


# 6 Old and new

## Reading

### Before reading

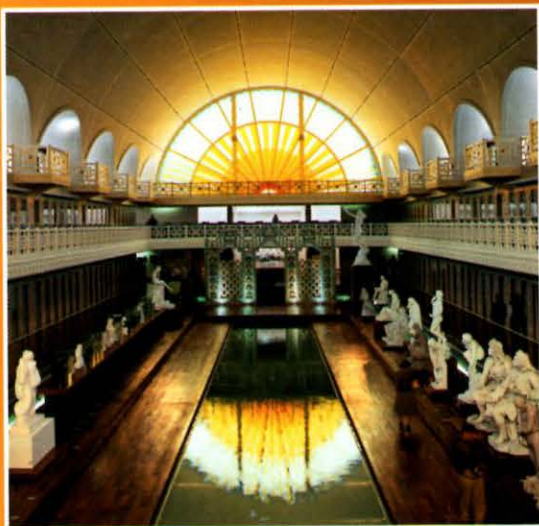
- 1 Look at the photos and discuss these questions.
  - 1 What do you think these buildings are used for?
  - 2 How old do you think they are?
  - 3 Where do you think they are?
- 2  Read and listen.

What can you do with an old building that isn't used anymore? Why not **restore** it and use it for something else? Here are some examples of old buildings that have been **transformed** into museums.

### The Roubaix Museum

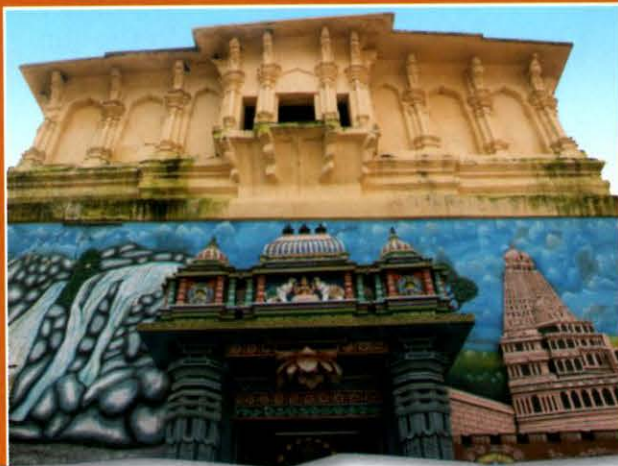
It's difficult to imagine a swimming pool becoming a museum, isn't it? Well, that is exactly what happened in the small French town of Roubaix. The beautiful building was first built in 1927 and was used as a swimming pool until 1985.

People then decided to reopen the building as an **art gallery**. Since then, the **original** designs have been carefully restored. The building has been filled with fantastic collections of paintings, **sculptures** and **textiles**. But the best thing about the new museum is the room with the swimming pool. The pool is much smaller and you can't swim in it now, but it is really amazing. There are **statues** all around it. The sun shines through the beautifully restored windows into the gallery and it all looks spectacular. The museum is still called *La Piscine* – that's French for 'swimming pool'!



### The Thanjavur Art Gallery

It's not often that you can visit a palace, but if you go to Thanjavur in India you can spend as long as you like **exploring** one. Thanjavur is one of the oldest cities in India. It is well-known for its beautiful **architecture**, its music and its art. One of the best **tourist attractions** is the Thanjavur Art Gallery, which is in a 17th century palace.



Before the building was transformed into a gallery, it had been unused for years. Since it has become a gallery, it has been filled with bronze and stone sculptures, paintings, and musical instruments. There's also a library full of ancient documents, and a music hall. It's an unforgettable and historical place to visit.



### The Nomadic Museum

Perhaps the most incredible transformation is the Nomadic Museum. Designed by a Japanese architect, this art gallery was created from 148 metal shipping containers and recycled paper tubes. Although this gallery is made from old, used materials, it is truly an amazing building and a fascinating example of modern architecture.

The gallery was created in 2005 to show an exhibition of photographs to people around the world. How would it reach all these people? The museum is nomadic – it actually travels around the world! Because it's made of shipping containers, it can be shipped overseas. It has already been to New York, Tokyo and Mexico City – maybe it will come to your country soon!

## Vocabulary

### 3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

- 1 sculptures (noun) artworks made from wood, stone or metal
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) to clean or rebuild something so it looks new again
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) interesting places that visitors go to see
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a museum with paintings, sculptures and other artworks
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) first, earliest
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) models of a person, made from metal or stone
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) changed completely
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) fabrics, used for clothing or decoration
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) something that has been used before
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) the design or style of a building
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a group of artworks arranged to be shown to people
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) looking around a new place to learn about it

## Reading comprehension

4 Read and write R (Roubaix), T (Thanjavur), or N (Nomadic).

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1 It's in France.   | <u>R</u> |
| 2 It's in a city famous for its buildings, art and culture. | _____    |
| 3 It was originally built in the 1600s.                     | _____    |
| 4 It's the newest museum.                                   | _____    |
| 5 It used to be a palace.                                   | _____    |
| 6 People used to do sport in it.                            | _____    |
| 7 It's made from used metal storage boxes.                  | _____    |
| 8 You can see beautiful old fabrics there.                  | _____    |
| 9 You can see old papers there.                             | _____    |
| 10 There is a collection of photos there.                   | _____    |
| 11 You can learn about music there.                         | _____    |
| 12 It might be travelling across the sea right now!         | _____    |

5 Correct the information in **bold**.

- 1 Roubaix is a ~~large city~~ <sup>small town</sup> in Europe.
- 2 The Roubaix Museum was originally built in **1985**.
- 3 You can see paintings, **books** and textiles in the Roubaix Museum.
- 4 There are **paintings** and beautiful windows in the room with the pool.
- 5 The city of Thanjavur is famous for its architecture, its **films** and its art.
- 6 The Thanjavur Art Gallery is a 17th century **castle**.
- 7 You can see **wooden** sculptures in the Thanjavur gallery.
- 8 There's a library containing **new books**.
- 9 The Nomadic Museum is made from recycled **wooden** boxes.
- 10 It was built by a **Mexican** architect.
- 11 You can see an exhibition of **sculptures** in the Nomadic Museum.
- 12 The exhibition has been shown in the USA, Japan and **England**.

6 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 Which of these galleries would you most like to visit? Why?
- 2 Have you visited any other museums or galleries before? Which ones? What did you see there?
- 3 Think of some old buildings in your area. How do they look? Do you like them?
- 4 Do you think it's a good idea to restore old buildings or should we build new ones?



Are you interested in art?  
Are you interested in old buildings?  
Then come to London and visit the  
world-famous art gallery: Tate Modern.

## What's interesting about the building?

Tate Modern used to be an enormous power station that made electricity. The power station closed down in 1981 and it was restored and transformed into a fantastic art gallery.

## What's interesting about the art?

Since it opened in 2000, Tate Modern has exhibited paintings and sculptures by the most exciting, up-to-date artists. The art is often surprising, and always unforgettable.

## Where is Tate Modern?

Tate Modern is on the south bank of the River Thames, at the heart of one of the world's most fascinating cities.

**Tate Modern has been visited and enjoyed by millions of people.**  
**Come soon! You'll enjoy it too!**

When you write to persuade or convince people to see or do something, use **interesting adjectives** to make a stronger point:

a big power station → an **enormous** power station

a great art gallery → a **fantastic** art gallery

Find interesting adjectives in the text above to improve the following phrases:

The most modern artists      The art is interesting      One of the nicest cities

## 7 Underline the most interesting adjectives.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 The art is different / <u>surprising</u> .   | 5 The views are incredible / lovely. |
| 2 The buildings are ancient / old.             | 6 The music is amazing / great.      |
| 3 The museum is great / unforgettable.         | 7 The rooms are enormous / big.      |
| 4 The paintings are interesting / fascinating. | 8 The gardens are nice / wonderful.  |

## 8 Write an advert for a museum or gallery. Use these questions to help you.

What's the museum called?

Where is it?

What's the building like? How old is it?

What sort of things does it have inside?

Why should people visit?