

American House and Home



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Theses Statements

Unit I introduces the topic “American House and Home” and deals with the main concepts represented in American and Russian cultures.

Unit II is concerned essentially with how the American experience has effected American architecture, and vice versa. It traces the model of domestic environment in the U.S.A., as it has evolved from colonial architecture through current urban projects.

Unit III is concerned essentially with the diversity of modern American homes. It explores the changes in modern house design and the factors that brought the variety of models of domestic environment in the U.S.A.

Unit IV focuses on the issue of students’ housing options in the USA and describes a diversity of accommodations provided by colleges and universities for young people from various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds.

Unit I
Home Sweet Home



(Photo by Valeriy Yevseyev)

1.1. What is the image of an American home that a foreigner might have?

Definitely the one seen in Hollywood movies: a rich mansion or a luxurious penthouse. Of course, you can see some poor communities in movies, too. But when a foreigner thinks of a typical American house he still imagines a beautiful building on a green lawn, with a swimming pool and a spacious garage in some quiet neighborhood. This is how myths and misconceptions about American life and culture bring people to false assumptions.

✚ *Make up groups of three and consider the following myths about American houses. Which of them are widely spread in your culture?*

Myth 1: Most Americans live in big cities.

Myth 2: The majority of Americans own their houses.

Myth 3: Each member of the family has his/her own bedroom.

✚ Write a paragraph that begins: «I think, a typical American house looks like this...»

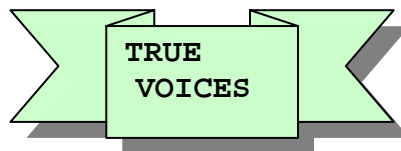
✚ Exchange your opinions. What similarities and what differences did you find?

✚ List similarities and differences of your opinions in two columns:

We all think	Some of us think
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✚ In your group of three come up with your own question about housing in the USA. Address it to the class.

1.2. Following are the opinions of different people that present a variety of views of the American home. Some of these people are U.S. citizens; others sum up their personal experiences during their visit to the U.S.A.



Question 1: How would you describe an American home to a person from another culture?

✚ While reading the answers take notes on the most important details of house design given by the speakers.

✚ Compare the given opinions and group the information in the following table:

Design	Building materials	House elements

A. Rosaline (California, USA):

An American home is usually two to four or more bedrooms. The house might be made of stucco or wood slats and can be a one story rambling/ranchstyle or a two story house. Some have sunken rooms which means that you have to step down from one room to the other. The older homes usually have a hardwood floor and then are covered with carpet. In most cases, people have reverted to the hardwood

floors by sanding and polishing them. In a lot of cases today, the living room and dining room are a combined room and sometimes it opens into the kitchen, making one great room for entertaining.

B. Kathy (New Jersey, USA):

Most Americans live in houses which are either one or two stories. They usually consist of living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Some have basements and others not, depending on the region. Most houses have storage areas in the attic area.

C. Anna (Russia):

It's a single-family home, two-storied, in a suburb, with a lawn, a backyard and a garage. Each room in the house has its own clear function, and usually each member of the family (except younger children who might share a room) has their own bedroom. There is usually also a guestroom or several guestrooms in the house (for reasons of privacy, it's not common to suggest to your guest that they bed down on the couch in the living room).

D. Olga (Russia)

I lived in a family of Americans several times. This is what their houses were like:

One – a single elderly lady, whose husband has passed away, and the children are grown-up living in a residential area in Pittsburgh in a townhouse, 3-storied (one semi-underground floor), not very big, with two guestrooms, a big living room and a garage.

Two – a family with two small kids and a dog, a suburb of Leesburg, VA, a small town: a single-family home in a fairly recent neighborhood (similar houses around); quite big and spacious, 2-storied, the hall, kitchen and living room on the first floor have no partitions; there were several rooms on the first floor, including children's playroom, one girl's bedroom, a den, some closets. Three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs.

Three – a small town in SC, a wealthy neighborhood in pine-forested area surrounded by golf-courses. A retired couple (the husband a former nuclear

scientist), living in a big two-story house with a porch and a balcony, the kitchen, the den, the living room and dining room downstairs, and the bedrooms upstairs. (It's common I noticed to use grownup kids' rooms as guestrooms). There was also a sort of covered terrace adjoining the kitchen where we had brunches on weekends watching the golfers on the course – very nice!

Four – a single lady living in a small one-story house in a residential area in Pittsburgh. A two-bedroom house, with a basement used as storage space, a laundry room and a place to keep the huge bear-size dog that takes up too much space in the house. An unusual feature of the house: the lady is very keen on gardening, so from the outside the house has an English look to it because instead of the traditional lawn it's surrounded by a flower and herb garden.

E. Douglas (Washington, USA):

Americans usually live in houses, although some (20%?) live in apartments, especially those that live in large cities and have no or few children, or are single – not married. American houses are varied in design and building materials: wood, brick, and stucco – most houses are made from wood.

F. Elena (Russia):

It is a one or two-family house with a porch and arched doors and windows, there is a greenhouse, a shed, a swimming-pool and a tennis court. The area is very well kept and it is quite an expensive property. (That's where I was when I was in Phoenix).


✚ Share the notes you made while reading the answers!/?

✚ Compare your ideas of an American house with the information you've read.

What new facts have you learned about the American house? Has your concept of the American house changed? What key words can you use to describe it now?

Question 2: Would you rather live in a house or an apartment? Why?

✚ While reading the answers take notes on the most important details of house design given by the speakers.

 Compare the given opinions and group the information in the following table:

	Preference	Reasons
Rosaline		

A. Rosaline (California, USA):

We prefer to live in a house. John and I met when we were both living at an apartment. Renting an apartment is like putting money out each month and having nothing to show for you money. Owing the house you have a piece of the real estate. I love to have a garden and the lawn full of flowers. That you can't have when living in an apartment. You can also have pets. A house you can decorate it any way you wish since you are the owner.

B. Kathy (New Jersey, USA):

I have lived in an apartment and also a house and I prefer living in a house. I like the space and privacy it affords. I like having a yard with grass and plants.


C. Douglas (Washington, USA):

We prefer to live in a house as we have more privacy and because we have a yard to play, relax and to grow plants in. We grow trees and flowers for pleasure, and raise fruit and vegetables for food.

D. Barbara and Reid (Minnesota, USA):

We prefer to live in a house because of privacy, lack of noise. (Apartments here are not like in Russia in terms of noise isolation, the walls are very thin usually).

E. Elena (Russia): I'd prefer to live in a house as I like privacy, but, unfortunately, I have to live in an apartment house with neighbors all around. I know ? that most Americans want to have an apartment in Manhattan and live in a cottage ? outside New York.

 Working in pairs analyze the notes you made. Highlight the main reason why Americans prefer this type of housing.

1.3. As you see many Americans have an ambition to own their own house. That is why a single *family house* is a very popular type of housing and many single family houses are built in the USA every year. *Apartment houses* assumed importance in the U.S.A. as big cities became more crowded. An apartment provides increased living space and more amenities than a single family house that costs the same amount of money.

Today a modern American house is designed and constructed according to the needs, wishes, financial status of those who will later occupy it.

✚ Working in groups of three read the extract from “The Encyclopedia of American Home” given below and draw a cluster that will include all the elements of a modern American house described in the text.

House Elements

The elements of a typical American house might be said to consist of the following:

living and dining areas (communal areas), in which families and their guests relax, talk, play games and the like, these are usually part of the living space, separate or part of kitchens and are used for both family dining and entertaining. These could be referred to as a living room, a dining room, a family room, a den, a library, a kitchen and the like;

sleeping areas (private areas) used for study, reading, sleeping. This is a bedroom each with a built-in closet;

bathrooms maybe of different kinds: master’s bathroom with a bath, a sink and a toilet; half-bathroom with a shower cabin plus a sink and a toilet, and ¼ bathroom with a toilet and a sink. In a big house there is often one bathroom for each bedroom;

work areas (centers) in which laundry is done and various other functions performed, the place can be a laundry room, a basement; a utility room;

storage areas (spaces) such as pantry; cedar closet;

outdoor areas consisting of a patio, a deck, a porch;

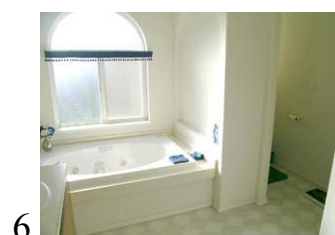
space for mechanical-electrical equipment- garage, carport.

***House** – a building in which people live as a single family house, apartment house.

***Apartment** – a group of rooms, apartment house (building).

(from “*The Encyclopedia of American Home*”)

✚ Match the pictures below to the cluster.



✚ Make up a cluster describing the main elements of a Russian house as you see it.

✚ Share this information with the group.

1.4. Even in cases when we deal with such universal concepts as house and home people from different cultures have their own concepts deeply rooted in their mentality and national picture of the world. Culture clash often occurs when we make judgments based on assumptions familiar to us. For example, when my Russian friends visit my three-room apartment in Russia they find it very spacious, because it is bigger than most of the kind. When my American friends come on a visit they find the same place not big enough for my family of three. While dealing with people from another culture, we try to achieve cross-cultural awareness - understanding our own culture as well as the culture of the nation whose language we learn.

✚ Read about the impressions of an American, who visited Russia, and analyze the way he sees the Russian house.

✚ While reading the text mark the information you using the following markers:

- a (√) – when encountering something you already know;
- a (-) – when reading something that contradicts what you already know;
- a (+) – when reading new information;
- a (?) – if you are unsure or want to know more

Houses and Homes

The word for house in Russian is “dom.”

Before the Communists attempted to do away with religion, it was normal for a Russian dwelling to have a special corner of a room for icons. This was called the “red corner.”

During my school days in the 1950s when some Russians had visited Seattle they asked, when flying over the city in preparation for landing, what all those buildings were. The answer was “houses.” I recall our teacher’s point was that the Russians could not believe that single-family houses were so big, and there were so many of them. Our teacher’s message to us, I am sure, was that they are “rich” here in America. Neither I nor my fellow classmates thought to ask about what the housing situation in Russia was at the time.

For some reason I never forgot about my grade-school teacher telling our class about the “big houses” in America – at least in the opinion of the Russians who were visiting. But why would the Russians have said about the ordinary houses surrounding the Seattle airport in the 1950s that they were large?(My grandparents lived in one of those houses at that time). Well now I know, after having lived in Tashkent and now in Nizhny Novgorod.

The overwhelming numbers of city-dwelling Russians live in apartments. The sizes of the apartments (“kvarтира” in Russian) are generally small. Russians talk about sizes in the number of rooms an apartment has: one, two or three. Americans generally talk about the number of bedrooms a house has. When a Russian says a two-room apartment, he means two rooms for sleeping, entertaining guests, watching television and dining. There would also be a small kitchen, which is generally the heart of a Russian home; and two small rooms, one having a

bathtub/shower – but generally no sink, the other, the toilet. A two-room flat is standard and considered to be about as much as any family could expect, no matter how many children there are. A one room flat is not uncommon. A three room apartment seems to be everyone’s dream. There is also another distinction to be made when talking about apartments: When was it built?

I am not clear on the history of apartment building construction in Russia. It seems to have begun under Stalin in the 1930s. Prior to this many people lived in their houses in the rural areas or in generally two- or three-floor wooden communal houses in urban areas. Large apartment buildings were constructed increasingly rapidly under Stalin and then under Khrushchev through 1964. All of these apartment buildings, from one side of the country to the next, look much the same both inside and outside – although the early apartments built under Stalin had high ceilings, thicker walls, and were overall better finished. All built during this time period were five-story buildings because Russian building codes do not require elevators for those of five stories or less. Under Brezhnev (1964 – 82) the buildings became larger and taller, generally 9 stories, later some went as high as 14 to an 18 floors in height, and covered an entire block; however, the apartment sizes became generally smaller and were of shoddier construction.

During WW II close to 90% of the housing was destroyed in areas occupied by the German army. This, coupled with the rapidly increasing population shift from rural to urban areas, fueled the need for more and more flats to be constructed at as fast a pace as possible. (Presently, close to 80% of the population lives in cities – one in fifteen Russians live in Moscow alone, where about 75% of Russia’s wealth is located.)

During my last visit to a Russian I stayed in an apartment house, on the second floor, having high ceilings (10 feet?) built during the Stalin period – a good old solid building, albeit, needing some repair. These buildings are referred to as “Stalinkas.”


“Khrushchevkas” and “Brezhnevkas,” were more quickly constructed, smaller, with lower ceilings and, under Brezhnev, were made of prefabricated

concrete and assembled on site. (The Brezhnev apartment blocks were planned to be torn down in 20 years, should the time for all of them has expired but few have be dismantled.)

People were given their apartments by the Government. Often there was a long wait. Since 1962 one could purchase apartments in communal apartment units, although most people continued to live in free apartments, paying little if any money for utilities – gas, electricity, or water.

This has all changed since 1991. Now one can purchase their apartments and the local governments are charging for utilities. The electricity is metered and expensive for those on the local economy. Gas and water are charged a flat fee, and I have noticed that people often pay a standard monthly fee regardless of the amount used.

Since 1992, new apartment buildings are being put up by private entrepreneurs. Beautiful buildings are going up with spacious apartments; however, very few Russians can afford them. Many Russians continue to make do with deteriorating Stalinkas, Khrushchevkas, and Brezhnevkas.


 Comment on the ideas expressed by the author:

- ✓ Is the information given in the text enough to make a more or less full impression of Russian houses and homes today? Why?
- ✓ With what do you agree and/or disagree in the given description? Why?
- ✓ What would you like to add to the given facts?

 Compare your ideas with the information you've read:

- ✓ In what is the picture the author describes different from the way you see it?
- ✓ Share your point of view with the class. Be argumentative in supporting your ideas. Use your cluster as visual support for your opinion.

1.5. The difference in concepts is often reflected in the language.

 Study the following definitions and compare the meanings that you find in the English and Russian languages. Discuss your findings with the class.

1. House - a building for people to live in, often one that has more than one level (story) and is intended for use by a single family.

2. Home –

a. the house, flat, etc., where one lives. One's home is considered to be a safe and comfortable place which others only enter by invitation;

b. a house, flat, etc. considered as property.


(from: Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture, p.p.643, 634)

3. Дом –


a. здание, строение, предназначенное для жилья, для размещения различных учреждений и предприятий.

б. жилое помещение, квартира, жилье.

в. семья, люди, живущие вместе, одним хозяйством.

 What other meanings can you find in English and Russian dictionaries?

1.6. The following proverb comes from a poem by the twentieth-century American author Edgar A. Guest: “ It takes a heap o’livin’ in a house t’make it home”.

 Discuss its meaning in small groups. Then share your ideas with the class.

 Write a short essay about what makes your house a home for you.

Unit II
A GOOD BEGINNING ...



2.1. Houses are a visible record of human values, political ideas, historical settlement, and community development. This record is reflected in the types of houses built during a particular period of time, by certain groups of people, or in a certain area of the country.

+ How can you comment on following sign ?



(Photo by Valeriy Yevseyev)

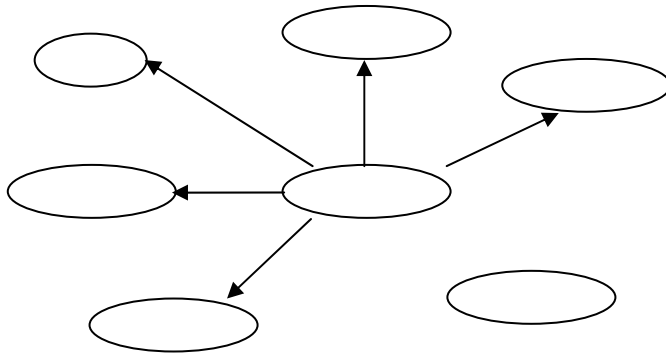
+ Look at the pictures given below. What do they reflect in connection with American history and culture? When do you think they were constructed?



✚ Compare the following pictures.



✚ Read the article from Encyclopedia Britannica and say to which of the pictures it might refer to. While reading the article group the characteristics of the types of houses in a cluster:



Ranch house is a type of residential building, characteristically built on one level, having a low roof and a rectangular open plan, with relatively little conventional demarcation of living areas.

When the settlers of the western United States abandoned their original log cabins, sod houses, and dugouts, they built small, wood-framed dwellings of one or two rooms without a basement; rooms were usually added as the family or settlers grew more numerous and more prosperous. This usually resulted in a series of large, open rooms laid end to end so that each would have an equal amount of sunlight, open to, and closely allied with, the surrounding terrain. From these old ranch houses of the western United States, a new type of **American home** developed during the 1920s, sometimes called the in-line house, built on what is known as the long plan. During the building boom after World War II, the style was particularly popular. After WWII, many small “box” type houses were built in the eastern area of the US. These were often referred to as “Cape Cods” because they were similar to the basic houses first build in that region. This was the beginning of “tract”

housing where developers laid out new streets and neighborhoods with houses all much the same. Such houses were relatively inexpensive to meet the housing need of new families after the war. Levittown is the perfect example of this. It had both ranch houses and cape cods. Check website:

<http://www.newsday.com/community/guide/lihistory/ny>

(Encyclopedia Britannica 2005 Ultimate Reference Suite DVD)

✚ What type of house do you see in the other picture? Can you find any connection between these two types of houses?

2.2. As you see from the previous assignment culture is reflected in its buildings. Religious, social and economic conditions had their influence on how Americans came to live in the structures that they call home. In the picture below you can see a house that is only one of the examples of how American heritage is preserved in modern America.



Thomas Lee (1690-1750), an acting Governor of Virginia, purchased land for Stratford Hall Plantation in 1717. The brick Georgian manor house was built between 1730 and 1738.

(from: <http://d21c.com/sombra5/navigation.html>)

The history of American houses began with the first colonial houses that were built by the first settlers of the country.

✚ Read the following text describing one period in the History of American Houses.

✚ Before reading the text come up with question/questions about American Houses that the text could help you answer?

COLONIAL HOUSES

English Colonial Houses

The first settlers on the eastern seaboard were from England. Although others followed particularly from France, Germany, and Scandinavia, the English prevailed in language, custom, and architecture.

The first residential buildings were [Medieval](#) in style because that is all the settlers knew. Houses in England, since at least the 13th century had been timber framed, because there was an abundance of oak. Roofs were made of thatch. Colonists brought this method to America: a timber frame with a skin made of local materials, in New England, wood, and in Virginia, brick.

The first basic house, in the 1600s, was a one-story two room (hall and parlor) house with a central chimney. This evolved into a two-story, four room building. By 1700, the salt-box evolved with a shed-like addition on the back. By 1740, the shed had become a full story, or a four-on-four room house. This, with a central hall with stair case, is the basic plan outline. The standard [Colonial](#) design, with a symmetrical front – with a central door and two windows on either side, and five windows across the second floor – remains the most popular architectural plan in the United States today. It traveled west with the pioneers.

In New England, there was usually one chimney in the middle. In Virginia and the Southern colonies, there were often two chimneys – one at either end of the house – to direct the heat outwards. Today, a standard Colonial design has one chimney located conveniently to provide for the hearth in the living room and the furnace beneath it in the basement.

As settlers had begun to think about aesthetics over basic shelter, and their houses were evolving from one and two room shelters, they looked to England for new ideas.

From 1700 to 1776, when the colonists on the eastern seaboard were establishing a civil society, the architectural life in England was vibrant, and the excitement crossed the ocean. Builders in America had access to books describing this new architecture, and they used them.

Dutch Colonial

The [Dutch](#) influence on American colonial architecture can be found in New York City and surrounding areas in New Jersey, on Long Island and along the Hudson River.

French Colonial

In the Louisiana territory, houses were built in the [French](#) style. Surviving structures can be best seen in New Orleans and in rural Louisiana along the Mississippi River.

The plantation houses are timber-framed structures featuring tall and steeply pitched hipped roofs characteristic of rural French manor houses. They are adapted to the subtropical Louisiana in two ways: the main living area, built of heavy timbers, was built on a very tall brick foundation to protect the house from the periodical river flooding; and, the houses were usually surrounded by wide porches, or galleries, to provide refreshingly cool yet sheltered outdoor living during the summer months. They had French doors from every room to the porch.

Spanish Colonial

Florida and the Southwest were sparsely settled by missionaries and military men to serve as buffers to French and English expansion. However, by the time settlers arrived in Virginia and Massachusetts in the early 1600s, the Spanish Empire had been thriving for more than a century. Today few buildings from this era survive, except for the mission chapels. Most colonial houses were modest structures of adobe and stone.

(www.house.com)

✚ Find in the text answers to the questions that you had before reading the text.

✚ Give answers to the questions below:

- ✓ What were the first residential buildings of the settlers of the New World like?
- ✓ Traditions of what European country prevailed in the design of the American houses at that time?
- ✓ What architectural plan traveled westward with the pioneers and why?
- ✓ Where did the settlers look for new ideas?
- ✓ What influences of other cultures on American colonial architecture can be found in different parts of the country?

✚ Working in groups of three sum up the information in the following table:

Style	Main Features
Medieval	
Colonial	

2.3. Have you ever driven by an old, abandoned house or farm and wondered who lived there, what happened to them? If only those old walls could talk. Would they tell tales of happy families, hard work, joy, blessing, sadness, and tragedy - all of these? If only they could talk.

✓ Read the lyrics of the song "The Old House".

THIS OLD HOUSE



This ole house once knew my children,
This ole house once knew my wife,
This ole house was home and comfort,
As we fought the storms of life.

This ole house once rang with laughter,
This ole house heard many shouts.
Now it trembles in the darkness
When the lightnin' walks about.

Ain't a'gonna need this house no longer,
Ain't a'gonna need this house no more,
Ain't got time to fix the shingles,
Ain't got time to fix the floor.

Ain't got time to oil the hinges
Nor to mend the windowpane,
Ain't a'gonna need this house no longer,
I'm gettin' ready to meet the saints.

This ole house is a'gettin' shaky,
This ole house is a'gettin' old,
This ole house lets in the rain,
This ole house lets in the cold.

On my knees I'm gettin' chilly,
But I feel no fear nor pain
'Cause I see an angel peekin'
Through a broken windowpane.

This ole house is afraid of thunder,
This ole house is afraid of storms,
This ole house just groans and trembles,
When the night wind flings its arms.

This ole house is gettin' feeble,
This ole house is needin' paint,
Just like me it's tuckered out,
But I'm a'gettin' ready to meet the saints.

This ole house dog lies a'sleepin';
He don't know I'm gonna leave.
Else he'd wake up by the fireplace
And he'd sit there and howl and grieve.

Ain't gonna need this house no longer,
Ain't gonna need this house no more.

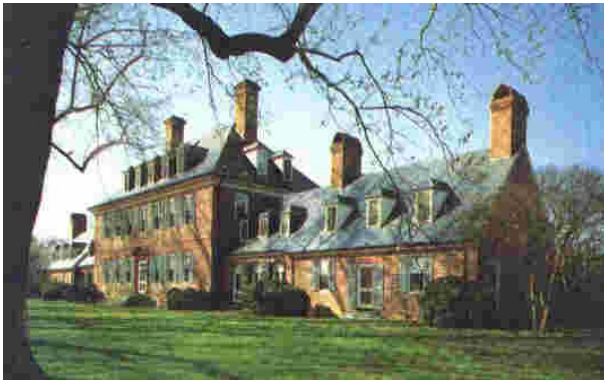
(Lyrics and music for This Ole House by Stuart Hamblen.)

<http://d21c.com/sombra5/oldhouse.html>

✚ Share the following with your classmates:

- ✓ What is the song about?
- ✓ What does the house mean to the old man?
- ✓ In what way are the man and his house alike?
- ✓ What feelings does the song awake in you?
- ✓ What does your home mean to you?

2.4. Carter's Grove Plantation, located approximately six miles from Colonial Williamsburg, was begun in 1750 by Carter Burwell, grandson of the original Robert "King" Carter. Carter's Grove was named **the most beautiful house in America** by the American Architects Association.



(<http://d21c.com/sombra5/cartersgrove.html>)

✚ Why do you think it was named the most beautiful house in America?

✚ If you want to find out more about it, go to:

✚ What house do you consider to be beautiful? Share your ideas with your partner.

1.5. Whether built in 1620 or 2000, a house may reflect merely a need to provide cheap basic housing or more interestingly an understanding of design in a particular time by its architect or builder. The house each American lives in fits somewhere in the continuum of design styles, which is not a progression from basic to stylish, but merely a story of change and new ideas.

The history of design styles gives a clear picture of where they came from and how they developed into the mainstream of American housing. Major trends can be researched further at the following site created by **Alexander Rubin**: <http://www.house.com> and in many other resources described in the media (e.g. localcolorart.master.com - types of houses; www.google.de - American town houses).

✚ From the given list choose a type of house that you would like to learn more about and make a short presentation.

<u>Basic Houses(Native American, Pre-Railroad, Post Railroad)</u>	<u>Victorian Houses (1860-1900)</u>
<u>Colonial Houses (1600-1820)</u>	<u>Eclectic Houses (1880-1940)</u>
<u>Romantic Houses (1820-1880)</u>	<u>Houses Since 1940</u>

✚ Here is an opinion of a professional Russian architect. How does she characterize American house design?

ЭКЛЕКТИКА, КАК СТИЛЬ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО ДОМА

По сравнению с европейской, история Соединенных Штатов Америки невелика, а население страны формировалось по принципу "с миру по нитке". Здесь есть англичане и итальянцы, китайцы и африканцы, русские и потомки американских индейцев, и каждый "привозил" с собой культуру и традиции своего народа.

Развитие архитектуры в Америке тоже существенно отличалось от европейской. Бурное развитие промышленного и жилищного строительства началось в середине XIX века, после Гражданской войны. И американские архитекторы - воспитанники европейских академий - создают своеобразный архитектурный стиль, сочетающий европейские тенденции подражания классической архитектуре с традициями жилищ первых американских переселенцев, для которых характерна функциональность в ущерб эстетике: несимметричная планировка дома, произвольное расположение оконных проемов на фасаде и высоко вздымающаяся над крышей труба. Именно поэтому в Америке вплоть до начала прошлого века господствовали в архитектуре стилизации и эклектика.

Но в результате бурного развития страны и массового строительства жилья, в Соединенных штатах значительно раньше, чем в Европе стали применяться принципы стандартизации, в результате чего жилые дома массовой застройки стали представлять собой набор стандартных конструкций и деталей. Так возник облик "одноэтажной Америки".

В двадцатом веке двухэтажные односемейные дома, известные как дома типа "прерий", приобретают в Америке все большую популярность, благодаря используемым в строительстве природным материалам (дерево и камень) и непосредственной связи здания с природой.

Основной особенностью этих домов является его открытость окружающей среде, когда из внутренних помещений дома образуется свободный выход в сад. Этому способствуют широкие застекленные двери холла, большие окна и множество разнообразных галерей, террас и балконов, окружающих весь дом. Комфорт и функциональность всего интерьера дома бесспорны.

Послевоенная американская архитектура жилья со второй половины прошлого века отличается большим разнообразием и роскошью. Так виллы послевоенных лет

предназначены не только для жизни, но и для демонстрации материальных возможностей заказчика.

Стиль американского дома, возник вначале как результат смешения разнообразных национальных традиций и культур, привнесенных на континент со всех концов света основными жителями страны - эмигрантами, со временем превратился в полноценный и оригинальный стиль, в основе которого – эклектика (смешение стилей).

(Сомова М. Энциклопедия ремонта и дизайна
Группа компаний «Альта»)

- ✚ *The modern American home has been influenced by many cultures. Do you think that the modern Russian home has any features that connect it with the past?*
- ✚ *Share your opinion with the class.*
- ✚ *Find(make) your own photos of old and new Russian houses to illustrate your opinion.*



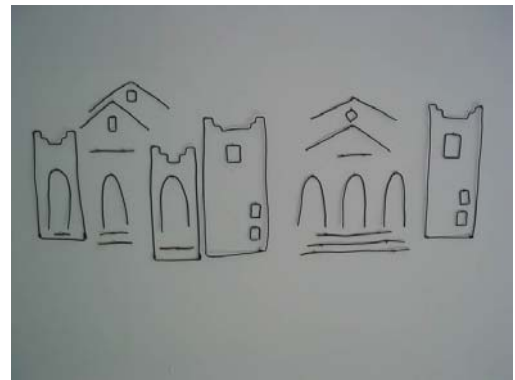
Unit III
A MAN IS KNOWN BY HIS
HOUSE

(Photo by Valeriy Yevseyev)

3.1. As you saw in the previous Unit, the history of American house design is a story of change. There are several social factors that have influenced these changes.

✚ *Discuss with your partner what changes in the life of modern society brought changes into house design.*


✚ *Scan the following paragraph and say what factors are described there.*



People in the USA are more mobile socially than they used to be. Formerly, children tended to follow their fathers' vocation, often in the same places in which they grew up. Today children aspire to an increasingly better education, followed by better jobs and higher incomes than those of their parents. And the parents as their income increases aspire to improve both the housing and location. As a result, houses, which in the past were more or less permanent residences for their occupants, are today often transient residences for those who will eventually move on. Therefore house design must take into account both resale value and the fact that a house should be designed to fit the requirements of its occupants. Of course there may be other reasons for Americans to move.

Recently, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of women working outside the home, including working wives, and in the number of women who are the heads of household. This has deeply affected house design, partly because no one in these families is at home all or most of every day, and housekeeping, once the almost sole province of housewives is now often a shared responsibility. It's not uncommon today that families may have someone coming once or twice a week to do the cleaning and the laundry.


3.2. Following are the opinions of different people that present a variety of views of changes in American home design. They were all describing changes occurring in American house design that they could witness.

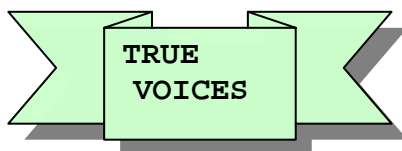
 Make up three groups and after reading the utterances speak on the following issues:

Group A: Describe the houses Rosaline has lived in during her life.

Group B: Point out the main changes in house design, summing up the ideas given by different people.

Group C: Find the description of “a condominium or town house in a planned community” and explain what is innovative in this type of housing.

 When your presentation is ready, make up 2-3 questions to discuss your issue with the audience.



A. Rosaline (California, USA):

In my childhood I lived in Pennsylvania in a 100 year old farm house. I remember as a kid I would ride my tricycle over the wood floors. They were not flat, they were rounded like they come off the tree.

My father cut down trees and had them dried and redid all the downstairs floors in either oak or cherry.

It had a cellar with a dirt floor where my folks kept canned goods and the furnace was down there. After the 50s my bedroom was upstairs as my dad partially opened up the upstairs and made a room for me and my brother.

When I moved out in 1961, I moved to Minneapolis, Minn. There I lived with a family in a beautiful two-story brick house which had a full basement where my bedroom was. It also had a screened porch on the upper level where I loved to go and read during the summer.

When I moved to Los Angeles, my first place to stay was at my aunt's who lived in a mobile home way out in the sticks, at least it was at that time. The place has now grown and become very populated where their trailer home used to be. I moved from there to an apartment in downtown Los Angeles. It was a beautiful old building with many floors. I had a large apartment which had twin beds that came down out of the wall into a very large living room. We also had a full walk-in closet and a large bathroom. It had a nice sized kitchen as well. That's when I met John, my next door neighbor, and we were married nine months later and moved to

our home in Hawthorne. We have been here ever since. When we moved into this house, the trend was to have a rock roof. Most everyone has changed that. We changed ours to composition shingles made of fiberglass and imbedded granules. Since it was a rock roof, the slope of the roof was not as steep as most houses that had the shingles.

Changes – people seem to need bigger and better homes. More elaborate designs.

In California there are a lot of Spanish style homes as those were the first settlers, so there are many areas with that type of house.

Many homes today have granite stone counter tops in their kitchen. We had linoleum on the floor in the kitchen that we changed to ceramic tile. The homes when this one was built used oak flooring and then covered it up with carpeting. We have recently taken out the carpeting and re-sanded and polished the wood floor, which I love.

They used to use quality wood for building and today homes are put up with particle board and plaster over that. But most homes today have the plaster board.

More homes today are fully insulated and have double-paned windows. Before they didn't think you needed them in sunny California. But they sure are nice since they keep it cool in summer and warm in winter. At home in my farm house in PA, we would add storm windows over the other windows for the winter just to keep the heat in.

B. Kathy (New Jersey, USA):

Houses have gotten bigger in recent years, to four or more bedrooms with three or more bathrooms. Many houses have two, three, and even four car garages. The size of the property has grown smaller compared to the size of the houses. Many houses have elaborate kitchens but often the people living in these houses seldom cook.

A relatively new innovation for housing is the idea of a condominium or town house in a planned community, usually with clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, etc. The “condo” is like an apartment but the tenants own a certain number of shares of the whole complex. A town house usually refers to a series of approximately eight attached houses in one long building. Each has separate front and back entrances, garages, etc. The owners own their house portion of the building, and often the land surrounding it. Many of these planned communities are also “gated” communities, meaning that you cannot drive into the area without first announcing yourself to someone at the gate.

C. Douglas (Washington, USA):

The trend I notice in new American homes is that they are becoming larger – usually much bigger than what is really needed. The garages often will accommodate two or three cars, as many American families usually have more than two cars.

D. Elena (Russia):

To my mind, American house design varies from city to city. And yet, the city center is for the most part the same – very tall sky-scrapers, the huge local Capitol Building if it's the capital city which is usually patterned after the Federal domed style of the nation's capitol in Washington D.C., - glorious cathedrals and big shopping malls. Most cities look very modern and architectural influences from all over the world can be seen in the exterior design of many of them. Some parts of the city can remind you of England, others of France, Spain, etc.

✚ Make presentations in front of the class and discuss the issue with the audience.

✚ Talk to your parents, grandparents, or family friends to find out what changes in Russian house design they have witnessed during their lives.

3.3. The key word to modern American types of housing is diversity. The following description of types of houses in the USA was given by an American citizen, John Radmore, who shares his vision of today's situation.

✚ While reading the text find answers to the following questions:

- ✓ What types of houses are described?
- ✓ How can you characterize each type?

Types of Houses

As I thought about the various types of buildings or places where American people live, I came up with the following:

1. Multimillion dollar mansions where the very rich live. Often located on many acres of property and fenced and gated with possibly an employed armed guard to assure privacy. A good view of surrounding mountains, valleys, lakes or ocean. Swimming pool or pools, both indoor and outdoor, tennis courts, boat docks, undercover storage areas for boats, hunting fields and forests, horse paddocks, riding trails, guest houses, quarters for employed staff, multi-car

garages, small theaters, libraries and private chapels are often included. A recent newspaper item describes a home recently purchased by a movie star as located in a very exclusive suburb of Los Angeles. "Gated, on 5000 square feet, it has five bedrooms and five and one-half baths, a master suite with a spa tub and steam shower. Huge rooms with five big burning fireplaces, and part of the garage has been turned into guest quarters. Plus there's an ocean view from every room in the house, copious gardens and other amenities."

2. Vacation homes which could be most any of the types listed herein but are used only for shorter periods of time during the year and may be located at some distance from the major place of residence.

3. Row houses. These are block long rows of two, three, or four levels built physically adjoining each other with little or no open areas either in front or in back of the building proper. They usually are found only in the larger metropolitan areas and often are poorly maintained. They may have multiple families living in the building (one on each floor level) or extended families (cousins, aunts, uncles, adult brothers or sisters, or grandparents) in the same building.

4. Apartments. Multiple living units, usually small in size, contained in one building. In the more modern apartment buildings each unit is self-contained, meaning each has its own bathroom and laundry areas, but in the older apartment buildings there may be one bathroom on each floor. The laundry facilities are located in the basement.

5. Private homes on large lots. Tend to be larger three and four bedroom homes of 1800 square feet or more in size with double garages, lots of lawn area, play area for kids, garden or small orchard. Some have outbuildings for storage, workshops, gardening or maintenance equipment, or guest housing.

6. Private homes on small lots. Homes may be one or two bedrooms smaller in size than those in #5, and may be less than 1800 square feet in total size. Single car garages, limited lawn, play, garden areas and only one or two trees and no outbuildings are routine.

7. Shacks. Often single room abandoned buildings with a history of minimal maintenance, limited or nonexistent plumbing or heating and free of insulation.

Windows may be cracked or missing, siding with gaps and leaking roofs. Floors may be rotting or nonexistent. May be occupied by transients or homeless or could be structures made of remnant materials.

8. In the larger cities, there are people who are so destitute that they live in cardboard boxes that were shipping crates for larger pieces of furniture such as refrigerators, sofas, washing machines, etc. if they are fortunate enough to find such shelter. If not, they pull discarded newspapers from trash cans during the cold weather, stuff them inside their clothing, and try to sleep on park benches or in

doorways of commercial buildings or over ventilation grates from large buildings or subways. There are “shelters” but often these people refuse to go there.

9. There are people here who live in tents, some by choice and some by necessity. Some during the summer vacation time and some year around. The vacationers locate a favorite spot in the forest by a river or lake or with a great view, pitch their tent, lay out their camping gear and stay there for weeks on end. Many kids pitch a tent in their own back yard and sleep there all summer long. A cousin of ours bought an Indian tippee that was about five or six meters tall and four or five meters in diameter at the bottom and erected it in the yard beside his house. He moved a small wood stove and a bed in and lived in it for months, including the winter when the temperature was below freezing. The tippee was made of long poles, a canvass covering and a canvass skirting that came up the inside wall about two meters and out into the floor area about the same. A very small fire in the stove at the center of the floor area provided more heat than he wanted and the smoke went out the small opening at the top.

On a lower economic level yet, some may buy, find, or steal some plastic sheeting, build a small lean-to for shelter from the weather and live there. The more desperate may just wrap themselves in the plastic and live under a tree or under a bridge or in the brush along the river, until the police find them and force them to move on.

10. Another type of housing is the class of motor homes that are built on a car, truck, or bus chassis and an increasing number of people live in them year around. They often travel from campground to campground, staying as long as they wish, then move on to another area and thus see much of the entire country. They may or may not have a permanent home someplace and return to it once or twice a year or when their nomadic interests wane.

Some such homes can be purchased for as little as \$2-3000 used and with minimal amenities and are about three meters long and little wider than the pickup truck on which they are mounted. They usually are tall enough to permit adults to stand upright in them and may sleep from four to six adults and kids in very cramped quarters. Cooking, heating, refrigerators, storage, and sanitation facilities are also built in the larger and more expensive ones. Floor space is about one meter wide (or less) and two meters long.

There is a growing industry which produces large motor homes on diesel bus chasses up to six or seven meters long, with excellent and luxurious furnishings inside, including full sized cooking, refrigerator, heating, air conditioning, bathroom, TV, audio systems, sofas, recliner chairs, and a small car in tow behind for local travel when they reach their destination. These units can cost up to \$250,000 or more. Many have slide-out room additions which give more comfort. I find it ironic that this group of people may well spend a million dollars building a beautiful home "just the way they wanted it", and then spend another quarter of a million dollars on a fancy motor home so they can get away from their beautiful home.

On the other end of the motor home scale are the near destitute people who may own a very dilapidated old car in which they pack what few clothes they own in the trunk, put the kids in the back seat, and live there until forced to drive on to the next town or another parking lot.

✚ Discuss the answers to the questions given before the text.

✚ Which types of houses do the following pictures illustrate?



(Photo by Valeriy Yevseyev)



(Photo by Alina Levina)



(<http://www.amfactorybuilthomes>)

3.4. Getting to know another culture helps you understand better the way people around you live. What types of houses could you describe to a foreigner?

✚ Organize a field study on the types of houses in Russia. In your project highlight the idea of diversity and the way it is represented in your area. Make pictures of dwellings to illustrate your presentation.


3.5. In all time there were people who wanted to express themselves through their house arrangements. But some people literally go into extremes.

✚ Have you ever seen any strange or weird houses?

✚ If given a choice, what house would you like to live in... a typical modern one with all conveniences provided or an unusual one, even with no special comfort around?

The USA has its share of strange or unusual buildings.

How do you find these AMERICAN ODDITIES?

 Discuss your impressions and ideas.



Something alien has made its home on Signal Mountain in Tennessee. Truckers and travelers encounter the out of this world sight as they wind their way up US 27. A large saucer structure, propped up on four legs and standing a story off the ground, offers all the conveniences of modern living to its starry eyed owners.



Margate City, NJ (close to Atlantic City) is home to Lucy the elephant. Lucy is the world's largest elephant and the only one to be designated a National Historic Landmark. James V. Lafferty built Lucy in 1881. She stands 6 stories high and weighs 90 tons! She served as a hotel and then a tavern. Today visitors can tour Lucy's innards and visit her gift shop.



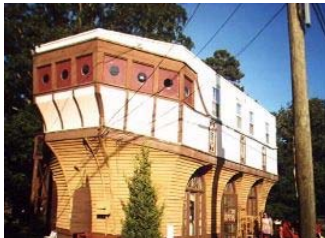
The building in Point Pleasant, WV, is not so unusual but the owners wanted windows and trees. What to do? Just paint them on.



Suffolk County, NY, is home to the Duck House. It was built in 1931 by duck farmer Martin Mauer and his wife, Jeuel, in hopes of promoting the sale of their Peking ducks. The duck farm is long gone and land developers wanted to build homes on the site so the Duck House was moved to Suffolk County.



Shoe magnate Mahlon Haines built the Shoe House in Hallam, PA in 1948. He lent it free of charge to honeymooners. The current owners now conduct tours of its three surprisingly lovely bedrooms, and operate a home-made ice cream parlor.




Originally intended to wow visitors to a proposed housing development called Neptune Gardens, this replica of the Santa Maria has been "docked" in its current location since 1928. It has served as office space, an apartment and a gift shop. For the past two decades, it has been a book and curio shop.

(<http://d21c.com/sombra5/americanoddities.html>)




Unit IV
Where Birds of a Feather
Flock Together

4.1. Accommodation during one's college years may be considered a young person's first home of his own. Most students in the U.S.A. leave their home when they are enrolled in college or university and share an apartment or a room in a dorm with their peers. Living away from home during your college years demonstrates one of the most essential American values – independence. It is cultivated among Americans since early age that may differ from some other cultures

 Discuss in a small group:

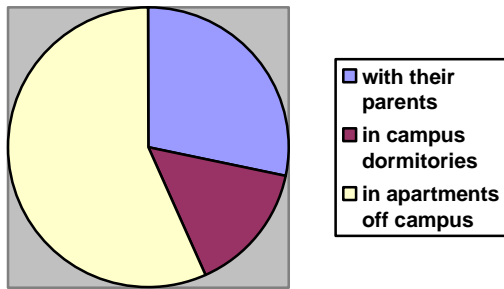
- ✓ *Where do university students usually live in your country? Why?*
- ✓ *What do you think are some advantages and disadvantages of each type of housing choices?*

It's a widely-spread stereotype that most of American students live in dormitories. Colleges and universities in the United States do provide dormitories for students on campus, but many students think that dorms have too many rules, are too noisy so a number of students prefer to have roommates in off-campus apartments.

 Before you study the diagram **Where do students live in the USA?** try to predict how many of them live:

- a) *in campus dorms.....?*
- b) *with their parents.....?*
- c) *in apartments.....?*

✚ Now study the diagram and fill in the correct percentage: 15; 28.3; 56.27



✚ Evaluate your predictions: were they correct?

4.2 University housing experiences in the USA are available to students regardless of race, color, religion, disability, or national origin. The following reading selections will help you compare housing options offered by three American Universities in different parts of the country.

✚ Continue to work in groups of three. Each of you will be offered a different text to read.

✚ While reading the text find the answers to the following questions.

- ✓ *What housing options are offered to American students?*
- ✓ *What is the price range to choose from?*
- ✓ *Are there any advantages of living in a dorm?*
- ✓ *Do students always share their housing with a roommate?*
- ✓ *What kind of food service is provided for students?*

A Place to Spread Your Wings

Text 1

The University of North Florida, Jacksonville



Culture Note: The University of North Florida was founded in 1965

and is relatively small. There are three UNF on-campus housing options: Osprey Hall, Osprey Village Apartments, and Osprey Landing/ Osprey Cove suite-style residence halls.

Osprey Hall

Osprey Hall is a three-story, lakeside, traditional college residence hall, for 250 of the University's undergraduate students. Students attending college for the first time wishing to live on campus are housed in this facility because of the opportunities it provides for them to meet, study and socialize with other students. Hardwood furniture enables residents to create individualized room arrangements.

Osprey Hall residents have the convenience of an in-building laundry facility as well as a small lounge area on each floor equipped with televisions, microwave ovens and sink. Electric and water utilities are included in the rent in this complex, as well as cable television service (including an information channel programmed especially for students) and local phone service. Students must provide their own phone and television equipment to access local telephone and cable service. Also available is student discounted, direct-dial, long-distance service.

Osprey Hall residents are encouraged to participate in one of meal plans, but according to individual differences in appetite they may choose the number of meals included each week.

Osprey Village Apartments

The University's Apartments house 435 students in one and two-bedroom furnished apartments with full kitchen and bath. There are seven three-story Apartment buildings .Apartments are kitchen-equipped . A laundromat also is located in the complex.

Included in the apartment rent is water/sewage, cable television service (including an information channel programmed especially for students) and local telephone service. Students must provide their own phone and television equipment to access local telephone and cable service. Also available is special student discounted, direct-dial, long-distance service. Apartment residents are responsible for monthly electric bills.

There are one-bedroom and two-bedroom, "townhouse" apartments.

Students residing in the apartments may, but are not required, to participate in one of the campus meal plans.

Osprey landing and Osprey Cove

UNF's newest housing options give 900 more UNF students the opportunity to experience the convenience and fun of living in the University of North Florida neighborhood. These two, three-building complexes join campus apartments and the residence hall as a modified suite-style option in which two students share a room and their own private bath. Rooms have built-in closets, central heat and air conditioning and movable hardwood furnishings. Rooms also offer a small snack area in which students may add their own microwave and a refrigerator.

There are laundry rooms in each building, lounges on every level with TVs and cooking facilities, and space for community activities. Rent includes utilities, cable television service (including an information channel programmed especially for students), and local phone service. Students must provide their own phone and television equipment to access local telephone and cable service. Also available is student discounted, direct-dial, long distance service.

[\(http://www.unfhousing.com/\)](http://www.unfhousing.com/)



You can find more information if you go to:

<http://www.unf.edu/>

<http://www.unf.edu/mainpages/campus.html>

<http://www.unfhousing.com/>

Text 2

The University of Oregon, Eugene

Culture note: Total enrollment at the University of Oregon, which was founded in 1872, is approximately 20,339 students. There is a wide range of housing in the University of Oregon. Housing choices include dormitories, apartments, quads, and private homes.

Private Homes

The University of Oregon provides a homestay program that can place you in the home of an American family. Most of the families live about 20-30 minutes from campus by bus. Hosts often have dogs or cats as pets.

The student has a private room with a bed, dresser and desk provided. Hosts provide an evening meal and food for breakfast during the week, and all meals on weekends. Students are expected to purchase their own lunches on school days. The cost of the homestay is \$390 per month.

Students will have more responsibilities and less freedom in a homestay than in the dorm.

Dormitories (Residence Halls)

The University has both single-occupancy and multiple-occupancy dormitory rooms, and it is possible to request a roommate if you name the person. Dormitories provide an excellent opportunity for you to meet other students. The dorms provide meals, furnished rooms, and access to computer terminals, vending machines, and washers and dryers. The University requires a nine-month contract for residence halls. Room

and board costs vary from term to term but can be estimated at \$3,500 for a multiple room and \$4,500 for a single room.

Apartments

There are many apartments in the Eugene-Springfield area. Many are located close to campus; however, these usually have higher rental rates than those in the outlying areas. Apartments usually include a kitchen, living room, bathroom, and bedroom(s). A studio usually includes a kitchen, bathroom, and combined bedroom/living room area. The following prices are average monthly rental rates for apartments in the area: studios, \$400-\$480; one bedroom apartments, \$400-\$550; two bedroom apartments, \$500-\$600; and three bedroom apartments, \$600 and up. Many of these apartments require 9 to 12 month leases, cleaning deposits or fees, and security deposits, and many do not allow children or pets.

Renting home furnishings is possible. However, buying used items maybe less expensive.

Some rental accommodations (often quads and studios) include utilities (electricity, water, gas). However most apartments, duplexes and houses don't include utilities in the rental costs, and you will have to ask and pay for those utilities yourself.

Regular phone service is about \$20 to \$25 a month; there is a one-time connection charge of about \$20. Long distance calls are extra. You must provide your own phone. Televisions are not included in most rental units.

Quads

Quads are often available near campus A quad is a single sleeping room built around a kitchen which is shared by occupants of three other such sleeping rooms. Some quad rooms have private bathrooms; others share with other occupants. Many quads are coed. Rent ranges from \$275-\$380 a month during the academic year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) with reduced rates during the summer. A lease is

required for .most quads, but the tenant may sell it to someone else if he or she decides to move out.



You can find more information if you go to:

http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/U_S_States/Oregon/Cities/Eugene/Education/College_and_University/Public/University_of_Oregon/Campus_Residences/

Text 3

The University of Texas, Austin

Culture note: The University of Texas, founded in 1883, is one of the largest university campuses in the United States with approximate enrollment of 48,500 students. Students at the Austin campus have many choices in housing facilities.

Dormitories

Dormitories are on-campus living facilities that provide room and board. Meals (approximately \$20 per week) are served in a cafeteria. Bathroom facilities are located on each floor. Dorms are convenient for new students because they are relatively inexpensive and are located close to academic buildings and libraries. Prices range from \$ 3,255 to \$ 4,300 for the academic year (fall to spring semester). The housing is limited.

Private Dormitories (off campus)

Private dorms are usually located close to campus. They consist of one room (single or double), sometimes a shared kitchen facilities and a bathroom. As a rule private dorms are more expensive than university ones but may provide more comfortable surroundings. Meals are also served in a cafeteria. Prices range from \$4,400 to \$9,400 for room and board per academic year.

Apartments and Houses (off campus)

Apartments and individual houses can be rented on a 9 month or 12 month basis. A person living alone can expect to pay a minimum of \$500 per month for housing, utilities, and food. The average cost is about \$600 per month.





Co-operative Houses

All occupants of the house share cooking and cleaning responsibilities. Monthly rates for double rooms range from \$320 to \$345 and single rooms from \$370 to \$425. That includes accommodation and meals. Co-ops serve only vegetarian meals.



You can find more information if you go to:




http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/U_S_States/Texas/Cities/Austin/Education/College_and_University


-  Share the information found in your text in your small groups of three. Organize your ideas clearly.
-  Summarize and evaluate the given information.
-  Tell your groupmates what features of the living facilities impressed you most.
-  What type of accommodation would you prefer and why? Work out a list of advantages that could make this housing option attractive for your partner who thinks differently. Try to be argumentative. Provide appropriate details to prove your point.



4.3. Project Work

You are two teams participating in an open contest “Students’ Community of the 21-st Century” aimed at improving students housing in your city.

-  Divide into two teams.
-  Together with the members of your team create a project that you will present for the contest.
-  Your design should provide living facilities for individuals from diverse cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds.

 Explain your key concept and present the project to the class.

*The following **helpful hints** will make teamwork on the project and its presentation more exciting, rewarding, and better-organized:*

1. Brainstorm to analyze advantages and disadvantages of students' living facilities in your city.
2. Posing the idea of your project in your team, develop the concept that will make your students' community attractive for your peers.
3. Think of the sources of information you may use.
4. Choose the way of presenting your project (remember about the target audience).
5. Distribute the roles among the participants of the project.
6. Schedule the time for preparation and presentation of the project.
7. Get together to discuss and revise the draft of the presentation.
8. Practice your presentation in your small group and make the final revision.
9. Present your project to the class.
10. Listen to comments and answer questions of the audience.