

# Designing a New Future



## Skills:

- Can recognise significant points in straightforward news articles on familiar subjects.
- Can explain the main points in an idea or problem with reasonable precision.

Adults

Group

**1** Think of all the dreams and aspirations you had when you were younger. Write them down.  
In pairs, discuss how your goals or interests may have changed over time. What are the reasons behind these changes?

**2** Brainstorm a list of factors that may influence a person's career choices.

**3** Based on the context provided in the text below, define the following words.

pandemic

lead to

reflect

practical

lifelong

a new chapter

pursue your dream

**4** Read the text based on the article. What makes this story so unusual that someone even wrote an article about it?

A 47-year-old man from Nashville decided to follow his **lifelong** dream after working in business for many years. He had given up this dream during college for something more **practical**.

Now 47, Wilt plans to graduate in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Architecture.

Wilt loved architecture since sixth grade when an art teacher had the class draw floor plans. But in college, he chose to study finance and got a degree from Belmont University in 1999, followed by an MBA, **leading to** a career in business.

He still dreamed of architecture until the **pandemic** made him rethink his life.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, it changed many lives and made people **reflect**, including Wilt. Unhappy with his finance job and facing personal changes, the father of three boys decided **to pursue his dream** of becoming an architect.

Finding out that Belmont had started an architecture program, Wilt saw a chance to change his life. The Adult Degree Program offered a 40% tuition discount and credit for previous courses, so he enrolled in Fall 2020.

He connected with other adult learners like Tess and Kim, who also changed careers in their 30s.

### A Role Model for His Sons

For Wilt, this **new chapter** is more than just a career change. It's about showing his sons that it's never too late to follow your dreams.

"My boys...to show them it's never too late to follow a passion, it's never too late to be happy," Wilt said. "That was a big part for me."

Designing the Future

Looking ahead, Wilt is excited about mid-century modern design and sustainable housing, especially using shipping containers. He dreams of designing long-lasting buildings.

"I don't want to build anything that's going to be torn down in the next 10 years. I want whatever I build to last for 100 or 200 years."

When Wilt graduates next spring, he'll achieve a childhood dream. He'll show his boys--and himself--that happiness and purpose are always possible with faith and hard work.

5 Choose the correct answer to each question:

- 1. What was T.J. Wilt's profession before deciding to pursue architecture?**

  - A. Finance
  - B. Business
  - C. Retail
  - D. Teaching
- 2. Which event prompted T.J. Wilt to reevaluate his career path?**

  - A. Financial aspects
  - B. The launch of Belmont University's architecture program
  - C. Dissatisfaction with his corporate job
  - D. The COVID-19 pandemic
- 3. What is T.J. Wilt's primary goal when designing buildings?**

  - A. To create structures that are highly profitable for the owners
  - B. To design visually stunning and innovative buildings
  - C. To ensure the buildings will stand the test of time
  - D. To prioritize environmental sustainability in the design
- 4. What is the main message conveyed in the passage about T.J. Wilt's decision to pursue architecture later in life?**

  - A. It was a practical career change during the pandemic
  - B. It was a risky decision that may not pay off
  - C. It was a courageous move to fulfill a lifelong dream
  - D. It was a result of his sons' encouragement

6 Discuss:

- What message is Wilt hoping to convey to his sons through his pursuit of architecture?
- How do you think the pandemic has prompted people to reevaluate their careers and life choices?
- Do you know anyone who has made a significant career change later in life? How did it affect them?

7 Read about Sarah and John. Who is right? What stops them? What can they do? In pairs, come up with a list of recommendations for them.

Sarah and John are in their 30s. They both have jobs, but they feel unhappy. Sarah works in an office, but she always wanted to be a chef. John is a teacher, but he dreams of being an artist. They talk to each other about their feelings.

One day, Sarah says, "Maybe it's too late for us to change." John replies, "I don't think so. It's hard, but we can do it."

# Correct answers

**1**

The idea was generated in the “Lead-in” activities tool.

**2**

The idea was generated in the “Lead-in” activities tool.

**4**

The article was simplified in the “Simplify&Upgrade” tool

**5**

Made in “ABCD Questions”

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. C

**6**

Generated in “Open Questions” + “Discussion Questions”.

1. Through his pursuit of architecture, Wilt hopes to show his sons that happiness and purpose are always within reach at any stage of life with faith and hard work.

**7**

Made in the “Create a text” tool.