

Before you watch

Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 Where do you live?
- 2 What is your home like?
- 3 When do you think your home was built?
- 4 What features would your ideal home have?

**While you watch****1 What's behind the wall?**

Put the words in the correct order to make questions. Then watch the introduction and answer the questions.

- 1 is / the / house / area / different / the / why / ? / from / the / other / houses / in
-

- 2 owner / why / have / did / the / ? / designed / it / specially
-

2 Talking to Alex

Read the dialogue. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box. Then watch and check your answers.

permission difference easy council
green look available taller

Anand: Why did you build it?

Alex: I've always wanted to build a house from scratch and install all the ¹ energy systems that will make a ² But I had to find the right place. Then I heard this site was ³

Rebecca: Did you have to get ⁴ from the local ⁵ ?

Alex: Yes, we did, but it was ⁶ because the house I've built is behind a wall and no ⁷ than it. Would you like to ⁸ around?

Rebecca and Anand: Definitely!

3 Looking around the house

Tick (✓) the features you see in the eco house.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1 a slide | ☐ | 6 a kitchen | ☐ |
| 2 a play area | ☐ | 7 a cinema | ☐ |
| 3 a living room | ☐ | 8 a roof | ☐ |
| 4 bedrooms | ☐ | 9 a garden | ☐ |
| 5 a swimming pool | ☐ | 10 a shower | ☐ |

4 Eco features

Listen carefully as Alex explains the eco features of his house. Complete the summary with phrases A–E. Write A–E in the spaces.

The house is not completely self-sufficient but it ¹ Water is provided from a natural supply one hundred metres below the ground ² Solar panels have been installed to generate electricity for heating the water, ³ The family has an electric car, ⁴ Grass has been planted on the roof ⁵

- A which doesn't pollute the atmosphere
B to put oxygen back into the atmosphere
C uses less energy than normal houses
D and is heated in the house
E lighting the house and running equipment

After you watch

Imagine Alex decides to sell his house. Design an advertisement for the Internet to sell the house. You should write about the features that make it different from other houses.

4

The Mag: An eco house

Programme overview

SUMMARY

In this programme, Rebecca and Anand visit the home of a London architect, Alex Michaelis, who designed and built an environmentally friendly 'Eco house'. It was built on a plot of land in one of the most fashionable parts of London, Notting Hill. Due to building restrictions he wasn't allowed to build in the conventional way, so he built the house underground. For more information and some excellent photos of the house, go to: http://www.treehugger.com/files/2005/10/update_alex_mic.php

LANGUAGE

This programme corresponds to Unit 6 of *English in Mind* Second edition Level 3.

Grammar: Present/past passive review (Unit 6)
Causative *have* (Unit 6)

Before you watch

This first activity encourages students to talk about where they live and what features they would have in their ideal home. As they will see in the programme, Alex Michaelis' house incorporates many exciting features (e.g. swimming pool and climbing wall) in addition to its environmentally friendly features.

While you watch

1 What's behind the wall?

This task practises word order in questions and introduces students to some of the ways that the eco house is different from most houses in Britain. Give students time to read and order the questions, and then check the answers. Then watch Section 1 and get students to answer the questions.

Answers

- 1 Why is the house different from the other houses in the area?; Because it's below the ground.
- 2 Why did the owner have it specially designed?; Because he wanted it to be environmentally friendly.

2 Talking to Alex

Ask students to read through the text and predict where the words from the box will go in the text. One way of helping them do this is to ask them to identify what part of speech the words in the box are. They can then look at the context of the gaps and decide if the words fit grammatically. You may need to explain the meaning of 'to build a house from scratch' (build a house from the beginning, without anything existing first) and check that they understand what a local council is. Watch Section 2 to check students' answers.

Answers 1 green 2 difference 3 available 4 permission
5 council 6 easy 7 taller 8 look

3 Looking around the house

To complete this task, students need to watch from the beginning of Section 3 to where Anand asks to see the environmentally friendly features of the house. As students watch, they tick the features they see.

Answers 1, 2, 3, 5, 9

4 Eco features

This task practises sentence completion and text organisation. To do this task, play the remainder of the programme. Then ask students to read the text and complete it with the phrases A–E.

Answers 1 C 2 D 3 E 4 A 5 B

After you watch

Put students in pairs and ask them to design an advertisement to sell Alex's house. They should think about what makes the house attractive and unique, and try and emphasise these features in their advertisements.