

# Living spaces



# *The difference between a house and a shelter*

A shelter is something very basic that can protect you from bad weather conditions.

A house can protect you from the weather, but it also has different spaces and furniture.



# Traditional houses

- They usually survive bad weather conditions better than modern ones.
- Each one of them is designed for the environment where it is.
- We can copy something from traditional houses and apply it to the modern ones.



# An Italian traditional house: the trullo

- Trullo is a traditional house from the Itria Valley in Puglia.
- It is made of limestone with conical roofs, and many times the walls are painted with white.
- Trulli are built with dry-stone masonry, meaning there is no other material to hold the stones together.



# Modern houses

- They are getting smaller and smaller;
- Sometimes they are also built badly;
- They don't work as efficiently as traditional houses;
- Modern houses are not eco-friendly because they use air conditioning and central heating.



# Eco villages

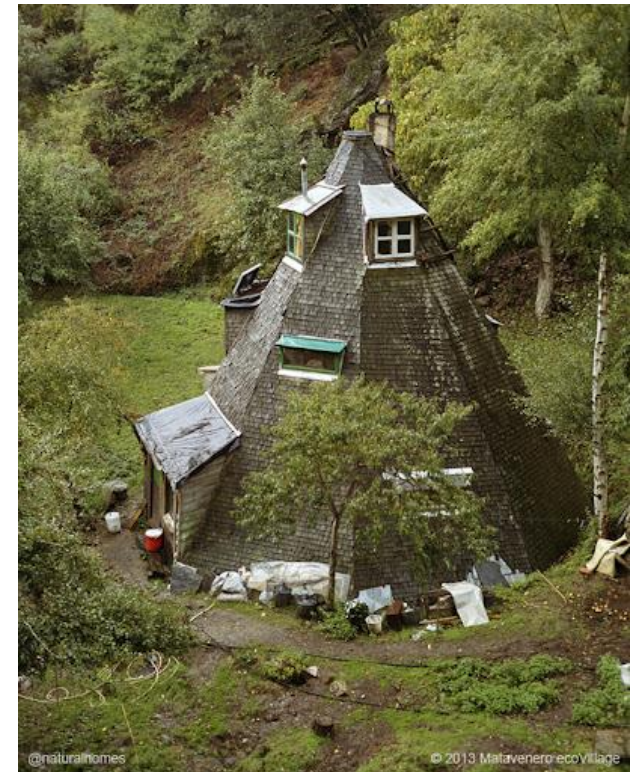
An eco-village is a small, self-sufficient community, that lives from and for its natural surroundings.

- There are more than 10,000 eco-villages in the world, and most of them are located in rural areas.



# The eco-village of Matavenero

- It is in Northern Spain;
- Most of its residents seem to feel that the simpler life, the better;
- As there is no road to the village, you can't get there by car;
- The Matavenero residents grow food, make things to sell locally and some also work in regular jobs.



# Eco-friendly houses

An eco-friendly house is an environmentally low impact home.

- Eco-friendly houses are designed and built using materials and technologies that reduce their carbon footprint and lower their energy needs.





# Interview with Zaha Hadid: her life

Interviewer: Good evening everyone, and welcome back to our talk show. Tonight I'm interviewing a very special person: Zaha Hadid, the famous Iraqi architect.

I: Hi Zaha, how are you?

Zaha: I'm good, thanks. And you?

I: Not bad, thank you. So, before we talk about your greenbuilding projects, tell us about yourself.

Z: Well, i was born in 1950 in Baghdad (Iraq). My dad was an industrialist and an important politician. I graduated in Maths at the American University of Beirut and then I went to London, where I studied at the Architectural Association. After seven years I opened my first study in London. I also taught in the Graduate School of Design at the Harvard University.



# Her eco-friendly projects: the City Life

I: Wonderful. And now, tell us about some of your eco-friendly projects. What about the City Life in Milan, for example?

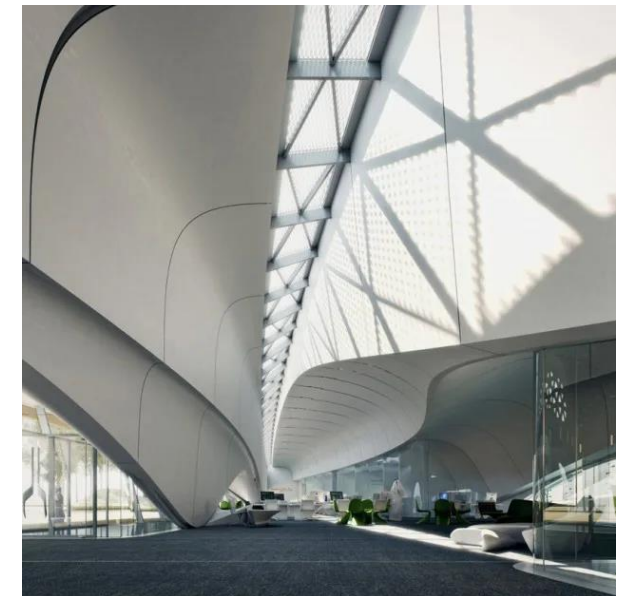
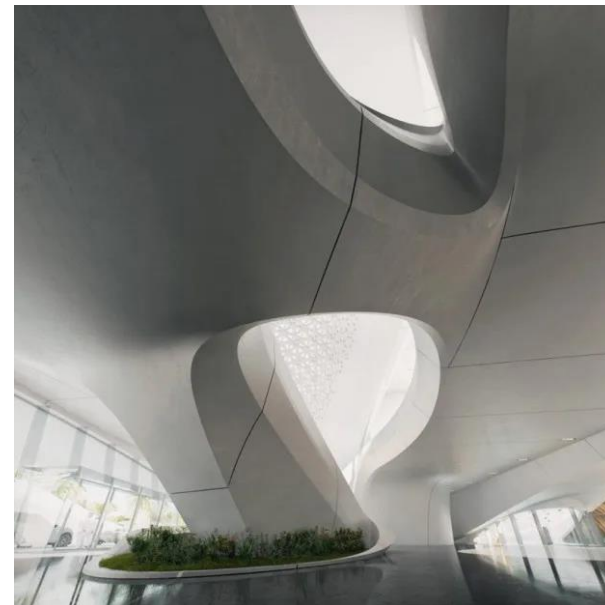
Z: I designed seven City Life eco-residences in the new zero-emission part of Milan. There are about 2.5 million solar panels. The buildings are certified class A thanks to the technological and plant engineering strategies adopted. The use of fountains and water mirrors exploits evaporation as a natural air conditioner.



# The zero-impact dunes

I: And then we have the zero-impact dunes...

Z: Yes. They are located in the United Arab Emirates. There are 7000 square metres of space that remind of the desert dunes. The indoor garden has plants and water mirrors which are thought of an oasis where you can spend your work breaks in. Plants and water also have the function of ventilating the spaces with a "chimney effect" which is a natural way to cool places with hot climates. The building is powered with 100% of renewable energies.



# The sustainable skyscrapers

I: That's great! Finally, what can you tell us about the sustainable skyscrapers in Beijing?

Z: Thanks to their high efficiency filters, the concentration of volatile organic compounds (which is a big problem in this Chinese city) is pulled down. This filters allow to breath an air that is 30% cleaner than the standards.

I: Fantastic. Thank you very much for joining us tonight, Zaha.

Z: Thank you for inviting me.



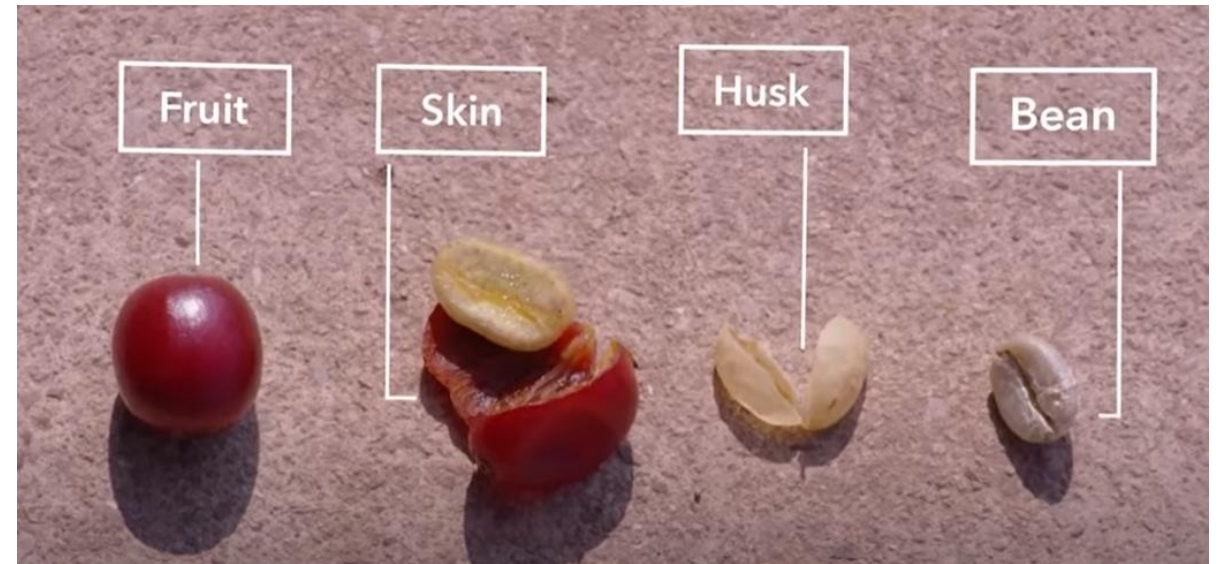
# Eco-friendly building materials

Concrete and steel production releases tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere every year. This contributes to pollution and climate change. Fortunately, there are more sustainable materials that are used for the construction.



# What is the coffee husk?

The coffee husk is the skin of the coffee bean that dries and falls off during the roasting process and usually ends up in landfills afterwards. It is stronger and drier than other fibres.



# Eco-friendly building materials: the coffee husk

- Colombia is one of the biggest coffee beans producers in the world;
- Many people there are unable to afford houses;
- By combining coffee husk with recycled plastic, a company has developed building blocks that link together around a steel frame to create tiny homes that can serve as single-family homes or classrooms for rural areas.
- The homes cost less than 5.000\$ each.
- The company that produces them is working alongside the Columbian government to help house those who have been displaced due to natural disasters.



*The End.*

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