



POLITÉCNICA

UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO PARA MAYORES DE 25 AÑOS

INGLÉS

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INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

Puntuación: 10 puntos

Tiempo: 60 minutos

“The Brits who built the modern world”

The outstanding generation of 1930s-born British architects led by Richard Rogers and Norman Foster, together with Nicholas Grimshaw, Terry Farrell and Michael Hopkins are celebrated in the TV series “The Brits who built the modern world” which maintains they have been "the most successful generation of architects Britain has ever produced".

To be specific: in the 1970s, when the high-tech style was moving ahead, much was made to create flexible and adaptable structures, and the protagonists would demand to be problem-solving and practical. All were moved by the romance of technology, joined to a belief that architecture should enable, emancipate and engage. So Foster designed a facility for a shipping company in the London docks, where all workers shared the same sophisticated spaces, while in contrast, his Hong Kong tower was apparently the most expensive building in the world.

By the 70s, all these architects, argues the TV series, shared a British going-on patriotic view of machines and industry, and that their inventive talent could help save the world. The problem was that Britain created great architects but they had to go abroad to achieve their best projects.

After 1990, they were still -without almost no doubt- the "most successful generation". Their success could be measured in the many hundreds of staff employed by these five architects, or in the airports, train stations, towers, parliaments, law courts and museums they have generated in the Far East, the United States, Australia and Europe.

The reasons for their success, to this degree, were not immediately obvious, although talent, ambition, risk-taking and high degrees of professional organisation all played an important part.

words

Adapted from: <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/feb/09/brits-built-modern-world-foster-rogers>

The Observer. Architecture. Last modified on Saturday 30 January 2016 21.39 GMT

QUESTIONS

1 Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Write down the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (2 PUNTOS)

a) These 5 architects have been unanimously considered as the "most successful generation" for more than 2 decades. T F

EVIDENCE:

b) At that time, it was very significant the numerous job positions produced by these British architects all over the world. T F

EVIDENCE:

2 In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, explain the following sentences (Maximum 15 words each). (2 PUNTOS)

a) Why did British architects demand to be able to solve problems and practical issues in the 70's?

b) Which are the main differences between Foster's design for a British distribution corporation and his Hong Kong construction?

3 Find a synonym for the following words, according to their meaning, in the text (1 PUNTO):

a) exceptional (paragraph 1)

b) stimulated (paragraph 2)

c) undertake (paragraph 3)

d) practically (paragraph 4)

4 Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. (2 PUNTOS)

a) _____ long have these architects been designing new projects in Great Britain? For a _____ time.

b) In 1974 they built the _____ (high) tower in the island, but it was _____ (ugly) than the two old ones.

c) If the TV series _____ (not celebrate) the architects accomplishments, many people _____ (to ignore) their relevance for the History of British Architecture.

d) Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice:

All these architects shared a British, going-on patriotic view of machines and industry, and their inventive talent could help save the world.

5 Write about 50 words about one of the following topics (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos).

(Choose only one topic)

a) What do you think about modern architecture? Do you like new designs? Give your opinion with some examples.

b) Write about the most surprising building you know in your town, village, city, borough...? Explain the reasons.