home and into the boardroom.

"Layoffs are being carried out," your CEO tells your staff in an all-hands meeting. Again, they are a force of nature, something unpredictable rather than an action taken by your organization.

"We have made the tough decision to layoff portions of our staff," your CEO says instead. She is owning the difficult action, putting a human face and a sense of responsibility onto the layoffs. While the result is the same, people losing their jobs, those who remain will better understand who made the choice and who stands behind it.

Or apply it to your customers.

"A wheelchair was broken in transit," your statement says after an influencer complained that their mobility aid was damaged.

Or it could read instead: "We made a mistake. Our team damaged a wheelchair. We're instituting new training measure to ensure this doesn't happen again."

One phrasing takes responsibility. The other skirts it.

Now, obviously there are times when you can't outright take ownership of a situation. Maybe it isn't your fault. Maybe legal is telling you to keep it vague. The passive voice still has a place in your writing.

But whenever possible, stop and ask yourself: can this sentence be active? What would that mean, not just for the quality of my writing, but for the people reading it?

You might be surprised at the difference.

The most important thing you have to remember, when it comes to turning an Active Voice into a Passive one, is to keep the tense and form of the original sentence (You are not doing Reported Speech, and tenses don't change !); the auxiliary of the Passive Voice is ***BE*** and it must be given the tense and form of the original Active sentence.

- **Present Perfect Example**

  Active: Nobody has designed the new public square yet.

  Passive: The new public square hasn't been designed yet.

- **Future Interrogative Example**

  Active: Will the engineers complete the blueprint by next week?

  Passive: Will the blueprint be completed by next week (by the engineers)?

In the Passive Voice, the **adverb** or **preposition** associated with certain **verbs** must be kept intact. A sentence missing this element is incorrect!

1. **Active:** A construction worker *knocked down* the old wall yesterday. **Passive:** The old wall was *knocked down* yesterday.
2. **Active:** They *called in* an architect to review the project. **Passive:** An architect was *called in* to review the project.
3. **Active:** The team will *follow up* on the permit application. **Passive:** The permit application will be *followed up* on.

Verbs Built with an Infinitive Clause:

In the Passive Voice, verbs like **to believe, to consider, to say, to think,** and **to suppose** are followed by an infinitive clause.

1. **Active:** People believe the design meets sustainability standards.
   Passive: The design is believed to meet sustainability standards.
2. **Active:** They said the building was structurally unsafe.
   Passive: The building was said to be structurally unsafe.
3. **Active:** People consider the architect was innovative in his designs.
   Passive: The architect is considered to have been innovative in his designs.

Passive with "To Make Somebody Do Something":

In the Passive Voice, **to make somebody do something** changes to **to be made TO do something.**

1. **Active:** The contractor made the workers finish the project ahead of schedule.
   Passive: The workers were made TO finish the project ahead of schedule.

2. **Active:** The site manager made the team revise the blueprint.
   Passive: The team was made TO revise the blueprint.

The passive voice is very common in the **news** and in **formal writing**.

- *Arsenal **have been defeated** 3-0, and they are now 4th in the table.*
- *The British embassy in Israel **has been destroyed** by an earthquake.*
- *The Catalan election **will be held** next September.*

Remember that he agent with **'by'** is unnatural in English. Don't write any agent: by the guide, by the manager, etc. unless you want to clearly specify who is responsible for the action.

- *The painting was bought **by a very rich American**.*
- *Penicillin was invented **by Alexander Fleming**.*

EXERCISE 1 – Rewrite the sentences in the passive voice

1. **A tour guide will show the clients the new skyscraper.**

The clients_____

2. **Someone has already approved the blueprints.**

The blueprints_____

3. **After a long negotiation, the project manager promised the contractors additional funding.**

After a long negotiation, _____

4. **It's a simple structure! You shouldn't assign such a complicated task to the intern!**

It's a simple structure! The intern_____

5. **During your presentation, why haven't you accounted for the environmental impact?**

During your presentation, why_____

6. **The developers haven't submitted the building permit yet, but they're already advertising the apartments.**

The building permit_____

7. **We must dispose of these hazardous materials in the designated area.**

These hazardous materials_____

8. **You've worked with this engineer for years! In your opinion, can I depend on their calculations?**

You've worked with this engineer for years! In your opinion, can their calculations

_____

9. **The meeting ended, and no one submitted the final report!**

The meeting ended, and the final report_____

10. **Every day, someone explains the new zoning regulations to the team.**

Every day, the new zoning regulations_____

EXERCISE 2 - Complete the sentences using the correct passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

Authorities _____ 1 **(just/announce)** that the permit for the new office complex _____ 2 **(approve)** yesterday. The documents _____ 3 **(submit)** to the city council at 9:30 along with the final project plans. The architects and contractors _____ 4 **(instruct)** to make minor adjustments, and one of the engineers _____ 5 **(ask)** to provide additional safety certifications. The approval notice _____ 6 **(deliver)** to the project manager shortly after the meeting.

Local authorities have confirmed that all required documentation _____ 7 **(review)** thoroughly, and fortunately, no errors _____ 8 **(detect)**. City officials _____ 9 **(assure)** the public that construction _____ 10 **(begin)** on schedule.

EXERCISE 3 - Fill in the gaps with the verbs in brackets in the correct tense (in active or passive voice).

Building certifications 1 (develop) _____ over decades to ensure safety, sustainability, and efficiency. The first widely recognized certification standards 2 (introduce) _____ in the 20th century. For example, LEED certification 3 (establish) _____ in 1998 in the United States and quickly 4 (adopt) _____ internationally. These certifications 5 (require) _____ compliance with strict environmental and structural guidelines.

In recent years, new technologies 6 (integrate) _____ into certification processes. Digital tools 7 (use) _____ to evaluate energy efficiency, and AI-based systems 8 (implement) _____ to streamline permit approvals. Architects and engineers 9 (train) _____ regularly to stay updated on evolving standards. Today, certifications 10 (consider) _____ a critical part of any major architectural project.

Reported Speech and Passive voice

Reported Speech

Use: Use reported speech to discuss what a colleague, client, or official mentioned in a previous meeting or document.

Example: Architect: *"We submitted the plans last Friday."* Contractor: *"The architect said that they had submitted the plans the previous Friday."*

Form:

1) When reporting speech, the verb in the sentence may ***shift to a past tense***:

Direct Speech	**Reported Speech**
am / is / are → was / were	*"The building is compliant."* → She said that the building **was** compliant.
present simple → past simple	*"We approve the materials."* → He said they **approved** the materials.
present continuous → past continuous	*"The team is inspecting the site."* → She said the team **was inspecting** the site.
will → would	*"We'll finalize the report by Monday."* → They said they **would finalize** the report by Monday.
can → could	*"I can provide the blueprints."* → He said he **could provide** the blueprints.
past simple → past perfect	*"We reviewed the drawings."* → She said they **had reviewed** the drawings.
present perfect → past perfect	*"I've spoken to the council."* → He said he **had spoken** to the council.
past continuous → past perfect	*"They were presenting their proposal."* → She said

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
continuous	they **had been presenting** their proposal.
present perfect continuous → past perfect continuous	*"We've been working on the project."* → He said they **had been working** on the project.

2) To report speech, use **He / She / I said (that)...**
You can also use **He / She told me (that)...**; **I told him/her (that)...**

Examples:

- *"The structural analysis will be completed tomorrow."* → He said that the structural analysis **would be completed the following day**.
- *"We are coordinating with the surveyors."* → She told me that they **were coordinating** with the surveyors.

3) Don't use quotation marks (") when reporting speech.

4) Time references may also need to change:

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
this morning / week / month	*that morning / week / month*
"We inspected the site this week." → They said they inspected the site **that week**.	
yesterday	*the previous day*
"The deadline was yesterday." → He said the deadline was **the previous day**.	
last week / month	*the previous week / month*

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"We approved the design last month." → They said they approved the design **the previous month**.	
ago	*earlier / previously*
"We received the permit two weeks ago." → She said they received the permit **two weeks earlier**.	
tomorrow	*the following day*
"We'll visit the site tomorrow." → He said they would visit the site **the following day**.	
next week / month	*the following week / month*
"We'll finalize the drawings next week." → She said they would finalize the drawings **the following week**.	

EXERCISE 4 - Translate the following sentences into English:

1. **La nuova legge sulla sostenibilità è stata approvata dal governo.**

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2. **Il progettista ha detto che il progetto è pronto.**

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3. **Il piano urbanistico è stato cambiato per rispettare le nuove leggi.**

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4. **Il cliente ha chiesto che le modifiche vengano fatte.**

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5. **Il progetto è stato visto dal comitato di esperti.**

6. **L'architetto ha detto che i permessi sono stati ottenuti.**

UNIT TWO

Reading comprehension

Egyptian Museum in Turin to undergo €23m renovation with two-storey 'agora' at its heart

The mission of the project, designed by OMA architects, is to make the museum more accessible to the public

The new space, covered by a glass and steel roof, will expand the space available to the museum by 975m - © OMA

The Egyptian Museum in Turin, the world's oldest museum entirely dedicated to ancient Egyptian culture, will undergo an ambitious renovation next year to mark its 200th anniversary.

The project, overseen by Dutch studio Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) will involve the transformation of the courtyard at heart of the Baroque-era Collegio dei Nobili, which houses the museum. The new space, covered by a glass and steel roof, will expand the space available to the museum by 975m, with the court becoming a "nerve centre" divided across two floors. The work is expected to cost a total of €23m.

Founded in 1824, the Museo Egizio currently displays 12,000 objects and is generally considered the world's second most important museum of Egyptian archaeology, after the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

The court, which will be accessible without a ticket, has been dubbed "Piazza Egizia", with the aim being to make the museum more accessible to the public. It will feature an Egyptian garden complete with shrubbery and trees, as well as a new cafeteria, ticket office and info point, and a multimedia room where wall projections will transport visitors back in time to ancient Egypt.

Among the features of the reimagined central courtyard will be an Egyptian garden complete with shrubbery and trees - © OMA

"OMA's architectural project is based on a new vision of a museum: one that is more articulated and multiform, a place of research and inclusivity," said Evelina Christillin and Christian Greco, the museum's president and director respectively, in a joint statement. "The idea of covering the courtyard stems from the desire to create a new agora that will be returned to the collectivity."

The new space will also allow for free access to the Temple of Ellesyia, which Egypt donated to the museum in the 1960s after the structure was saved, via an UNESCO campaign, from being submerged by Lake Nasser in southern Egypt and northern Sudan. The Gallery of the Kings, where numerous ancient sculptures are displayed, will also be made free to visit. It will be connected to the Collegio's entrances in Via Accademia and Via Duse, allowing the flow of visitors towards the museum.

The redevelopment is expected to begin next March, with the first part completed in October 2024. It is being led by OMA architects David Gianotten and Andreas Karavanas.

Of the €23m budget, €5m has been provided by Italy's culture ministry, with the rest coming from the museum's founding partners, among them the Region of Piedmont, the City of Turin, and the Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione CRT bank foundations. Funding has also been provided by half a dozen private sponsors including the Intesa Sanpaolo bank as coffee manufacturer Lavazza, a museum spokesperson told *The Art Newspaper*.

EXERCISE 1 – Multiple Choice exercise

1. What makes the Egyptian Museum in Turin stand out among other museums?

a) It has the largest number of Egyptian artifacts in the world.

b) It is located in a historical building from the 18th century.

c) It displays items from various ancient cultures, including Egypt.

d) It was the first museum in the world dedicated to ancient Egyptian culture.

2. Why is the courtyard being redesigned with a glass and steel roof?

a) To provide additional space and create a central hub for visitors.

b) To make the museum more weather-resistant.

c) To attract more visitors by adding modern architecture.

d) To showcase ancient Egyptian building techniques.

3. Why is the "Piazza Egizia" significant to the museum's vision?

a) It replaces the museum's main exhibition hall.

b) It allows the public free access to part of the museum and creates a welcoming space.

c) It includes ticketed exhibits and a café for tourists.

d) It reflects traditional Italian courtyard designs with an Egyptian twist.

4. What is the intended purpose of the multimedia room in the new courtyard?

a) To display documentaries about modern Egyptian culture.

b) To use projections that immerse visitors in the experience of ancient Egypt.

c) To provide additional space for temporary exhibitions.

d) To host presentations about the museum's renovations.

5. Why does the redesign focus on making the museum a "new agora"?

a) To reflect ancient Egyptian architecture and symbolism.

b) To replicate a traditional marketplace for selling souvenirs.

c) To encourage social interaction and inclusivity within the space

d) To attract large events and international conferences.

6. What makes the Temple of Ellesyia a unique feature in the museum?

a) It is the only Egyptian artifact in the museum that is free to view.

b) It was rescued from destruction and gifted to the museum by Egypt.

c) It was reconstructed from ruins found in the museum's courtyard.

d) It is part of a traveling exhibition shared with other museums.

7. What is the significance of the 80-foot living wall in Endeavor?

a) It serves as a tribute to Egypt's ancient agricultural innovations.

b) It showcases Egypt's connection to greenery and sustainability.

c) It emphasizes a balance between technology and nature.

d) It replicates the Nile's biodiversity in a museum setting.

8. How will the redesigned courtyard improve visitors' experience?

a) By providing direct access to all galleries without requiring a ticket.

b) By creating a vibrant space with more facilities and a smoother flow of movement.

c) By offering an exclusive area only for museum members and researchers.

d) By reducing the overall time needed to explore the museum.

9. How do the museum directors justify the cost of the renovation?

a) By emphasizing the economic benefits of attracting more tourists.

b) By pointing out that most of the cost covers modernizing older exhibits.

c) By explaining that all funds are coming from private sponsors.

d) By highlighting the cultural and social value of making the museum more inclusive.

10. What role might AI play in the future of the museum's design?

a) It could replace architects in creating layouts.

b) It could design exhibits without human input.

c) It could help simulate more efficient designs and improve construction.

d) It could manage visitor flow and ticketing systems in real time.

Urban Acupuncture: Regenerating Public Space Through Hyper-Local Interventions

Urban acupuncture is a design tactic promoting urban regeneration at a local level, supporting the idea that interventions in public space don't need to be ample and expensive to have a transformative impact. An alternative to conventional development processes, urban acupuncture represents an adaptable framework for urban renewal, where highly focused and targeted initiatives help regenerate neglected spaces, incrementally deploy urban strategies, or consolidate the social infrastructure of a city.

Drawing from the metaphor of the Chinese traditional medical practice, urban acupuncture refers to the improvement of social and urban issues through precise interventions that revitalize areas of the city, and consolidate urban planning strategies. First coined by Spanish architect Manuel de Solà, the concept circumscribes projects with a high degree of reversibility, allowing for corrective measures and improvements. The tactic has the advantage of being a fast-tracked planning, thus being implemented swiftly and often with modest means. With less bureaucratic requirements, these localized gestures can trigger a chain reaction of improvement in the quality of the adjacent urban environment, from an increase in social cohesion to an improvement in public safety.

Three times mayor of Curitiba, architect and urban planner Jaime Lerner is one of the lead advocates of urban acupuncture, seeing it as a means to bring immediate improvements to the urban environment, bypassing long decision – making processes and surpassing economic impediments. As he sees it, "the lack of resources is no longer an excuse not to act. The idea that action should only be taken after all the answers and the resources have been found is a sure recipe for paralysis". It is worth mentioning at this point that urban acupuncture is a multi-scalar tactic, with projects varying in size, from a re-organization of a corner street to the implementation of new transport lines. However, for this article, the examples will focus on localized interventions, that despite their relatively small scale have a significant positive effect on their surroundings.

The tactic of urban acupuncture is employed by various stakeholders in the city, including municipalities, as means to implement broader urban strategies iteratively, with actions that are quick to deploy, temporary, and for the most part low cost. In its plan to pedestrianize large parts of the city, by defining areas with limited vehicle access, called "superblocks", Barcelona first implemented the transformation using reversible and inexpensive means, intending to test out the validity of the superblock strategy. The progressive interventions and provisional solutions were meant to be consolidated in a second phase. For the Sant Antoni Superblock, Leku Studio was tasked with the design of a toolkit of adaptive furniture, graphic elements and a deployment methodology for the incremental implementation of the urban transformation inside the superblock.

Nature in Small Packages

Although there is an increasing awareness of the lack of green spaces in the urban environments, the construction of new parks is an insurmountable challenge for most cities lacking the land and the financial resources for such feats. Defined by their small scale and community focus, pocket parks and community gardens are a relatively inexpensive investment in the urban environment, with interventions often occupying leftover spaces in the city and concentrating the efforts of local organizations and community groups. These interventions are proven to

have significant benefits for the mental health of citizens and to increase urban safety (as one research notes a reduction in gun crime in the proximity of such projects) sparking a chain of further improvements in the area.

Many acupunctural interventions in the public space are centred around providing a space for citizens to congregate. Designed by AIM Architecture in collaboration with URBAN MATTERS, Urban Bloom transforms a parking lot in Shanghai into a different kind of urban garden, creating an undulating landscape that can encompass an array of scenarios, from casual gatherings, to mini-lectures or outdoor theatre. Similarly, The Green Cloud project by ZHUBO DESIGN aims to activate unused space within an urban island, providing a green and pleasant commonplace for local residents.

Green Cloud by ZHUBO-AAO. Image © John Siu

What qualifies the following project as urban acupuncture is precisely its hyper-locality and the broader strategy it serves in adapting the public space to a new, temporary reality.

Urban acupuncture is a granular type of investment in the city that acknowledges the different realities and sensitivities of the local urban and social fabrics. The tactic provides decision-makers with a sustainable way of addressing urban development, immediately and incrementally, while being mindful with the available resources.

EXERCISE 1 - Complete the sentences using the appropriate term from the box (4 words or expressions are extra).

environmentally friendly | pocket parks | reversibility | urban acupuncture | urban regeneration | superblock | social cohesion | adaptive furniture |

incremental | hyper-locality | public safety | revitalize | deploy | transform | consolidate | modular | sustainable | insurmountable | granular | iterative | targeted

1. The concept of _____ involves small-scale, precise interventions to improve urban and social conditions.
2. Small gardens and _____ are effective ways to introduce green spaces in cities without requiring much land.
3. Architects value _____ solutions for their flexibility and ability to adapt to changing needs.
4. One major advantage of urban acupuncture is its _____ nature, allowing for improvements to be tested and refined.
5. Barcelona's _____ project illustrates how limiting vehicles can _____ public spaces into pedestrian-friendly areas.
6. These interventions aim to _____ neglected urban areas, breathing new life into them.
7. Effective urban design often follows an _____ approach, where solutions are tested progressively before full implementation.
8. Designers use _____ elements in public areas to ensure functionality while accommodating different activities.
9. Projects like these provide a _____ way to address urban challenges, focusing on the specific needs of local areas.
10. _____ development is key to creating environmentally friendly and cost-effective urban strategies.
11. The new park design will _____ the community's sense of connection and foster _____ in the neighborhood.
12. The lack of resources might seem _____, but urban acupuncture demonstrates how small actions can overcome this challenge.

13. By implementing _____ interventions, municipalities can create lasting changes without massive budgets.
14. The _____ roof design helps minimize environmental impact while enhancing natural lighting.
15. Public spaces must be designed to _____ community safety and encourage positive interactions among residents.

UNIT THREE

Listening Comprehension

Inside Nvidia HQ: What a $2T Company's Office Looks Like | WSJ Open Office

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0gFgJuH_wg

GLOSSARY

Term	Sentence	Definition
Propelled	"The chips that propelled the company to a 2 trillion dollar valuation..."	To drive or push something forward, usually in a figurative sense.
Custom	"The chips that propelled the company to a 2 trillion dollar valuation were used in custom software..."	Made specifically for a particular user or task, tailored to fit specific needs.
Sought after	"One of the most sought after places to work..."	Desirable and in high demand.
To fuel the work	"...how does NVIDIA's space fuel the work, powering the AI revolution?"	To provide the necessary energy, resources, or inspiration to support or enhance something.
Chased down	"I took a tour and chased down a robot to find out."	To pursue or follow something in order to catch it or discover more about it.
Walkways	"From windows to walkways to this corrugated structure."	Paths or passages for walking, typically elevated or paved.

Corrugated structure	"From windows to walkways to this corrugated structure."	A type of construction material or design featuring a wavy or ridged pattern for strength and durability.
Spread it open across	"We took that heart and spread it open across the surface of that mountain."	To expand or unfold something over a large area.
Inwardly	"Endeavor feels inwardly focused..."	Directed or focused toward the inside, in a more internal or introspective way.
Whereas	"...whereas Voyager is wide open..."	Used to contrast two different situations or facts.
Wide open	"...whereas Voyager is wide open."	Completely open, expansive, or unrestricted.
To foster	"NVIDIA's goals for the project to foster collaboration..."	To encourage or promote the development or growth of something.
Silicon wafer	"How do you move information around on a silicon wafer."	A thin, flat piece of silicon used as a base for microchips.
Roughly	"There are workspaces for roughly 5,000 Nvidians total."	Approximately, not exactly.
Faceted	"The whole thing is faceted."	Having multiple flat surfaces or sides, typically at an angle.
Running into	"...it would be tough to avoid running into other Nvidians here..."	To encounter or meet unexpectedly.
Blazing trails up the mountain	"Some blazing trails up the mountain."	Creating new paths or ways, typically involving hard work or innovation.
Tuck away	"The elevators are pretty tucked away."	To place something in a hidden or out-of-sight location.
Meandering	"But NVIDIA's paths through the office aren't meandering."	Winding or twisting in various directions without a clear goal or plan.
Triangular skylights dotting the ceiling	"There are 511 triangular skylights dotting the ceilings of the two buildings."	Skylights shaped like triangles, scattered across a ceiling.
Relic	"...the first thing you see is a huge plant wall. It becomes a relic in some ways..."	An object or thing from the past, often considered outdated or no longer relevant.

Carry out	"And these buildings carry out the vision of NVIDIA..."	To execute or implement something, such as a plan or task.
Put their technology up	"...if they put their technology up."	To display or showcase something, often in a prominent way.
It has room to grow	"Nvidia has room to grow."	There is potential for further expansion or development.

EXERCISE 1 – Watch the video and answer the following questions.

1. What are the names of the two buildings at NVIDIA's campus in Santa Clara?
2. Why is the triangle motif important to NVIDIA's design?
3. What is the main purpose of the "heart" space in the Endeavor building?
4. How does the design of Endeavor differ from Voyager in terms of focus?
5. Why are there 19 staircases in the Voyager building?
6. What was NVIDIA's goal in designing the open office layout in the new buildings?
7. How did the acoustical design help with noise issues in the open office spaces?
8. How does the simulation technology help with building design at NVIDIA?
9. What is the purpose of the 80-foot living wall in Endeavor?
10. How could AI play a role in the construction of future buildings at NVIDIA?

UK Building Regulations Explained Simply

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaOjeAxZbFs

EXERCISE 1 – Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the correct words you hear.

The UK Building Regulations

The UK building regulations are a set of _____ (1) that ensure all construction work in the UK is safe, healthy, and accessible. In this video, we'll be exploring what the building regulations are, how they're _____ (2), and the series of approved _____ (3).

What Are Building Regulations?

The UK building regulations are a set of _____ (4) standards and requirements set out in the _____ (5) Act 1984 and its amendments. The Building Act provides the _____ (6) framework for the building regulations, which are enforced by local _____ (7) in the UK.

The building regulations are not part of statutory _____ (8) but rather a set of technical _____ (9) that must be followed. Failure to comply with the building regulations can lead to _____ (10) being taken against the person responsible for the building work.

How Are Building Regulations Enforced?

To comply with building regulations, builders and property owners must submit _____ (11) and specifications to their local authority before starting any work. The local authority will then review the plans and conduct site _____ (12) to ensure that the work is being carried out in accordance with the regulations.

If the local authority finds that work is not in compliance with the regulations, they can issue a _____ (13) requiring the work to stop until changes are made. Failure to comply can result in _____ (14), legal action, and even the _____ (15) of the building.

Why Are Building Regulations Important?

The UK building regulations are important for several reasons. Firstly, they ensure buildings are _____ (16) for occupants and the general public by setting standards for fire safety, _____ (17) safety, and accessibility. The regulations help to prevent accidents and injuries.

Secondly, the regulations promote _____ (18) and energy _____ (19). Buildings account for a significant amount of energy consumption and emissions, and the building regulations help reduce this impact by setting standards for _____ (20), heating, lighting, and ventilation.

Finally, they provide clarity and consistency in the _____ (21) industry by setting standards for all building work, regardless of location or size. The regulations ensure all buildings meet the same _____ (22) standards.

Approved Documents

The building regulations are organized into a series of approved _____ (23), each covering a different aspect of building design. These documents are identified by _____ (24). For example:

- A – _____ (25): Covers the structural stability of buildings, including foundations, walls, and roofs.
- B – _____ (26) Safety: Covers fire safety in buildings, including escape routes and fire-resistant materials.

- C – Site Preparation and _____ (27) to Contaminants: Covers foundations, damp proofing, and drainage.

Each document provides guidance on how to meet the building regulations for a specific aspect of building design and _____ (28).

Additional Information

Please note that this is a brief explanation. For example, Part L applies only in _____ (29), not England. This is because the Welsh government has the power to set its own building regulations under the _____ (30) Act 2017.

UNIT FOUR

Use of English

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into on this [Date], by and between [Client's Name] (hereinafter referred to as "Client") and [Architect's Name] (hereinafter referred to as "Architect").*

1. Scope of Work

The following services shall be provided by the Architect for the Client:

- Plans and designs will be prepared according to the specifications agreed upon.

- All relevant building codes and regulations will be adhered to.

- Site visits will be conducted as necessary to ensure compliance with the design.

- Consultation and advice will be given regarding material selection and project development.

- Any changes or revisions to the design will be incorporated upon mutual agreement.

2. Project Timeline

- A timeline will be proposed, and adjustments will be made as needed to accommodate project changes or delays.

- The final designs will be delivered by [insert date], unless an extension is agreed upon.

- Meetings and presentations will be scheduled as required throughout the project.

3. Compensation and Payment

- Payment for services will be made as follows: [describe payment terms].

- Invoices will be submitted on a [monthly/bi-weekly/other] basis.

- Payments will be made within [number] days of receipt of the invoice.

4. Responsibilities of the Client

- The Client's requirements will be communicated clearly to the Architect.

- Timely approvals and feedback will be provided to ensure the smooth progression of the project.

- Necessary permissions, permits, and licenses will be obtained by the Client.

5. Changes to the Project

- Modifications to the project scope will be documented and reviewed.

- Adjustments to the schedule or budget will be made as required due to changes.

6. Termination

- The agreement may be terminated by either party with [insert notice period], provided written notice is given.

- In the event of termination, payment will be made for the work completed up to the date of termination.

7. Liability and Insurance

- Professional liability insurance will be maintained by the Architect throughout the project.

- Any defects in the design will be corrected at no additional cost, provided they arise from errors on the part of the Architect.

8. Dispute Resolution

- Disputes arising under this Agreement will be settled through mediation or arbitration, as agreed by both parties.

This Agreement has been reviewed and is understood by both parties. The terms and conditions set forth will be adhered to by both the Architect and the Client.

Client: _____

Date: _____

Architect: _____

Date: _____

The language used in legal documents such as architectural service agreements is characterized by its formal, precise, and often complex structure. Key aspects of this language include the use of specific terms, prepositions, and modal verbs to define responsibilities, conditions, and timelines, ensuring clarity and reducing ambiguity in contractual obligations.

1. Use of Modal Verbs

Legal agreements frequently use modal verbs like shall, will, and may to define obligations, expectations, and discretionary actions:

- **Shall**: Indicates a mandatory obligation (e.g., *"Plans and designs shall be prepared according to the specifications agreed upon."*). Architects should note that "shall" imposes a strict duty.
- **Will**: Describes actions to be performed without necessarily imposing a legal obligation (e.g., *"The final designs will be delivered by [insert date]."*)
- **May**: Indicates permission or optionality, giving flexibility to a party (e.g., *"The agreement may be terminated by either party with [insert notice period]."*)

2. Third-Person References

Contracts avoid pronouns like "**you**" or "**we**" and use formal party designations (e.g., "Client" and "Architect") for clarity and to avoid ambiguity. For example, "The Architect shall maintain professional liability insurance..." makes it clear who bears responsibility.

3. Prepositions

IN: "The Architect will be responsible for the design **in accordance with** the specifications."

"The materials must comply with standards **set in** the building codes."

BY: "The final report must be **delivered by** [insert date]."

"The Architect will ensure compliance with building codes **by inspecting** the site."

"Payment should be made **by bank transfer**."

UPON: it adds a level of formality and precision to the language, which is typical in legal contexts. It creates a sense of authority and clarity, particularly in contractual obligations. It helps define the triggering event or condition. For example, using "upon receipt" clearly indicates that something must happen first (like receiving a document) before the next step is taken. It emphasizes the timing of actions, suggesting that something will happen immediately or shortly after a condition is met.

Start of Work: "The Architect will begin work **upon** receipt of the signed contract."

Client Approval: "The design will proceed **upon** approval by the Client."

Payment Terms: "Payment will be due **upon** delivery of the final drawings."

Condition Precedent: "The contract shall be considered valid **upon** signing by both parties."

4. Passive Voice and Neutrality

Legal language often employs passive constructions to focus on the action or obligation rather than the actor, ensuring neutrality:

- *"Invoices will be submitted on a [monthly/bi-weekly] basis."* This emphasizes the process rather than the person submitting the invoice.

Architect Agreement

THIS ARCHITECT AGREEMENT is entered into this [date], by and between _____, who is located at _____ (Architect), and _____, who is located at _____ (Owner), shall commence pursuant to the following terms and conditions:

1. General Nature

a. The owner of the property located at [address] has expressed an interest in the services of the Architect to remodel, restructure, and redesign the above location.

b. The owner will accept full financial responsibility for the restructuring of the property and has secured financing to fund said restructuring.

c. The architect holds the experience and licenses necessary to fulfil the owner's needs along with all agreement terms set forth.

d. Both parties seek to fulfil this agreement of their own free will.

e. Under no circumstances shall any portion of this agreement be fulfilled by a third party without the prior consent of all participating parties.

f. The Architect shall perform or oversee the performance of any architecture as well as any related tasks. Responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to any design, drafting, reviewing, programming, administrative tasks, and any additional tasks necessary for the completion of the design of this location as well as the construction contract for the above location. Any services rendered during the term of this architect agreement by the Architect shall conform to all state standards and regulations. The Architect will submit any plans required to the state office for inspection as well as provide assistance in any state inspections during the term of this agreement.

2. Administrative Services

The Architect shall provide all administrative services as follows until the initial closing of the mortgage for the property listed. Upon the closing of the property, all administrative services will cease. However, the Architect shall advise the owner until the final payment has been delivered to both the Architect and any contractors involved.

Date

Name

Address

Name

Address

Property Address

a. The Architect will visit the property on a weekly basis to monitor and evaluate the progress of the work completed as well as ensure all completed work falls within the contract guidelines. The architect will deliver a weekly report to the owner on any findings of said visits. During the visits to the property, the architect will search for any contract breaches and notify the owner of the occurrence of any violations.

b. The Architect is solely responsible for the interpretation of any construction documents. In the case of a disagreement between the Architect and Constructor, the architect will hold the final interpretation of the documentation and supersede any interpretations of the construction contractor.

c. The Architect will be responsible for the review of any applications and certificates of payment from the Constructor to the Owner. This includes, but is not limited to any requests for changes, forwarding of funds, or finalized funds from the Constructor to the Owner.

d. The architect shall review all samples and swatches provided to the owner before the owner views said items. If instances occur where changes are requested by the owner for above-mentioned items then the Architect shall be responsible for implementing the changes needed.

e. The architect will be responsible for any certificates of payment and upon receipt of such certificates shall have no more than 7 days to deliver certificates to the owner. Failure to do so may result in project hold and schedule lapse.

3. Design Services

a. The Architect will comply with any state regulations concerning the design and structure of the property listed in this architect agreement.

b. The Architect will complete any requirements within the time frame of this agreement within the state's standards and regulations.

4. Deliverables

a. The Architect will provide the following deliverables to the client during the length of this architect agreement:

_____

_____

Deliverables

b. The owner will be responsible for the following as the Architect will not be licensed to provide the deliverables needed in said fields: (Site Engineering/Mechanical engineering/Electrical engineering/Landscape design)

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Payment

Payment owed to the Architect for any design services shall be due upon the sale of the property. The total costs for the project are estimated in the table below but may be subject to change due to unforeseeable circumstances.

6. Schedule

a. The Owner and Architect agree to hold a meeting to determine schedule goals and needs on _____.

b. The architect will, to the best of their ability, adhere to all schedules set forth unless previous written notification has been provided to the Owner.

c. The architect agrees to be in contact with the owner about the budget, timelines and any budget issues that may arise.

d. The architect shall submit Andy and all colour swatches or samples for approval concerning the agreed apron schedule and budgeting guidelines.

e. The architect shall provide notice of any inspections or state regulations that may delay or disrupt the schedule as mentioned above in any way.

Services	Price	Quantity	Subtotal

Total

Date

Services

Amount

Quantity

Amount

Responsibility

7. Insurance

Both parties shall, for the duration of this architect agreement maintain adequate insurance as required by state regulations. Parties upon request shall provide proof of all relevant insurance policies.

8. Documents

a. Upon entering into this architect agreement, the architect shall provide the owner with any and all documentation needed for approval either by the owner or by the state.

b. It is the architect's sole responsibility to go over said documents with the general construction contractor to ensure all plans fit within the budget guidelines set forth.

c. If any revisions to the documents provided are needed, the Architect will be responsible for implementing said changes as well as providing the owner with the updated documents.

d. Any documents requiring government approval shall be submitted by the owner with the assistance of the Architect.

e. Upon completion of this architect agreement the architect shall produce five copies of all necessary documentation to be filed as follows:

- Two signed sets delivered to the state and any financial lenders involved.
- One Set of signed documents provided to the owner for their records
- One Set shall be provided to the general contractor
- One Set shall remain with the architect for their records.

9. Guaranty Period

The Architect and any agents related shall conduct an observation and review of all deliverables no later than the 12th month following the conclusion of this architect agreement. The Architect will upon such observation conduct checks for any defects, recalls, and deficiencies of all deliverables. The Architect will notify the Owner of such findings.

(The space below is intentionally left blank)

By signing below, both parties acknowledge their receipt and acceptance of this architect agreement.

Architect Owner

_____ _____

Signature Signature

_____ _____

Name Name

_____ _____

Date Date

EXERCISE 1 – Choose the correct option to complete the following sentences.

1. **This Architect Agreement is _____this (Date), by and between Mr Jones (Architect), and Ms Dalloway (Owner), shall commence pursuant to the following terms and conditions.**

   a) entered upon b) entered on to c) entered into on

2. **The Architect is responsible for overseeing the performance of any architecture as well as related tasks, _____ Design, Drafting, Programming.**

   a) including but not exclusively for

   b) including but not limited to

   c) including but with the exception of

3. **The Architect _____the property on a bi-weekly basis to monitor and evaluate the progress of the work completed and ensure all work falls within the contract guidelines.**

   a) shall visit b) may visit c) will visit

4. **The Architect _____ providing the Owner with the necessary documentation for approval either by the Owner or by the state.**

   a) will be risponsable for b) will be responsible for c) will be risponsible of

5. **Payment for the Architect's services shall be due _____ the sale of the property.**

a) Upon b) Before c) After

6. **Both _____ must provide _____ notice in the event of changes to the schedule or budget that may affect the project's progress.**

a) parties/oral b) parties/written c) parts/verbal

7. **Upon entering into this Architect Agreement, the Architect _____ all relevant documents necessary for approval either by the Owner or the state.**

a) shall provide the Owner the b) shall provide the Owner

c) shall provide the Owner with

8. **_____ implementing the changes and providing the Owner with revised copies of the updated documents.**

a) If any revisions to the documents are needed, the Architect will be responsible for implementing the changes…

b) If any revisions to the documents won't be needed, the Architect is responsible for implementing the changes…

c) If any revisions to the documents might be needed, the Architect will be responsible for implementing the changes…

9. **The Architect _____ a final observation and review no later than the 12th month following the conclusion of this Architect Agreement.**

a) is capable of b) would like to c) will conduct

10. **Both parties shall, for the duration of this Architect Agreement, maintain adequate _____ insurance as required by state regulations.**

a) Reliability b) Liability c) Trustworthiness

ANSWER KEYS

UNIT ONE

EXERCISE 1

4. The clients will be shown the new skyscraper.
5. The blueprints have already been approved.
6. After a long negotiation, the contractors were promised additional funding.
7. The intern shouldn't be assigned such a complicated task!
8. During your presentation, why hasn't the environmental impact been accounted for?
9. The building permit hasn't been submitted yet, but it's already being advertised.
10. These hazardous materials must be disposed of in the designated area.
11. Can their calculations be depended on?
12. The meeting ended, and the final report wasn't submitted.
13. Every day, the new zoning regulations are explained to the team.

EXERCISE 2

1. have just announced
2. was approved
3. were submitted
4. were instructed
5. was asked
6. was delivered
7. has been reviewed
8. were detected
9. have assured
10. will begin

EXERCISE 3

1. have been developed
2. were introduced
3. was established
4. was adopted
5. require

6. have been integrated
7. are used
8. have been implemented
9. are trained
10. are considered

EXERCISE 4

1. The new sustainability law **was approved** by the government.
2. The designer **said that the project was ready**.
3. The urban plan **has been changed** to comply with the new laws.
4. The client **asked that the changes be made**./ The client **asked for the changes to be made**.
5. The project **was seen** by the expert committee.
6. The architect **said that the permits had been obtained**.

UNIT TWO

EXERCISE 1:

1. d)
2. a)
3. b)
4. b)
5. c)
6. b)
7. a)
8. b)
9. d)
10. c)

EXERCISE 1:

1. urban acupuncture
2. pocket parks
3. modular
4. iterative
5. superblock, transform
6. revitalize
7. incremental
8. adaptive furniture
9. granular
10. sustainable
11. consolidate, social cohesion
12. insurmountable

13. targeted
14. environmentally friendly
15. enhance

The 4 distractors are: reversibility, urban regeneration, hyper-locality, and deploy,

UNIT THREE

EXERCISE 1:

1. Endeavor and Voyager.
2. It reflects the origins of the company and how 3D graphics were originally based on drawing triangles.
3. The "heart" space contains active areas such as reception, conference rooms, and coffee breaks, serving as a central hub for interaction.
4. Endeavor is more inwardly focused, while Voyager is more wide open.
5. There are 19 staircases because NVIDIA wanted to create a design with more stairs than technically necessary to encourage interaction and movement throughout the building.
6. The goal was to foster collaboration and maximize efficiency by having employees in an open office to encourage connections and teamwork.
7. The roof was shaped to mitigate sound by reflecting it away from people and incorporating acoustical insulation to absorb the noise.
8. NVIDIA uses simulation technology to simulate real-world conditions (like how sunlight would pass through skylights) before building, ensuring the actual design matches the simulation.
9. The living wall in Endeavor is meant to bring green elements into the design and enhance the building's aesthetic and environmental value.
10. AI could play a role by assisting in the design process and expanding possibilities for new, innovative building designs.

VIDEOSCRIPT

[Adam]

At Nvidia's headquarters, the chips that propelled the company to a 2 trillion dollar valuation were used in custom software that helped design this office.

- **[Speaker]**: We're using a lot of their visualization tools to help optimize the daylight that's coming in here.
- **[Speaker]**: We got to test out our technology on our own project.
- **[Adam]**: And beyond powering the program that visualized the office, NVIDIA's chips also served as the inspiration for these futuristic buildings.
- **[Speaker]**: These projects are all about the soul of Nvidia.
- **[Adam]**: So what does the soul of one of the most sought after places to work look like, and how does NVIDIA's space fuel the work, powering the AI revolution? I took a tour and chased down a robot to find out.

Office Setup

[Adam]

On NVIDIA's campus in Santa Clara, California, these two buildings are the focus:

- The 500,000 square foot Endeavor
- The 750,000 square foot Voyager. Yes, those are Star Trek references. An outdoor park connects these two buildings.
- **[Speaker]**: Our triangle motif here is really a reflection of the origins of the company. 3D graphics were based originally on drawing triangles.
- **[Adam]**: The triangle is everywhere. From windows to walkways to this corrugated structure.
- **[Speaker]**: This is the heart. The heart contains many of our most active spaces: reception, conference rooms, coffee breaks.
- **[Adam]**: The heart sits at the center of Endeavor, which was the first of the two new buildings to open on campus. In the middle of Voyager, there's this.
- **[Speaker]**: We call it the mountain, and what we did was take that heart and spread it open across the surface of that mountain.
- **[Adam]**: Got it.

- **[Speaker]**: The effect of this is that Endeavor feels inwardly focused, whereas Voyager is wide open.
- **[Speaker]**: It's like a high-rise building on three and a half floors.

[Adam]
But NVIDIA's goals for the project—to foster collaboration and maximize efficiency for its employees called Nvidians—bring shared purpose to these two buildings.

- **[Speaker]**: The CEO Jensen was very, very involved personally with the design here. For them, chip design, it's all about connections. How do you move information around on a silicon wafer? What they do is they design the connections first.

Creating Connections

[Adam]
In Voyager and Endeavor, there are workspaces for roughly 5,000 Nvidians total. The project's leaders decided the best layout for connecting workers was an open office.

- **[Speaker]**: We always talked about the ideal way of getting everybody to collaborate—to get everybody in one room.
- **[Adam]**: But as anyone who's worked in a big open room knows, noise can be a problem.
- **[Speaker]**: I mean, if we're in one room with 3,500 people, that can be incredibly noisy.
- **[Speaker]**: So the shaping of the roof helps mitigate the sound. The whole thing is faceted. So the sound as it reflects, it's not reflecting back to you, it's reflecting elsewhere. And behind that, there's acoustical insulation there. So the sound goes and gets absorbed by the roof.

[Adam]
Nvidia said findings in this MIT study helped motivate the switch from the cubicle-filled spaces in its older offices to what we see in these newer buildings.

- **[Speaker]**: There's a visual connection, even if there's not an audio connection, and that allows, that quicker iteration, allows those deeper relationships that are important to building a very complex product.
- **[Adam]**: So you're saying, it's not just about giving employees an opportunity to connect and socialize, but you're saying the actual work that they then do together is better?
- **[Speaker]**: Absolutely, yes.
- **[Adam]**: And that's just by being able to see one another?
- **[Speaker]**: It starts with that.
- **[Adam]**: And unless you never leave a desk, it would be tough to avoid running into other Nvidians here, especially on the stairs.
- **[Speaker]**: So what you see along the mountain are these cabins, and at the very top, that's the bar.
- **[Speaker]**: It's a little bit of a metaphor for the work day. Your first coffee, your second coffee, and now you can have a drink. (people laughing) I love it.

[Adam]
In Voyager alone, there are 19 staircases, some blazing trails up the mountain.

- **[Speaker]**: We have way more stairs than you need technically to exit. The elevators are pretty tucked away. They're there, yeah. You know, people do need elevators, but it's not front and center, and that's again, something I think that's pretty unique to Nvidia.
- **[Adam]**: But NVIDIA's paths through the office aren't meandering. The hallways that cut through the heart, for example, provide shortcuts across Endeavor, and this extends outside too.
- **[Speaker]**: When we built the second part of this campus, which is Voyager and the park in between, we connected them at both levels so that the trip between the two is as short as possible.

[Adam]

How short? We tested it.

- **[Speaker]**: Shouldn't take more than two minutes.
- **[Adam]**: Let's start the timer and go.

[Adam]

How did we do?

- **[Speaker]**: Timer stops. We were so close, 2:30. Maybe we were a little leisurely. Maybe we were looking at the trees, but 2:30.

Optimizing Efficiency

[Adam]

But getting to meetings and coworkers is only part of optimizing efficiency. Nvidia wanted to create the ideal working conditions, and this is where NVIDIA's tech came in.

- **[Speaker]**: One of the key principles that Nvidia uses as a company is simulation. We want to be able to simulate a world before we build it.
- **[Speaker]**: We as architects, you probably see a lot of renderings that we create, but there's renderings, no matter how photoreal they are, it's still kind of an illustration of what we think the reality's gonna be.
- **[Adam]**: So Nvidia put its chips to work, creating a program that could, for example, simulate how sun would pass through the skylights.
- **[Speaker]**: If I showed you those images that we had simulated of a space like this, it looks almost identical to what came out right in terms of what the feeling of this daylight is.

[Adam]

In total, there are 511 triangular skylights dotting the ceilings of the two buildings, but not every area is meant to get light. The center of the mountain is shielded from daylight because...

- **[Speaker]**: Here on this floor, we have large labs. In the past, most of our lab spaces were carved out of a traditional office building. So it was a conference room turned into a lab or a janitor's closet.

[Adam]

Nvidia has 42,000 square feet of lab space in Voyager alone. That's more than 15% of the space in the building. Balancing that tech in both buildings is a lot of green. There's this 80-foot living wall in Endeavor, and more than 14,000 plants in Voyager. You enter Nvidia's headquarters, a company known for GPUs and powering AI, and the first thing you see is a huge plant wall.

- **[Speaker]**: Yeah. It becomes a relic in some ways if they put their technology up.

Future Space

[Adam]

And these buildings, which are the first ones the 30-year-old company has ever owned, suggest Nvidia doesn't plan on becoming a relic either.

- **[Speaker]**: We see Apple, Google, Meta, now this, right? They're really designing buildings for themselves. They've matured to a point where, yeah, they're like a multi-trillion dollar company. They need spaces like this that really kind of can take 'em to the next level.
- **[Adam]**: Nvidia has room to grow. It could even add a third spaceship.
- **[Speaker]**: Would you consider using AI in some way? Could it possibly play a role in a future space?
- **[Speaker]**: AI undoubtedly will be part of the construction of that next building. It's an assistant. It extends our reach.
- **[Speaker]**: I can only imagine, you know what the possibilities are if we started design again today, and I would hazard to guess with Nvidia, it would be something we haven't even thought about.

[Adam]

This is the kind of casual connection that all the designers are hoping for.

EXERCISE 1:

standards, enforced, documents, technical, Building, legal, authorities, law, requirements, legal action, plans, inspections, notice, fines, demolition, safe, structural, sustainability, efficiency, insulation, construction, minimum, documents, letters, Structure, Fire, Resistance, construction, Wales, Wales

VIDEOSCRIPT

The UK Building Regulations

The UK building regulations are a set of standards that ensure that all construction work in the UK is safe, healthy, and accessible. In this video, we'll be exploring what the building regulations are, how they're enforced, as well as the series of approved documents.

Before we start, if you enjoy our videos or found them useful in any way, subscribing to our channel really does help us grow. We've recently hit 14,000 subscribers, and we'd love to reach 15,000 by summer.

What Are Building Regulations?

The UK building regulations are a set of technical standards and requirements that are set out in the Building Act 1984 and subsequent amendments. The Building Act provides the legal framework for the building regulations, which are enforced by local authorities in the UK.

The building regulations are not themselves part of statutory law but rather a set of technical requirements that must be followed in order to comply with the law. However, failure to comply with the building regulations can lead to legal action being taken against the person responsible for the building work.

How Are Building Regulations Enforced?

In order to comply with building regulations, builders and property owners must submit plans and specifications to their local authority before starting any work.

The local authority will then review the plans and conduct site inspections to ensure that the work is being carried out in accordance with the regulations.

If the local authority finds that work is not being carried out in compliance with the regulations, they can issue a notice requiring the work to be stopped until the necessary changes are made. Failure to comply with the building regulations can result in fines, legal action, and even the demolition of the building.

Why Are Building Regulations Important?

The UK building regulations are important for a number of reasons:

- Firstly, they ensure that buildings are safe for occupants, visitors, and the general public by setting standards for fire safety, structural safety, and accessibility. The regulations help to prevent accidents and injuries.
- Secondly, the regulations promote sustainability and energy efficiency. Buildings account for a significant amount of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and the building regulations help to reduce this impact by setting standards for insulation, heating, lighting, and ventilation.
- Finally, the building regulations provide clarity and consistency in the construction industry by setting standards that apply to all building work, regardless of location or size. The regulations ensure that all buildings in the UK meet the same minimum standards.

Approved Documents

The building regulations are organized into a series of approved documents, each of which covers a different aspect of building design and construction. These approved documents are identified by letters, which are as follows:

- **A** – Structure: This document covers the structural stability of buildings, including foundations, walls, roofs, and floors.
- **B** – Fire Safety: This document covers fire safety in buildings, including means of escape, fire detection and alarm systems, and fire resistance of the building elements.

- **C** – Site Preparation and Resistance to Contaminants and Moisture: This document covers the design and construction of building foundations, damp proofing, and drainage.
- **D** – Toxic Substances: This document covers the prevention of toxic substances from entering buildings, including radon, carbon monoxide, and other hazardous materials.
- **E** – Resistance to the Passage of Sound: This document covers the sound insulation of walls, floors, and ceilings to prevent transmission of noise between different parts of the building.
- **F** – Ventilation: This document covers the provision of adequate ventilation in buildings, including the prevention of condensation and the control of indoor air quality.
- **G** – Hygiene: This document covers the provision of adequate sanitation and water supply in buildings, including the design and construction of drainage and waste disposal systems.
- **H** – Drainage and Waste Disposal: This document covers the design and construction of drainage and waste disposal systems, including surface water drainage, foul water drainage, and sewage treatment.
- **J** – Heat Producing Appliances: This document covers the installation and use of heat-producing appliances in the building, including boilers, heaters, and fires.
- **K** – Protection from Falling, Collisions, and Impact: This document covers the prevention of falls and injuries from impact, including the design and construction of stairs, balustrades, and guarding.
- **L** – Conservation of Fuel and Power: This document covers the energy efficiency of buildings, including insulation, heating, and lighting.
- **M** – Access to and Use of Buildings: This document covers the accessibility of buildings, including the provisions of ramps, handrails, and other features to facilitate access for people with disabilities.

- **N** – Glazing: This document covers the safety of glazing in buildings, including the use of safety glass and the prevention of accidental breakage.
- **P** – Electrical Safety: This document covers the design and installation of electrical systems in buildings, including wiring, lighting, and appliances.
- **Q** – Security: This document covers the security of buildings, including the design and installation of locks, alarms, and other security features.

Each of these approved documents provides detailed guidance on how to meet the building regulations for a specific aspect of building design and construction.

Additional Information

Please note that this is a very brief explanation of the building regulations, and there are intricacies to the building regulations. One brief example is Part L of the approved documents. This approved document is only applicable to Wales and not to England. Part L in Wales has its own unique requirements and standards for energy efficiency in buildings, which differ from those in England. This is because the Welsh government has the power to set its own building regulations under the Wales Act 2017.

UNIT FOUR

EXERCISE 1:

1. c)	2. b)	3. a)	4. b)	5. a)	6. b)
7. c)	8. a)	9. c)	10. b)		

FINAL TEST

DOMANDE PER CREAZIONE QUIZ SEMINARIO ON DEMAND

Inserire 12 domande relative al seminario e indicare la risposta corretta

	Domanda	Vero	Falso
1	THE PASSIVE VOICE IS WITH THE VERB **TO BE**	X	
2	The passive voice is mainly used in reports, agreements, ect…	X	
3	In a report, MUST is replaced by SHOULD		**x**
4	In a passive sentence, the agent can be omitted	**X**	
5	The Museo Egizio is generally considered the world's first and most important museum of Egyptian archaeology.		**X**
6	OMA's architectural project is based on a new vision of a museum.	**X**	
7	The work is expected to cost a total of €33m.		**X**
8	Funding has also been provided by private sponsors such as private citizens.		**X**
9	An Agreement is entered into by and between the parties.	X	
10	Under no circumstances shall any portion of this agreement be fulfilled by a third party without the prior consent of all participating parties.	**X**	
11	The architect will be responsible for drafting, reviewing, programming, administrative tasks, and any additional tasks necessary for the completion of the project.	**X**	
12	Only the owner has to take out an insurance policy.		X