

## INTRODUCTION

Our homes have never been more central to our lives. It is where we sleep, eat, and now increasingly work, study and play. With the increased time we are all spending at home, how can we make it better suited to our needs and wants? What if our homes could help us tackle climate change? How might we make homes of the future accessible for all? Could a design idea help support those without a place to live?

## STARTING POINTS

For all of us, wherever we are in the world, home plays an important role in our lives and the lives of our families. Home should be where people feel most safe, comfortable, rested and loved. We are asking students to come up with ideas that make the home, or being at home, more sustainable, accessible and inclusive. You can introduce one or more of the below starting points with your students.

### SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Climate change (or global warming) is the process of our planet heating up and causing our climate to become more extreme and unpredictable. Every year since 2008, 26.4 million climate refugees have been forced to leave their homes due to events caused by climate change and natural disasters, such as flooding, hurricanes, and droughts. As the climate changes more and more, so will our homes and the ways in which we live.

- > How might our homes have a more positive impact on the planet through how they are built, where they are built, and the materials they use?
- > How might our homes, and the things within them, be better designed to deal with the future impacts of climate change?

### ACCESSIBLE

As the global population increases, we are living closer together and longer than ever. The global population has grown from 1 billion in 1800 to over 7.5 billion in 2020. Almost every country in the world is also experiencing growth in the amount of older people in their population. The number of older people aged 65 years or over in the world is estimated to double to 1.5 billion by 2050.

- > How might homes and the objects in them be made more accessible for an ageing population?
- > How might our homes respond to the changing needs of the people living in them?

### HOMELESSNESS

Not everyone has access to a safe and comfortable place to live. There are many causes for homelessness, including lack of affordable housing, poverty and unemployment. In 2019, the charity Shelter estimated that there are 280,000 people experiencing homelessness in England, one out of every 200 people.

- > How might we help people without a home feel safe and cared for?
- > How might a home be something that could travel with people, rather than being left behind?

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Watch materials designer Ella Bulley explore potential future uses for sugarcane.

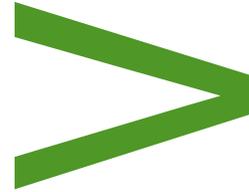
Search over one million objects from the V&A Collections online, including ceramics, fashion, furniture, glass, metalwork, and more. [collections.vam.ac.uk](https://collections.vam.ac.uk)

Get inspired by the V&A collections. The following pages show examples of innovative designs that focus on user need in the home and their communities.



MittiCool Clay Refrigerator, designed by Mansukhbhai Prajapati, 2005, made by MittiCool Pvt. Ltd., 2016. Terracotta, glass. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## > A FRIDGE THAT RUNS ON WATER



### MITTICOOL CLAY REFRIGERATOR

DESIGNED BY MANSUKHBHAI PRAJAPATI, 2005

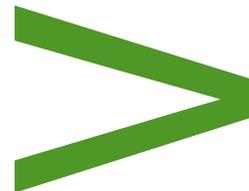
In rural Indian communities where electricity is scarce, keeping food cool can be

difficult. The design of this fridge uses an ancient technique of cooling by evaporating water through clay. This method, which does not need electricity, is a practical and sustainable solution to the challenge of preserving fresh food in a hot country.

### >ACTIVITY<

Can you draw everything that uses electricity in your home? How else might these objects be powered?

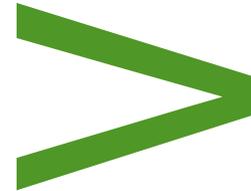
How might all the different parts of a home (doors, bricks, windows, roof tiles, garden gnomes etc) all get power from the sun, from the wind, or from the rain?





WOBO Bottle. John Habraken, 1963. Moulded glass. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Given by Heineken Collection Foundation.

## > GIVING WASTE A NEW PURPOSE



### WOBO BOTTLE

DESIGNED BY  
JOHN HABRAKAN, 1963

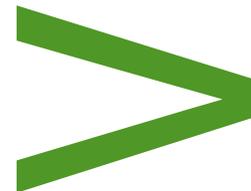
Designers can look at things and see opportunities for using objects in different ways. They think 'what if?' and 'why not?' and 'let's just try it'.

These glass bottles were made rectangular and tessellating in answer to the question 'can a brick hold beer?' The aim was to reduce beer bottle waste in the Antilles Islands while also building more affordable places for people to live.

### >ACTIVITY<

Can you think of all the packaging you throw away every week in your home?

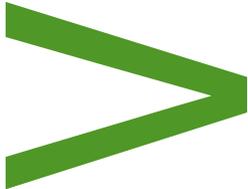
Can you design your ideal, future home using only re-used materials? What would the walls and floors be made from?





Lifeware, Anupam Pathak, 2013. Plastic, metal and electronic components.  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

# > TO HELP AN UNSTEADY HAND



## LIFWARE

DESIGNED BY ANUPAM PATHAK, 2013

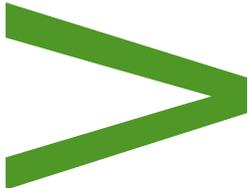
Simple actions such as lifting cutlery can be very difficult for people with

limited mobility. This cutlery has stabilising algorithms that can tell when the user has hand tremors. It reduces shaking and helps people with Parkinson's disease and other mobility-affecting conditions.

## >ACTIVITY<

In groups, think about everyday activities you do at home and discuss how you would do them with limited mobility or senses:

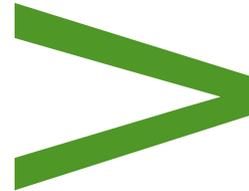
How might we use a kitchen if we can't see? How might we enjoy the radio if we can't hear? How might we enjoy the garden if we can't walk unaided?





Mon Mon, 1 More Design, 2015. Cotton and electronic parts.  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## > WORKING AWAY FROM LOVED ONES



### MON MON

DESIGNED BY  
1 MORE DESIGN, 2015

More than two-thirds of people living in Shenzhen, China, are migrants attracted by the city's job

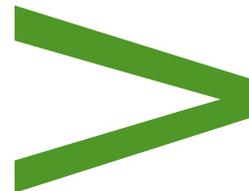
opportunities. For parents who work away from home, the soft toy Mon Mon allows them to keep in touch with their children. By squeezing its tummy, the child can listen to or record voice messages via the social media platform WeChat.

### >ACTIVITY<

Think about how we could stay connected to family members when they are away from home, or elderly relatives who live far away.

What fun and creative ways could we keep in touch with people when we don't share the same home?

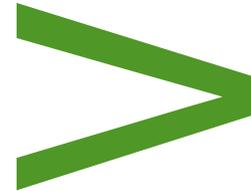
Can you think of ideas that use new technologies, and also ideas that don't...





Better Shelter, Johan Karlsson, Dennis Kanter, Christian Gustafsson, John van Leer, Tim de Haas, and Nicolò Barlera with the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), 2015. Steel frame, polyolefin envelope, polypropylene, polyamide and ABS plastic components, photovoltaics. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## > A STURDY BUT TEMPORARY HOME



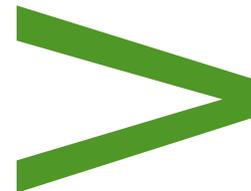
### BETTER SHELTER

DESIGNED BY  
JOHAN KARLSSON, DENNIS  
KANTER, CHRISTIAN  
GUSTAFSSON, JOHN VAN  
LEER, TIM DE HAAS,  
AND NICOLÒ BARLERA  
WITH THE IKEA  
FOUNDATION AND  
UNHCR (UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES), 2015

In response to growing numbers of people without places to live, in 2016 the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and IKEA worked together to create an easily transportable shelter. Built within four hours without specialist tools, the 17.5-square-metre metal shelter offers better security and durability than a tent. Over 40,000 shelters have been built, but the design had to be changed to improve fire safety a year after launch.

### >ACTIVITY<

If you worked as a designer for IKEA, what are all the ways you could help homeless people build a better life?



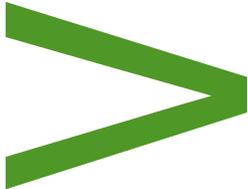
Watch the film about digital and branding agency TEMPLO on our website.

Share from your own stories how the home environment can be a place for bringing people together.



Architectural Spikes, Kent Stainless Ltd., 2014. Cast, brushed steel  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

# > METAL STUDS ON STREETS



## ARCHITECTURAL SPIKES

DESIGNED AND  
MANUFACTURED BY  
KENT STAINLESS LTD, 2014

Street furniture gives us  
clues about how to behave  
in public spaces. These  
spikes are an example of

'defensive' architecture.  
They are put on ledges or  
the ground to stop people  
from accessing or settling  
in certain spaces. In 2014  
they became known as  
#AntiHomelessSpikes on  
social media after they were  
used in London to prevent  
those in need from finding  
shelter.

## >ACTIVITY<

Walk around your local area. Can you find any examples  
of 'defensive' architecture?

Can you map out all the ways your community could  
be made more welcoming for those experiencing  
homelessness?

