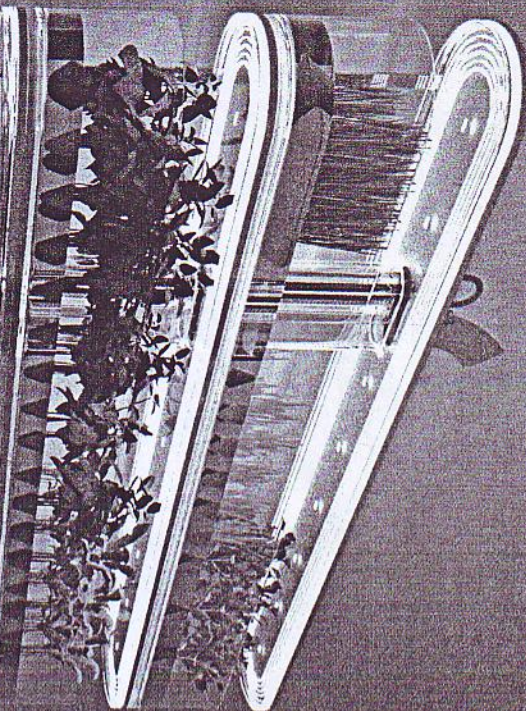


the article:

adaptable climate flooding fuel household waste
insulated recycling self-sufficient sound waves

b Read the article and check your predictions.

What does the future hold?



We spoke to Professor John Williams, futurologist, for his expert predictions on life in the next few decades.

Well, the first thing to say is that I don't believe we're all going to be living in trechouses and walking or cycling everywhere. We are going to have to make changes though.

Unfortunately, it looks quite likely that the climate may change significantly, with hotter summers, colder winters and more flooding. At the same time, fuel for heating or air conditioning will probably become much more expensive. For these reasons, our houses will definitely have to become much better insulated. People are already building so-called 'passive houses', which have little or no central heating at all, relying on the bodyheat of the people who live there.

Homes probably won't be as big, and so we will need more adaptable furniture, such as sofa-beds, and when we are not using our furniture we will be able to fold it away into wall cabinets. Houses could have moveable walls so that the same space can be arranged in different ways. Tabletops may double as computer screens or DVD players.

New technology will make us more self-sufficient. Kitchens may have fish tanks which, as well as providing fish to eat, also produce fresh vegetables (see photo). The plants will provide oxygen for the fish. These tanks will be powered by household

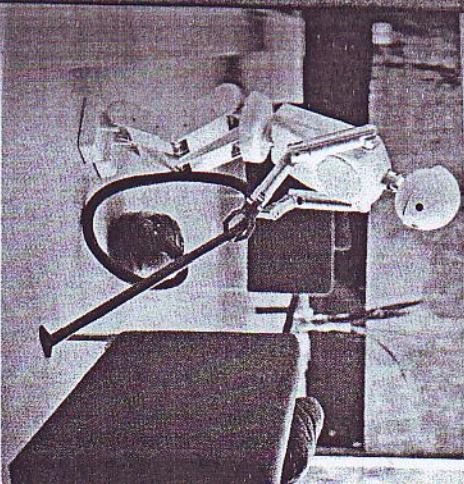
6 What two things will 'clever' fridges be able to do?

b Work in pairs. Which of the predictions in the article do you think are likely to happen? Why?

3 People will keep fish to eat.

4 Fridges will be intelligent.

5 Robots will be more common.



waste and create energy, which can then to run the family car – though we might have cars!

Water will definitely be more expensive. One of the future will probably be de to use much less. Washing machines and dishwashers might use sound waves to dirt off. We may even take showers using waves. What water we do use will be recycled and used again round the house and swimming pools will become a thing of the past.

We will also certainly have more robot houses, though they won't look like those in films. There will probably be small fridges designed to clean the fridge or open the door. Clever fridges will tell us when food is going out of date and even suggest recipes. Mobile phones will be able to communicate with our mobile phone wherever we are.