

WARM UP

1 Read the statements about the Clean Air Act and decide if they are true (T) or false (F). Then go to page 21, read the 'more about' box and check your answers.

- 1 It was introduced in the 1960s.

- 2 It was an Act passed by the UK Parliament.

- 3 Its aim was to reduce pollution.

- 4 It was introduced after a big fire in the London area.

GLOSSARY

range: *gamma*

astonish: *stupire*

complement: *completare*

Tate Modern: from power to art

Architects Herzog and de Meuron: Alchemy of Building & Tate Modern



The Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron (architects of the Beijing National Stadium, or 'Bird's Nest') were jointly awarded the 2001 Pritzker Prize for architecture. Over the past twenty years they have been involved in finding inventive architectural solutions for building a diverse range of projects. Their most famous commission to date is the conversion of London's giant Bankside power station into the Tate Modern.

This project reflects their capacity to astonish, and we can explore the way in which they transform what might otherwise be ordinary shapes, materials and surfaces through new treatments and techniques. Their approach to architecture, their design techniques, the way their strengths and weaknesses complement each other, and their collaboration with others, particularly artists, are all brought into focus to give a fascinating insight into architecture today. The Tate Modern was opened to the public in London on May 12th 2000. The new building is part of the Tate Gallery, the largest contemporary art museum in the world.

Sir Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, recalls his idea of turning the power station, which was built in various stages by Sir Gilbert Scott between 1948 and 1963, into the Tate Modern.

The conversion of the disused power station, as designed by the Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, is admired by both professionals and art lovers. Starting from an electric power station running on gas oil, they have created an architectural masterpiece whose fame is recognised well beyond London.

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the article and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Only one of the architects received a prize.
- 2 In twenty years they have worked on only one project.
- 3 They work with the help of other people.
- 4 The Tate Gallery is the longest tunnel in London.
- 5 Sir Gilbert Scott completed the power station in 1963.
- 6 People who love art, do not like the Tate Modern building.

| T | F |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

WRITING

3 **PET** Write a short paragraph (about 100 words) on a modern building in your area/country including the following information.

- Description (type of materials used, techniques)
- Advantages and disadvantages of design
- Your personal opinion

MORE ABOUT...

Industrial renovation

The Gasometers of Vienna date back to 1896. They used to be Europe's largest gas plant but over time, natural gas replaced coal gas, and the gasometers were no longer needed. The gas plant was permanently shut down in 1984. However, in 1995 Vienna called for ideas for the new use of the structures and between 1999 and 2001, teams of architects converted the four 112-year-old gasometers into a new urban complex. The Gasometers were remodelled and divided into several zones for living, working, entertainment and shopping.

