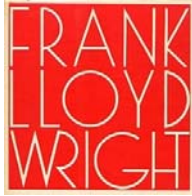


## Architecture in the Modern Era

Summer Semester 2016 (Friday 1-2:30pm)  
Wesley W. Posvar Hall (Room 1501)  
Instructor: Matthew Schlieb



### **Lecture 1 (2016.07.08): An introduction to Frank Lloyd Wright and his influence on early modern architecture**

#### Leitmotifs:

**“Truth Against the Word”** (Wright’s family motto): an outsider in changing times, new materials and machines creating a new spaciousness and new sense of scale, a need to elevate society into this new modern time via a new modern house.

**“Ceci Tuera Cela”** (This will Kill That): the death of Architecture (building monument) by the Printing Press (printed book), society controlled by (religious) institutions transition to a society of individuals, freedom of the individual, individual thought.

**The Passing of the Cornice:** original meaning is lost when usefulness departs, image of a dead culture, imitations of other places (Greece, Rome) in other times (Classical Period, Renaissance), a need for a new Democratic Architecture.

**Fröbel Blocks:** a kindergarten teaching system integrating science, math, language and design developed by Friedrich Fröbel, wooden blocks arranged in interlocking combinations, patterns developing sequentially, teaching perceptual abstraction.

**Romanticism:** true enlightenment sought through instinct and personal subjective experience, revolt against the scientific rationalism of the Industrial Revolution, oneness with the universe through nature, organic simplicity in a complete organism.

**Ho-o-den** (Japanese Pavilion, 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition): Shinto religious admonition “Be clean!”, elimination of the insignificant, the sense of the ‘within’ space, architecture of the spirit, organization via a standardization of parts.

**Plasticity:** total absence of constructed materials built up from cut and joined pieces, flowing or growing form rendered with materials no longer limited by their inherent properties, made plastic by new machines, homogeneity without grain.

#### Partis pris:

**Prairie Style:** of the ground (prairie), horizontal proportions (broad overhangs, exaggerated cantilevers), sequence of scale (compression, release), house as temple (communal hearth), open floor plan (cruciform), window screens eliminating walls.

**Textile Block House:** precast ‘textile’ concrete blocks reinforced with lattice of steel bars, new method and expression of plastic concrete material, standardization of parts and economy of scale, utilizing the machine age production methods.

**Usonian House:** housing type within larger Broadacre City concept for a growing middle class, independent living in rural America, plywood panelized wall system, elimination of basements and attics (radiant heated concrete slabs on grade).

**Organic Style:** integral with nature (man-made growing from), flowing plan (asymmetric), interlocking massing (horizontal cantilevering concrete terraces and natural stone vertical planes), elimination of the corner (corner casement windows).

#### magnum opuses:

- 1900 – **A Home in a Prairie Town** (Prairie Style concept)  
Published in Ladies Home Journal and Wasmuth Portfolio
- 1909 – **Frederick C. Robie House** (Prairie Style) Oak Park, Illinois
- 1923 – **Alice Millard House “La Miniatura”** (Textile Block House)  
Pasadena, California
- 1936 – **Edgar Kaufmann House “Fallingwater”** (Organic Style)  
Mill Run, Pennsylvania
- 1937 – **Herbert Jacobs House** (Usonian House) Madison, Wisconsin



#### bibliography:

- The Future of Architecture**, Frank Lloyd Wright (Horizon Press, New York, 1953)
- In The Cause Of Architecture: Architectural Record Essays 1908-1952**, FLW (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1975)
- An Autobiography**, Frank Lloyd Wright (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1943)
- A Home in a Prairie Town**, Frank Lloyd Wright (Ladies Home Journal, Iowa, Feb. 1901, p.17)
- Drawings and Plans of Frank Lloyd Wright: The Early Period 1893-1909**, FLW (Dover Publications, New York, 1983)
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House**, Donald Hoffmann (Dover Publications, New York, 1984)
- The Robie House of Frank Lloyd Wright**, Joseph Connors (The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1984)
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater**, Donald Hoffmann (Dover Publications, New York, 1978)
- Frank Lloyd Wright: A Life**, Ada Louise Huxtable (Penguin Books, New York, 2004)