

GLOSSARY

cosy: *confortevole, accogliente*

snug: *avvolgente*

snow guns: *cannoni sparaneve*

free-standing: *autoportanti*

perishable: *deteriorabile*

moulded: *modellata*

frames: *strutture*

MORE ABOUT...

Ice hotels are extravagant forms of igloos. Blocks of ice and snow, known as 'snice' make up their structure. Igloos were created by the Inuit (better known as Eskimos) as temporary houses for hunters to use during the freezing winters. However, today ice hotels are unique locations offering a once in a lifetime experience. Ice hotels include elaborate ice furniture, ice bars where even the drinking glasses are made from ice, ice chapels and ice art galleries. At the Snow Village in Lainio, Finland, they even organise snow weddings!

Ice Masterpieces

Ice Architecture: Incredible Buildings Made from Ice and Snow

On icy wintry days, most of us want to stay in a cosy and snug environment, but there are quite a few architects out there who can't wait for temperatures to drop below zero so that they can get out and start creating their magnificent examples of ice architecture, built from ice and snow.

Read about of the following two ice hotels. You can't get much cooler than these!



IceHotel – Sweden

This hotel is situated 200 km north of the Arctic Circle in a little village in Lapland called Jukkasjärvi on the Torne River. It is the first and largest hotel in the world built of ice and snow. Every year this stunning art project is rebuilt with the intent of cultivating the many flavours of Swedish Lapland. A team of snow builders, architects, designers and artists from all over the world get together as soon as winter begins, to create each year's version of IceHotel. Construction usually gets underway about mid-November when snow guns spray the snow onto enormous steel forms and leave it to freeze. Once it has frozen completely, usually after a couple of days, the forms are removed leaving a maze of free-standing corridors of snow. Then rooms and suites are created within these corridors and ice artists from all over the world have the opportunity of creating their artistic designs using this perishable material.

Hotel de Glace – Quebec



This is North America's only ice hotel, situated just outside Quebec City in Canada, and is open to the public during the coldest period of winter starting in January. The hotel, made almost entirely of ice and snow, is designed every year by the artist who wins the contest held specifically for this purpose. It takes 60 workers about a month to build the hotel each year out of 15,000 tonnes of snow and 500,000 tonnes of ice. The construction

is moulded with metal frames which are then removed after a few days, once the snow has hardened in the cold air of the Laurentian mountains. The walls are extremely thick and although they are very cold themselves, they act as a natural insulator. Visitors can enjoy sleeping in the artistically designed ice rooms where all of the furniture and décor are also made of ice, until it all melts in spring.

READING COMPREHENSION

1 Which text says...? Put a tick (✓) under the correct column.

	IceHotel	Hotel de Glace
1 It has no competition from similar structures in its area.		
2 It is designed by an individual artist.		
3 Construction starts before Christmas.		
4 It is on the banks of a river.		
5 It employs a building workforce of 60 men.		
6 It closes down in Spring.		

VOCABULARY

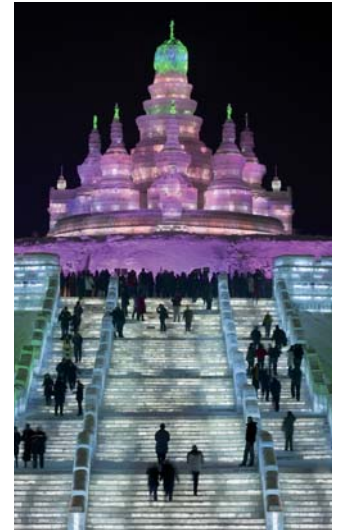
2 Complete the text about the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival in China with the words from the box.

enormous • warms • illuminate • hosts • melt • hauled • huge • starts • produced • transformed



Harbin, the capital of China's Heilongjiang province, (1) _____ a spectacular festival which attracts a (2) _____ amount of people who are amazed every year by the artistic ice creations on show. Here, (3) _____ chunks of ice are (4) _____ out of the river and (5) _____ into massive buildings,

monuments, animals and creatures from mythology, (6) _____ by a growing number of international ice artists. The festival officially (7) _____ on January 5th, so that these majestic temporary sculptures can be admired before the weather (8) _____ up again and they all (9) _____. The designers make use of lasers and ice lanterns to give intricate form to the ice blocks. These are subsequently decorated with lights which (10) _____ Harbin at night.



SPEAKING

3 Discuss in class the advantages and disadvantages of staying in a ice hotel. You may wish to consider the following points.

- Humidity/Dryness
- Cold/Warmth
- Clothing to bring with you
- Atmosphere and flavour of the place
- Uniqueness of the experience