

TED TALKS TUESDAY



“Magical Houses, Made of Bamboo” by Elora Hardy

Outline:

About the Speaker: She designs homes in Bali made of Bamboo. As a 9-year-old, her mom built a fairy mushroom home she drew.

Bamboo Homes

- Big curving roof to catch breezes
- Tall windows to keep air conditioning in and bugs out
- TV room or bathroom in woven pods/baskets

Bamboo

- Wild grass
- Of 1450 species, 7 used to build
- Sustainable timber in 3 years
- Up to 18 meters of useable length
- Very strong (can handle 4 tons); earthquake resistant
- Lightweight (hollow)

Ibuku (“My mother earth”)

- Team built 50 unique structures in 5 years
- Many homes, restaurant, bridges
- Why is bamboo not used more?
 - Needs safe treatment solutions from insects
 - Ibuku wants to inspire people
 - New design rules: protect from water, design for curves

Ibuku Designs

- Blueprint is a 3D model taken on site
- Unique everything: Doors can hinge in the center or be tear-drop shape
- Boulders sliced like bread for counters
- Woven ceilings
- Hand-whittled pins

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Comprehension Questions:

Yes/No

1. Do more than 1000 species of bamboo exist? (yes)
2. Can bamboo grow up to 18 meters of useable length for building? (yes)
3. Did the speaker’s design business name mean “One earth”? (no)
4. While designing with bamboo, can a traditional blueprint be used? (no)
5. Can insects cause damage to bamboo? (yes)

Open-Ended

1. What are some factors that make bamboo desirable to use for building?
2. What location were many of these structures built?
3. Why haven’t people used bamboo more for design?
4. What are some unique things Ibuku (Speaker’s design team) has done?
5. What happened to the speaker as a 9-year-old that inspired her?
6. How many years does it take for new bamboo to grow and be useable?
7. What are some design challenges the team has with Bamboo?
8. How many species of bamboo are used to build?
9. What can be done to protect bamboo from insect damage?
10. How does the team design a building plan?