In addition to thinking about the functional aspects of building materials, architects must consider how the materials can relate a building to its location. Using color is one way that architects accomplish this. Chapter 19’s comparison building is the **Legorreta House** located in Mexico City, Mexico. Designed by the Mexican architecture firm of Legorreta + Legorreta for **Ricardo Legorreta**, the home is constructed of brick and concrete slabs covered in stucco.

**Defending your home castle**

Castles built during the 10th–12th centuries often had small stepped rows of bricks or stones, called machicolation (pronounced *muh-chik-o–LAY–shun*), projecting out slightly from the top edge of the walls. Narrow slots built into the floor of the stepped bricks allowed the castle guards to drop large rocks or boiling oil onto the heads of any enemy attacking below. When buildings no longer needed to be protected from an attack, architects used machicolation as a decorative feature. Today, you can see thousands of brick homes built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that have machicolation along the top of the front elevation.