

WARM UP

1 Look again at page 169 in your coursebook then underline the mistakes in these sentences about RIBA and correct them.

- 1 It is the most important professional body in the United States for architects. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Its main purpose is to change standards. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It awards degrees in architecture. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 It provides information to people looking for an architect. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It was established in 1934. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 It has 4,400 members. \_\_\_\_\_

GLOSSARY

- awarded:** *assegnato*  
**achievements:** *successi, traguardi*  
**lasting:** *duratura*  
**threatening:** *minacciosi*

## RIBA Stirling Prize



### RIBA and AIA Prizes

Every year in Britain The RIBA Stirling Prize is awarded to an architect chosen by the association for his or her outstanding ability. In the United States, they have their own association called AIA.

AIA stands for the American Institute of Architects and they support their profession by

awarding individuals and organisations for outstanding achievements in architecture. Their most prestigious prize is the Gold Medal which is awarded by the national AIA Board of Directors to an individual who has produced a significant amount of work which has had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture.

In 2008 the Italian architect Renzo Piano won this award for his contribution to architecture. Piano began to be noticed by the public after he and Richard Rogers designed the 'Beaubourg' (Pompidou Centre) a museum of modern art in Paris, which attracts thousands of tourists a day, not only for the artwork within the building, but for the building itself. During his long career he has managed to find the right balance between creating spectacular technological effects, but at the same time keeping the environment humanely comfortable.

His designs are sophisticated but not too threatening or unfamiliar, and he has been commissioned to design many other museums since his first success in Paris. His constructions are reassuring because they transmit a sense of tranquillity, reminding us that we still live in a civilised world despite everything that is happening around us. Light plays a very important factor in his designs and it is this attention to detail which makes his architecture a work of art. Every window or column is patiently studied with care before being placed in position which is all part of the obsessive refinement of his creations. That's why AIA decided to recognise and award his work.



## READING COMPREHENSION

## 2 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 According to the AIA, what kind of person is eligible for a Gold Medal award?
- 2 Why does the 'Beaubourg' have so many visitors?
- 3 What kind of balance has Renzo Piano succeeded in achieving?
- 4 What aspects of his architecture distinguish him from other architects?

## VOCABULARY

## 3 Complete the text with the words from the box.

contributed • designed • head • eligible • excellence • awarded • cash

The RIBA Stirling Prize is the most prestigious architecture prize in the United Kingdom, and it is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ every year to the architects who have created the building which has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the most to the evolution of architecture in the past year. This (3) \_\_\_\_\_ prize of £20,000 can be won by architects whose (4) \_\_\_\_\_ office is based in the UK and for projects built or (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the UK or the European Union. The prize gets its name from the British architect James Stirling and to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for this award you must first have a RIBA award for architectural (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

## WRITING

4 **FCE** You have seen the following notice in your school magazine. Write your article (120-180 words).

### Prize Giving Ceremony

Our readers tell us that they would like to have a prize giving ceremony at the end of the school year, as they feel it would give students the incentive to work harder. Write us an article saying:

- what prizes should be awarded for;
- what the prizes should consist of.