
Describe a building you like

You should say:

Where it is

What it is used for

What it looks like

And explain why you like or dislike it

The building I like is the Palace Museum which is located in Beijing, China. It's actually a collection of many buildings.

It was used as the imperial palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties in China and it was formerly well-known as the Forbidden City. It lies in the center of the central axis of Beijing and now it's China's largest ancient museum of culture and art.

The Forbidden City is the largest complex of preserved ancient wooden structure in the world. The whole architecture emphasizes symmetry. The color of the main hall is dominated by yellow. With large yellow glazed tile roof and greenish white marble base, it's beautifully painted with brilliant colors everywhere, the entire palace complex looks magnificent.

I like the forbidden City because it represents the highest level of official buildings in ancient China in terms of architectural technology and architectural art. It is the epitome of our history and the essence of Chinese cultural traditions, which also serves as the witness and carrier of the long history of Chinese civilization.

How do people in China feel about old buildings?

We think some old buildings have their monumental or cultural significance, such as the traditional courtyard in Beijing. And these buildings are one of our cultural symbols.

其他观点

We think some old buildings are no longer suitable for people to live in and they negatively affect the city image. Therefore, the government tear down many of them every year and replace them with new ones.

Do old people and young people in China have the same attitudes towards old buildings?

I don't think so. Old people are nostalgic, so they like the old buildings. For instance, my grandparents couldn't get used to the apartment buildings in the city and they moved back to the old home in an old neighborhood. Young people, on the other hand, are not big fans of old buildings. They prefer new buildings and skyscrapers.

其他观点

Old people prefer to live in old-fashioned buildings because they think everything is more convenient, whereas young people are quite the opposite. They are more into the better equipped modern buildings.

How do old buildings affect the appearance of a place?

In modern metropolises, the old buildings will add some historical and cultural elements. So, the cities become more diverse and full of life. For example, the old cathedrals and palaces can be great decorations in the cities.

其他观点

In big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, the old buildings such as traditional courtyard will make the city less dull and boring. They are a unique signature of these cities.

Is it important to preserve old buildings? (Why?)

Some old buildings have their historical and cultural values. They are what make our cities different from other cities. Therefore, we should preserve them and save them for our future generations.

其他观点

I think old buildings without cultural significance don't need to be preserved. They are no longer suitable for people to live in. Therefore, we can use the space to build something more efficient or beautiful.

What aspect of culture do old buildings reflect?

They can reflect the culture in the time when they were built. For example, the symmetrical layout of the Palace Museum in Beijing can reflect people's respect to nature back then. You know, most things in the nature are symmetrical, such as a leaf.

其他观点

Old buildings can reflect people's ideas and philosophy back when they were built. They symmetrical plan of the Palace Museum demonstrates people's pursuit of balance, harmony and peace.