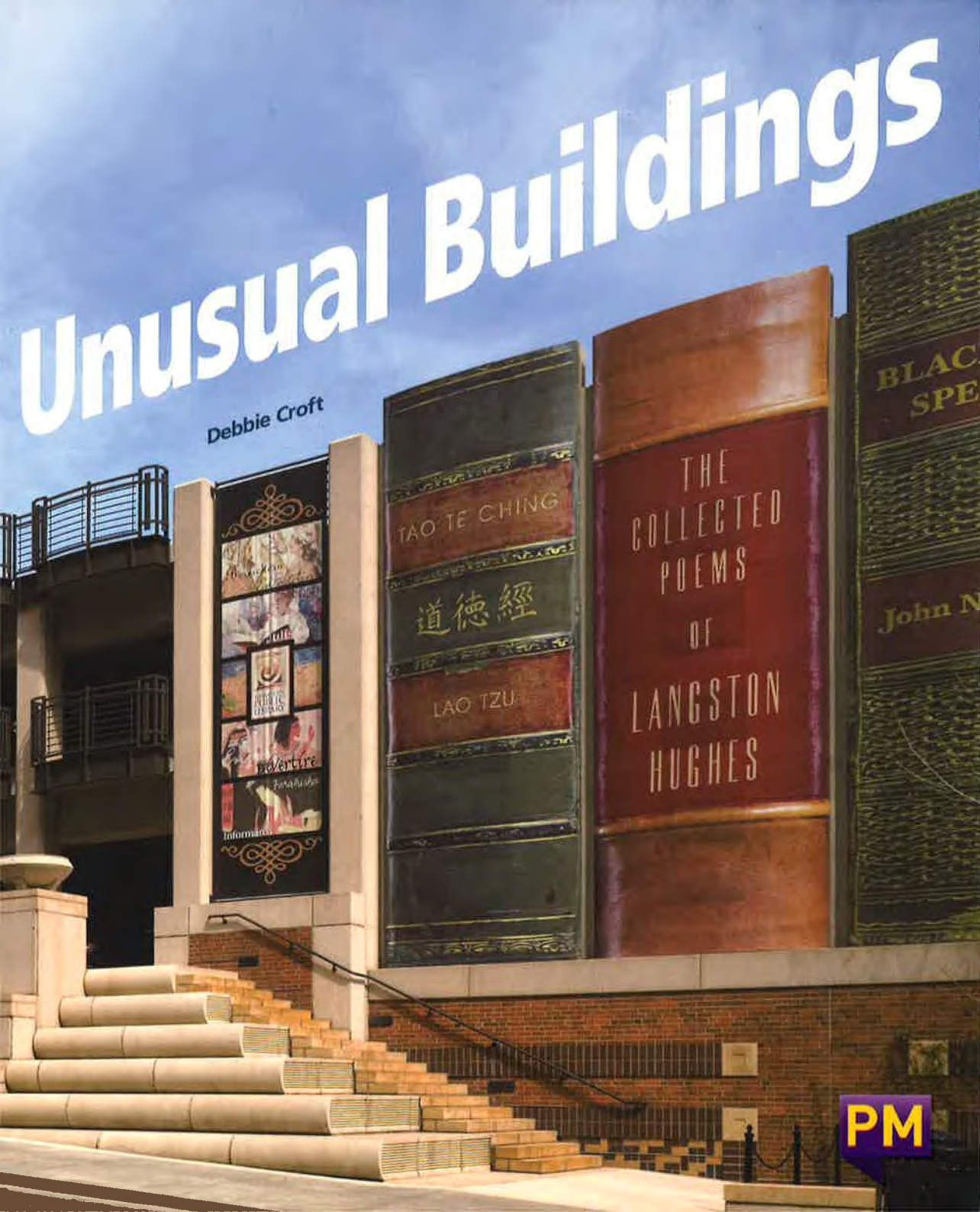
Unusual Buildings

Debbie Croft



PM

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Unusual Buildings

Level 27 **Curriculum Areas** Humanities – Geography; Technology
Running Words 2278 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–25
Description (Informative) pages 26–30

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the information report and description in his or her own words. Record the retellings for further discussion and reflection.

Think and Talk About …

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 Why do some architects want to design unusual buildings?
2 How was the design for the Sydney Opera House chosen?

Inferential

3 Why would the Lotus Temple be photographed for magazines all around the world?
4 Why would the lotus flower have been chosen as the basis for the design of the Lotus Temple?
5 What could happen if there was a build-up of snow on top of the Basket Building?
6 Why would people want to disguise a car park with a frontage that looks like a bookshelf?

Applied Knowledge

7 In the Cubic Houses, why would the living area be on the lower level?
8 Why do people take photographs of unusual buildings they have visited?

The Woodland House

Literal

1 Why did this family build the woodland house?

Inferential

2 Why did passers-by want to help build the woodland house?
3 How does straw help to insulate the woodland house?
4 Why was a compost toilet chosen for this house?

Applied Knowledge

5 Do you think this style of house would suit all families? Why?

Vocabulary

Replace the verb 'replenished' in this sentence: *The family has learnt to reduce their water consumption, as the supply can be replenished only when good rain falls.*

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 27 Book Information Report/Response *The World's Greatest Trails*

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Unusual Buildings





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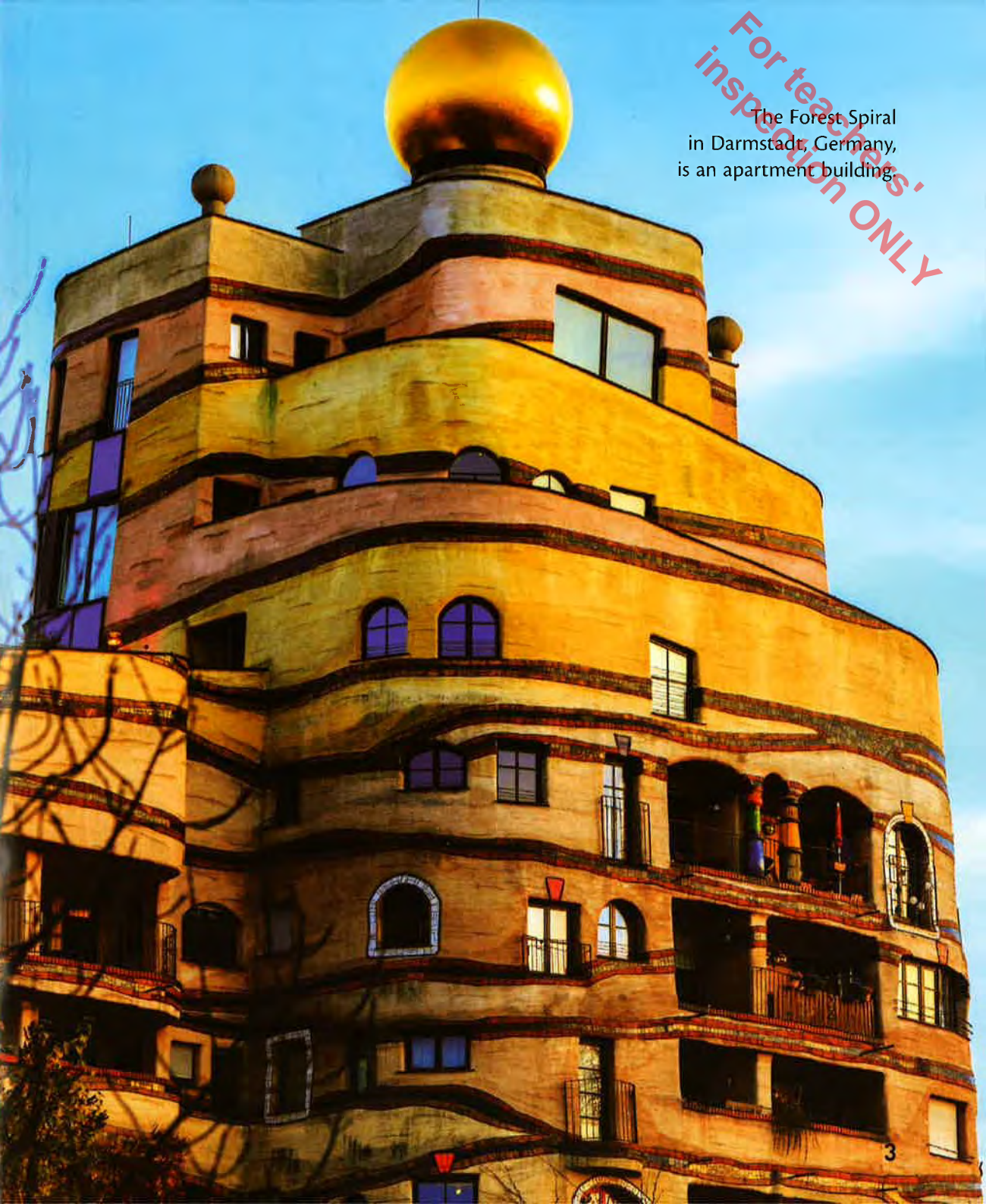
Buildings Around the World

There are some very unusual buildings throughout the world. Many of these buildings have been built in the last 100 years, and some are still in the planning stages. Mostly, it is the **exterior** designs that are different. Inside, many of these buildings have rooms, shops or offices that look the same as other ordinary buildings.

A large number of these unique buildings are designed by **architects** who specialise in creating **original** styles, and will draw attention to the finished buildings. Sometimes, the owner of a building wants to highlight a particular way of life. Some buildings represent a product that a company is trying to sell. On other occasions, the design of a building simply makes people want to visit it, to view its special features and to learn something about the person who created it.



The National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, China, is also known as "The Giant Egg".



The Forest Spiral
in Darmstadt, Germany,
is an apartment building.

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The Sydney Opera House Sydney, Australia

The Sydney Opera House is a centre for performing arts. It is home to the Australian Opera, the Australian Ballet, the Sydney Theatre Company and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

An international design competition was held in 1956, to choose who would design this **iconic** building. More than 200 entries were received from architects around the world. Danish architect Jørn Utzon won first prize and 5000 pounds for his entry. Construction of the Sydney Opera House began in 1959.



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The building is constructed on 588 concrete piers that have been sunk up to 25 metres below sea level. A series of "shells" form the roof, giving the building its **distinctive** design. These shells are covered in tiles, some of which are glossy white and others which are cream in colour. The main foyer has huge glass panels and the outer walls are covered in sections made of pink **granite**.



The Sydney Opera House is a major tourist attraction.

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Since the Sydney Opera House was completed in 1973, it has become known as one of the twentieth century's most original buildings. It is famous throughout the world as a centre for performing arts. In 2007, the building was listed as a World Heritage Site.

Each year, over a million people visit the Sydney Opera House to view concerts by world-class performers.

Other people take tours just to observe the concert halls and visit backstage areas that are usually reserved for performers and their support teams.

Every year on New Year's Eve, thousands of people come to the Sydney Opera House to view the stunning fireworks display.

Think and Talk About ...

The Sydney Opera House is located on the shores of Sydney Harbour.



The fireworks display next to the Sydney Opera House takes place every year.

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There are unusual buildings all over the world. Most of them are recognisable from the outside by their interesting or unique designs. There are buildings that look like baskets, bookshelves or flowers! Find out about some of the most unique buildings in the world – where they are, how they were built and what makes them special.



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Text Types:
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Description (Informative)

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