

Module



Architecture and Urban Environment

Historic school buildings

1

Introduction

A

There is often conflict between property developers and the heritage of historic buildings.

In the UK, there are several organizations which promote conservation, including the National Trust and English Heritage.

Name the equivalent Italian organisations.

What type of buildings are often in danger of being destroyed for economic reasons?

Name any cases you know of, locally, nationally or internationally.

B

How old are your school buildings? Do they have any particular features?

List them.

2

Reading

Read the newspaper article about historic school buildings, and say if the following information is true, false or not in the text.

1. School buildings in the UK can be modernized.
2. Tim Brennan works in a school.
3. School buildings in the UK are often deeply rooted in the community.
4. Sir John Moore primary school is more than three hundred years old.
5. It was designed by a famous architect.
6. Sir John Moore primary school was closed temporarily while it was modernised in 1998.

Historic school buildings

Sir John Moore primary school in Appleby
Magna

Government plans to rebuild or refurbish every secondary school and some primaries risk damaging important 19th Century schools as well as historically important post-war modern schools.

"Historic schools can often be the most prominent building in a community after the parish church. The shared experience they represent, sometimes



stretching across many generations, can be a powerful source of community identity and cohesion,” said Tim Brennan, a policy officer at English Heritage.

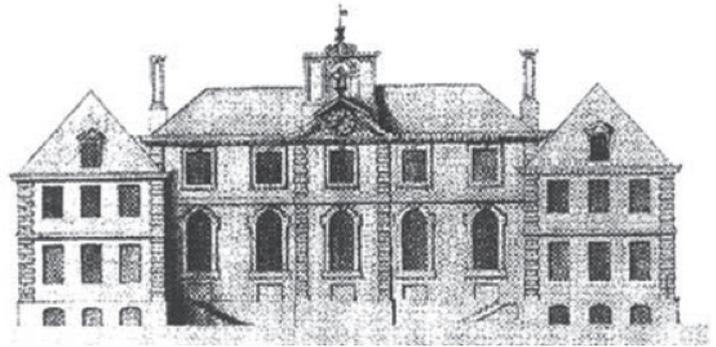
“In many places, their architectural style makes an important contribution to local character and identity, while many continue to play a central community role through secondary uses such as lifelong learning activities. Proposals for change should be sustainable, based on an understanding of the architectural and historical significance of the school and the way in which it is valued by the community.”

Mr Brennan urged local authorities, which are overseeing the school rebuilding process, to “repair, refurbish and reuse” the buildings as a school rather than replace them.

There has been a wave of redevelopments of school buildings which have been converted into flats in London, and some local authorities have sold school buildings for their market value.

But in other cases, local residents and the school community have successfully conserved their school buildings. Sir John Moore primary school in Appleby Magna, East Midlands, is named after Sir John Moore who made his fortune in the City of London, becoming Lord Mayor of London in 1681 during the reign of Charles II.

Wishing to use his wealth to benefit his home county, Sir John financed the building of a school next to his family estate. He commissioned an original design from Sir Christopher Wren. After Wren’s first design, the work was taken on by local architect Sir William Wilson. The school opened for boys in 1697.



Sir Christopher Wren’s design for the school

By 1998 the school had deteriorated to such an extent that plans were drawn up to sell up and move out. However opposition from the local community eventually led to a conversion programme which made the building usable as a modern school without damaging its look. It is now Grade I listed and a venue for community events and activities, a heritage centre and museum, as well as a flourishing primary school.

Match the following words from the text in the text with a synonym or explanation.

county	after 1945
conserve	exhort
heritage	renovate and modernise
mayor	patrimony
oversee	keep, maintain
post-war	supervise
refurbish	province
replace	origin
source	substitute
urge	head of municipal authority

3

Vocabulary

4

Grammar and Vocabulary

Phrasal verbs

The particle 'up' is often used to indicate that an action is completed.

E.g. Finish up your work, now!

Two verbs in the last paragraph of text use the particle 'up.' Use them to complete these sentences.

1. At the end of the project, the group _____ a report of their findings.
2. Entrepreneurs in this sector often _____ and move on because it is very difficult to make profits.
3. Joan and Frederick wanted to see the world, so they _____ their business and sailed round the world.
4. The team _____ a list of their requests.

5

Vocabulary

Useful expressions

Underline the following expressions in the text then use them to complete the sentences below.

Something *risks damaging* something

The *way in which* something happens or is done

Something *is / was converted into* something

Something *is named after* something or someone

Something or someone *is taken on* by someone

1. As a boy, he _____ by masters Giovanni da Porlezza and Girolamo Pittoni
2. His buildings are notable for the _____ they have celebrated local features.
3. Our school _____ a local scientist who became internationally famous.
4. The church on the High Street _____ a bookstore.
5. The new tunnel _____ many of the houses on the hill.

6

Writing

Underline phrases in the text that you can use to describe your school, or a school that you know.

Use them to write a very short description of the history of the buildings to put on a webpage.