

Discover Open House London



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Section 1 – Summary selection

Listen to the podcast and decide which summary best fits each part.

Part 1 0.00 – 1.42

- b) Open House is a weekend event focusing on London's architecture.

Part 2 1.53 – 3.23

- a) City Hall is a glass building and has a map of England in its basement
b) City Hall is home to the Mayor of London and has a map of London in its basement.

Part 3 3.30 – 4.54

- a) The purpose of Open House is to highlight how important good quality architecture is.
b) The purpose of Open House is to change the architecture of London and make buildings easier to get to by public transport.

Part 4 5.06 – 6.16

- a) St Pancras looks like a typical station and is commonly used as a place for people to get married.
b) St Pancras looks very different from most stations and is a place where people often get engaged.

Part 5 6.25 – 8.21

- a) John Betjeman was a famous poet who saved St Pancras from being destroyed.
b) John Betjeman was famous writer who wrote about the Queen and the station.



Section 2 – Architecture vocabulary

Listen to each part of the podcast and match the vocabulary to the correct meaning.

Part 1 0.00 – 1.42

high rise	eco-friendly
art-deco	listed building

- 1) _____ (noun) A style of decoration that was very popular in the 1930s. It uses simple shapes and lines and strong colours.
- 2) _____ (noun) Tall modern building.
- 3) _____ (noun) a building of historical or artistic importance that has official protection to stop it from being destroyed or changed.
- 4) _____ (adjective) something that is designed to have as little impact as possible on the environment.

Part 2 1.53 – 3.23

to reflect	striking
airial view	
spiral	rounded

- 1) _____ (adjective) something that catches your attention because it is unusual or particularly interesting.

2) _____ (verb) When a surface (glass/ water etc.) sends the light back and does not absorb it producing a replicated image i.e. how we see ourselves in a mirror.

3) _____ (adjective) curved in shape.

4) _____ (noun) a view in or from the air.

5) _____ (adjective) a shape made from curves i.e. a corkscrew.

Part 3 3.30 – 4.54

solar panels

sustainable

accessible

ventilation

1) _____ (noun) a device that changes energy from the sun into electricity.

2) _____ (adjective) easily reached or obtained.

3) _____ (noun) fresh air moving around an enclosed space.

4) _____ (adjective) causing little or no damage to the environment and is therefore able to continue for a period of time.

Part 4 5.06 – 6.16

facelift

gothic façade

in a state of disrepair

- 1) _____ (noun) the front of a building in a style that was popular in Europe between 12th and 16th century.
- 2) _____ (noun) treatment to make a building look more attractive.
- 3) _____ (noun) needing to be repaired and fixed.

Part 5 6.25 – 8.21

to restore

to preserve

to knock down run-down

- 1) _____ (verb) to destroy a building.
- 2) _____ (verb) to keep something as it is particularly so it doesn't get damaged.
- 3) _____ (verb) to return something back to its original state.
- 4) _____ (adjective) a building or area that is in bad condition.



Section 3 – Architecture vocabulary gap fill

Complete this conversation between Sam and Nick about buildings in their old University city.

Nick - Have you been back to Leeds since we left a few years ago?

Sam – Yeah, I went back last month. It was such a surprise to see how much the place has changed since we were there as students.

Nick – Does the area we used to live in still feel ¹r_____.

Sam – Yeah, there are still empty shops, broken windows and most of the houses are ²i_____. However the central part of the city has had a ³f_____ and looks wonderful now. All the ⁴l_____ buildings like the old church and traditional market place have been ⁵r_____ so that they look as good as they did the day they were built.

Nick – That’s good. I remember when we left University they’d started building lots of ⁶h_____ in the centre because people wanted to live near the shops and have great views of the city. Didn’t you say your friend lives in one now?

Sam – My friend Layla lives in one and it has an amazing ⁷_____ of the central square. Sadly she used to be able to see the old brewery before they ⁸k_____ it _____. The building is really cool though because it has ⁹s_____ on the roof so her electricity bills aren’t too much and all the best bars and restaurants are really ¹⁰a_____. She only has to take a lift down stairs and she’s there.



Section 4 – Phrase finder

Read the descriptions and try and remember the phrase used in the podcast.

Part 1 0.00 – 1.42

1) It's an adjective meaning permission to go or see anything without restrictions.

2) Tom uses a phrase after listing a few cities. Its function is to show that there are more examples but that it is unnecessary to list them all.

Part 2 1.53 – 3.23

1) A phrase meaning to understand or comprehend the explanation of something.

2) The staircase in City Hall is overwhelmingly impressive. What adjective is used to describe it?

Part 3 3.30-4.54

1) Tom uses a phrase to say that London is one of the leading places for design. What phrase does he use?

2) Fiona talks about how architects and engineers have to follow rules that are very strict. What phrase does she use to say this?

Part 4 5.06-6.16

1) While describing the champagne bar in the station Tom says you can sit and look at everything that is happening around you. What is the phrase he uses to describe this action?

Part 5 6.25-8.21

1) A phrasal verb to say there hadn't been investment in St Pancras until recently.



Section 5 – Preposition training

Read these sentences from the podcast and decide which preposition is missing

Part 1 0.00 – 1.42

- 1) Spread _____ just one weekend Open House is an access all areas event.
- 2) I've chosen two to explore so let's get down to the River Thames and check _____ the first one.

Part 2 1.53 – 3.23

- 3) How they all interconnect and how London sort of sprawls _____.
- 4) It's a bit like Google earth or something like that but you can walk all _____ London.

Part 3 3.30-4.54

5) Probably the scale ____ the buildings. I mean London has always been at the forefront of design.

6) You're right _____ the South Bank.

Part 4 5.06 – 6.16

7) Now growing _____ I always remember St Pancras as being a bit run-down.

8) I'm standing ____ one of my favourite statues.

Part 5 6.25 – 8.21

9) But with this amazing project it's been put _____ to its original splendour.

10) And he was also very keen _____ architecture and preserving old buildings.



Section 6 – Language analysis

Word families

Verb

to reflect

to preserve

to sustain

to ventilate

to access

to symbolise

Noun

reflection

preservation

sustainability

ventilation

accessibility

symbol

Englishness

Adjective

reflective

well-preserved

sustainable

ventilated

accessible

symbolic

English



Section 7 – A little bit of grammar

Part 2 1.53 – 3.23

“One thing **I’m** really **loving** about being up here.....”

Tom used love (a state verb) in the –ing form. Traditionally state verbs can’t be used in such a way however things have changed in everyday English. Thanks, in part, to the Mcdonalds adverting slogan “I’m loving it” people have adopted this form as acceptable in spoken English. It is used when people are giving their opinion about food for example i.e. “I’m loving the sauce on this chicken” or maybe music i.e. “I’m loving this new Coldplay song”. It is also used in the negative form i.e. “I’m not loving this film”. It is used most commonly to talk about feelings you want to express about something happening at that moment i.e. you are listening to a song and you say “I’m loving this song”.

Part 4 5.06 – 6.16

“**What’s nice about St Pancras is** the attention to detail”

A great way to emphasise something is with this phrase –

What + be + (adjective) + be

Compare these two sentences

A) Shopping in London is really fun.

B) **What’s** really **fun** in London **is** to go shopping.



Section 8 – Culture corner

Poet Laureate

A poet laureate is someone appointed by the government to write poems for state occasions and important national dates and events. In the United Kingdom the poet laureate is closely linked to the royal family. Previous famous poet laureates have included Lord Tennyson and William Wordsworth.

John Betjeman

A former poet laureate John Betjeman was one of the most loved poets of his generation. Born in London in 1906 he went to Oxford University before becoming a writer, broadcaster and poet. He was also a very keen activist often trying to preserve London's architecture which was under threat from developers. He became the poet laureate in 1972 before dying 12 years later in 1984. A statue, in tribute to his great work saving St Pancras, can be seen on the main concourse.



Section 9 – Your turn

Choose one of the following options and record yourself talking about them using the vocabulary from this worksheet. You could consider some of these questions to help you.

1) Describe a building that you love/hate

Where is the building?

What style is the architecture? Is it art-deco/gothic/modern etc?

Has it been restored recently or does it need to be?

Does it have any striking features?

How would you feel if it was knocked down?

2) Describe the architecture in your city?

Are there many high rises or are the buildings mainly low-rise?

What is the main style of the buildings in your city?

Do the government do enough to preserve public buildings?

Is sustainability important for new buildings in your country?

What is the most striking building?

Are there any famous buildings in a state of disrepair?

Are there any buildings that should be knocked down?

Section 10 – Photos of Open House London



Discover Open House London Answers

Section 1

1) b 2) b 3) a 4) b 5) a

Section 2

Part 1 1) art-deco 2) high-rise 3) listed building 4) eco-friendly

Part 2 1) striking 2) to reflect 3) rounded 4) aerial view 5) spiral

Part 3 1) solar panels 2) accessible 3) ventilation 4) sustainable

Part 4 1) gothic façade 2) facelift 3) in a state of disrepair

Part 5 1) to knock down 2) to preserve 3) to restore 4) run-down

Section 3

1) run-down 2) in a state of disrepair 3) facelift 4) listed 5) restored
6) high-rises 7) aerial view 8) knock down 9) solar panels 10)
accessible

Section 4

Part 1 1) access all areas 2) to name but a few

Part 2 1) make sense of something 2) mind-boggling

Part 3 1) at the moment 2) stringent regulations

Part 4 1) watch the world go by

Part 5 1) put money into something

Section 5

- 1) Spread **over** just one weekend Open House is an access all areas event.
- 2) I've chosen two to explore so let's get down to the River Thames and check **out** the first one.
- 3) How they all interconnect and how London sort of sprawls **out**.
- 4) It's a bit like Google earth or something like that but you can walk all **over** London.
- 5) Probably the scale **of** the buildings. I mean London has always been at the forefront of design.
- 6) You're right **on** the South Bank.
- 7) Now growing **up** I always remember St Pancras as being a bit run-down.
- 8) I'm standing **by** one of my favourite statues.
- 9) But with this amazing project it's been put **back** to its original splendour.
- 10) And he was also very keen **on** architecture and preserving old buildings.

Transcript

Part 1 – Introduction 0.00 – 1.42

If you had the keys to hundreds of famous buildings in your city, where would you go? It's a tough question. Well for one weekend in September Londoners have the opportunity to do exactly this.

Welcome to Open House London.

Welcome to Open House London. I'm here in Central London to enjoy one of the most fascinating weekends in the calendar. **Spread over** just one weekend Open House is an **access all areas** event that invites everyone to go inside some of the most interesting buildings in London for free. From **listed buildings** to private homes the freedom of the city is yours. In the past I've visited places like the BT tower, the bank of England and the Olympic stadium. It's popularity has grown and grown so much so that there are now Open House weekends in Barcelona, Rome, New York **to name but a few**. So this weekend is a celebration of London's architecture from **Art-deco** cinemas to **eco-friendly high rises**. Now out of the hundreds of buildings on offer I've chosen two to explore so let's get down to the River Thames and **check out** the first one.

Part 2 – City Hall 1.53 – 3.23

I'm standing by the River Thames with Tower Bridge to my left and in front of me is City Hall, a **striking rounded** glass building that is home to the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. Designed by Foster & partners it has become a London landmark while

managing to be environmentally friendly. I've been told to expect great views from the top. I'm pretty excited so let's go in and check it out.

I'm now stood on the ninth floor viewing gallery of City Hall and I'm just admiring this glorious view. It's a real treat to be hovering over the city like this with so many famous buildings within touching distance. Down below me is the River Thames and just across the river is the Tower of London. Now if I look right I can see Tower Bridge and to my left is the Shard. One thing **I'm really loving** about being up here is to be able to see all the rooftops and train lines and the streets and how they all interconnect and how London sort of **sprawls out**. I guess kind of getting up high sort of helps you **make sense of** the city and how it all works.

I'm walking down the absolutely **mind boggling spiral** staircase which is simply a photographer's dream. Every step I'm taking gives me a different perspective and I love the way each pane of glass reflects a different view of London.

I've walked down to the basement now of City Hall and there's a map of London, the shape of London. A sort of, from an **aerial view** of London and there are people sort of trying to find their streets find their houses as they are walking on top of it. It's a bit like Google earth or something like that but you can **walk all over** London. I feel like a giant, I feel enormous.

Part 3 – Interview with Fiona 3.30 – 4.54

Tom – Ok, I'm here with Fiona who works for Open House.
What's the kind of the principal behind it?

Fiona – Open House came around from just trying to increase people's awareness of good design and the importance of good design and the impact on us.

Tom – And how's the sort of architecture in London changed over the last sort of couple of years?

Fiona – Probably the **scale of** the buildings. I mean London's always been **at the forefront of** design and that's why it attracts so many famous architects. People want to come here to study, people want to study people want to live here. Businesses want to be based here because of the standard of design. But I'd say that the biggest thing is how **sustainable** design has to be. There are really **stringent regulations** now that architects and engineers and planners have to meet.

Tom – Is City Hall an example of sustainable architecture?

Fiona – City Hall is very sustainable design. In the building we are in at the moment it's got a big glass wall. And on the other side of that glass wall you've got **solar panels** which are making use of the sunlight which fortunately today, we've got some sunshine. It also makes use of sort of natural **ventilation** because it's got a high ceiling level and you get natural ventilation and cross ventilation across the room so you don't need to use air conditioning. So it is a pretty sustainable design and probably the most sustainable thing about it though is that it's linked so well by public transport. You're

right on the south bank. You can walk here, you can get the tube, you can get the bus so it's really accessible.

Part 4 – St Pancras Station 5.06 – 6.16

I'm now standing under the glass roof of St Pancras station. It's from here that the Eurostar takes passengers to mainland Europe. Now **growing up** I always remember St Pancras as being a bit **run-down** and **in a state of disrepair** but after an eighty million pound **facelift** it looks completely different. The main building has a magnificent **gothic façade** and then as you enter the main concourse this new exciting world of trains and shops appears in front of you. Right now I'm standing in front of the Eurostar trains and then below you have the shopping arcade that can rival any train station I've ever seen. Now **what's nice about** St Pancras **is** the attention to detail and the way and the way they gave it lots of unique features. So for example I'm **standing by** one of my favourite statues possibly in London. An 8 metre, tall bronze sculpture of a couple embracing. It kind of symbolises the old fashioned romance of railways of tearful farewells and that kind of thing. Now to my right there's a champagne bar that stretches right along the platform and you can enjoy a glass of champagne whilst **watching the world go by**. I think I'm correct in saying that St Pancras was voted one of the most romantic places in Europe and I'm told there are lots of marriage proposals here especially before and after a romantic weekend in Paris on the Eurostar.

Part 5 – Interview with my Mum 6.25 – 8.21

Tom – Ok, I've been joined by a very very special guest and a national treasure in her own right, it's my mum. Hello Mum.

Mum – Hello Tom.

Tom – Now Mum we've had a great day enjoying Open House. Tell us what we've seen today.

Mum – Oh we've seen all sorts of things but the best thing for me has been visiting St Pancras. I just think it's so beautiful and it's wonderful what they've done to **restore** it.

Tom – And you used to use the station as a child. How has the station different now?

Mum – Well I was a teenager really when I started using it. Completely different. The atmosphere is extraordinary now. It was a little bit run-down. When I started using it it was really quite tired and old and no one had **put much money into it** for a long time.

But with this amazing project it's been **put back** to its original splendour, I think.

Tom – Now Mum you love the statue of John Betjeman, don't you?

Mum – I do. John Betjeman was a poet and he was in fact the **poet laureate** which means he was poet to the Queen for many years and he wrote a lot of poems about being English and **Englishness** and so on and he was a great favourite of the people. And he was also very **keen on** architecture and **preserving** old buildings and when he discovered that there were plans to **knock down** St Pancras he led a campaign to preserve it. So really it's thanks to him that we are

standing here today. And the statue of him is just perfect. It's life size and he's standing looking up at the roof of the station holding onto his hat looking very pleased that it has been preserved.

Tom – Fantastic, ok Mum. Well I promised you that I'd buy you a coffee, so shall we go and have a coffee?

Mum – Let's go and have a coffee.

Tom – Ok, that's all we have from the Open House weekend. Be sure to check out the worksheet with all today's vocabulary and a full transcript. I'm Tom Rees, see you next time.