Architects design buildings thinking about how people will use them, making them safe, choosing materials, deciding how they look and how they will fit into a city. Renzo Piano is an Italian architect who has designed buildings all over the world. This is an exhibition of some of these buildings. See how Renzo Piano designed them through sketches, models and photographs.

Architects make lots of models and sketches before the final building is made. Why do you think they do this? What skills do you think you need to be an architect?

As you go through the exhibition, circle the different things the buildings are made from.

Glass
Steel
Metal
Ice
Bricks
Wood

Can you think of any others?

Find *Tjibaou Cultural Centre*

This building is in Nouméa, in New Caledonia, which is a group of islands around 1,400 km off the west coast of Australia, in the Pacific Ocean. The building is a cultural centre for the Kanak people who are native to New Caledonia. It is a museum, a library, a concert hall, a research centre, as well as a botanical garden!

What does the shape of these buildings remind you of? Draw it here:

What do you think Renzo Piano might have been inspired by when he designed these buildings?

In your sketchbook

Sketch a new building to reflect your culture. How would it look? What would you include in it?

Designed by Kathrin Jacobsen

Find *The Island of Buildings*

Find some of the buildings you have
seen today in drawings and in models.

Which of Renzo Piano's buildings would you
like to see in person? Why?

In your sketchbook
Design your own imaginary island.
What buildings would you include on your island?
What would the people need?

Find *The Shard*

The Shard is the tallest building in the UK
and is located near London Bridge.

Have you seen The Shard in real life?
What do you think inspired Renzo Piano
to design this building?

Add to the London skyline with your own
tower! Think about how tall it is, what people
use it for and what you can see from the top!

Designed by Kathrin Jacobsen