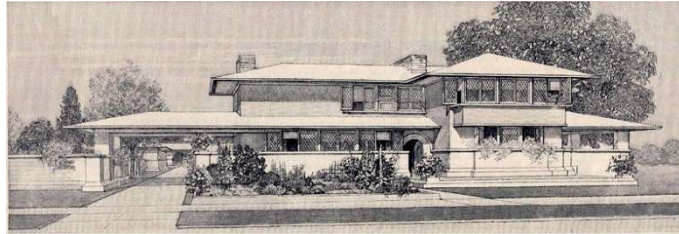


The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh, College of General Studies

The End of Architecture

Fall Semester 2018, Fridays 10am-noon
Lawrence Hall, room 107
Instructor: Matthew Schlieb



Lecture 2 (2018.10.26): Prairie House

partis pris:

Romantic Hero: elevating society through their innovations and vision.

Study of Elimination: reduction to a minimum of only the essential, elimination of the insignificant.

Dissolving Clear Division: cannot tell where the garden leaves off and the garden begins, between interior and exterior.

Horizontal Line: the line of shelter, the line of freedom, horizontal horizon, ground plane, prairie plain, connect with Earth.

Four Elements: hearth (shrine), roof (broad overhangs), woven screen enclosure (shoji), elevated mound base (platform).

Internal Space: the living going on within the internal space of light and shadow created by the roof, walls, and floor.

“Only in vacuum lay the truly essential. The reality of a room, for instance, is to be found in the vacant space enclosed by the roof and walls, not in the roof and walls themselves.”

Central Hall: primary living area (jodan-no-ma), flanked by dining area (kon-no-ma) and library/writing area (shosai).

leitmotifs:

Froebel blocks, interlocking combinations, taking to pieces and putting together
standardization, three feet by six feet tatami mats

diagonal perspective, projecting cantilever, corner entry, corner window

space created between the lines, balance of figure and void

asymmetry, turns and steps, parallel approach

framed axial view, elongated space, combine exterior prairie with interior room

processional unfolding of space, discovery effect, rear approach

primary elongated axis and secondary cross axis

continuous, open space

bibliography:

An American Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright, Edgar Kaufmann (Pomegranate, San Francisco, 1998)

The Four Elements of Architecture, Gottfried Semper (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1851)

Discourses on Architecture, Eugene Viollet-le-Duc (Grove Press, New York, 1959)

Executed Buildings and Designs, Frank Lloyd Wright (E. Wasmuth, Berlin, 1910)

The Frank Lloyd Wright Collection of Surimono, Joan B. Mirviss (Weatherhill, Phoenix, 1995)

The Book of Tea, Kakuzo Okakura (Dover Publications, New York, 1906)

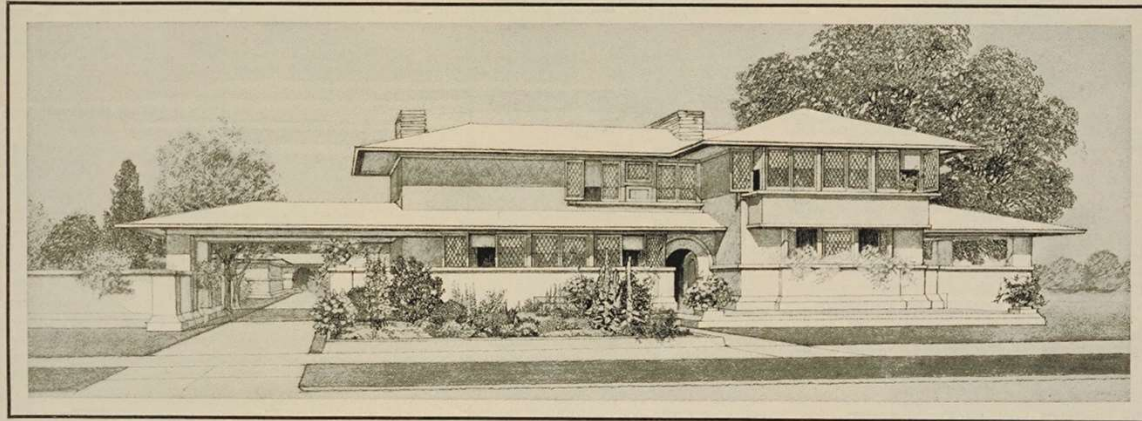
Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, Donald Hoffmann (Dover Publications, New York, 1984)



A Home in a Prairie Town

By FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

This is the Fifth Design in the Journal's New Series of Model Suburban Houses Which Can be Built at Moderate Cost



CITY man going to the country puts too much in his house and too little in his ground. He drags after him the fifty-foot lot, soon the twenty-five-foot lot, finally the party wall; and the homemaker who fully appreciates the advantages which he came to the country to secure feels himself impelled to move on.

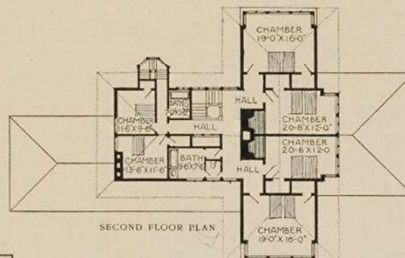
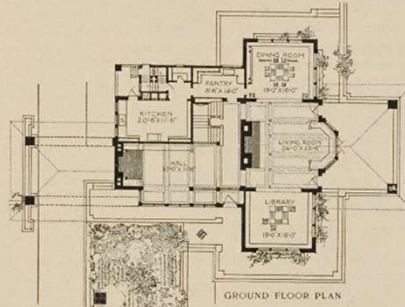
It seems a waste of energy to plan a house haphazard, to hit or miss an already distorted condition, so this partial solution of a city man's country home on the prairie begins at the beginning and assumes four houses to the block of four hundred feet square as the minimum of ground for the basis of his prairie community.

The block plan to the left, at the top of the page, shows an arrangement of the four houses that secures breadth and prospect to the community as a whole, and absolute privacy both as regards each to the community, and each to each of the four.

THE perspective view shows the handling of the group at the centre of the block, with its foil of simple lawn, omitting the foliage of curb parkways to better show the scheme, retaining the same house in the four locations merely to afford an idea of the unity of the various elevations. In practice the houses would differ distinctly, though based upon a similar plan.

The ground plan, which is intended to explain itself, is arranged to offer the least resistance to a simple mode of living, in keeping with a high ideal of the family life together. It is arranged, too, with a certain well-established order that enables free use without the sense of confusion felt in five out of seven houses which people really use.

The exterior recognizes the influence of the prairie, is firmly and broadly associated with the site, and makes a feature of its quiet level. The low terraces



and broad eaves are designed to accentuate that quiet level and complete the harmonious relationship. The curbs of the terraces and formal inclosures for extremely informal masses of foliage and bloom should be worked in cement with the walks and drives.

Cement on metal lath is suggested for the exterior covering throughout, because it is simple, and, as now understood, durable and cheap.

The cost of this house with interior as specified and cement construction would be seven thousand dollars:

Masonry, Cement and Plaster	\$2800.00
Carpentry	3100.00
Plumbing	400.00
Painting and Glass	325.00
Heating—combination (hot water)	345.00
Total	\$6970.00

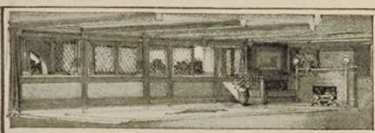
IN A HOUSE of this character the upper reach and gallery of the central living-room is decidedly a luxury. Two bedrooms may take its place, as suggested by the second-floor plan. The gallery feature is, nevertheless, a temptation because of the happy sense of variety and depth it lends to the composition of the interior, and the sunlight it gains from above to relieve the shadow of the porch. The details are better grasped by a study of the drawings. The interior section in perspective shows the gallery as indicated by dotted lines on the floor plan of the living-room.

The second-floor plan disregards this feature and is arranged for a larger family. Where three bedrooms would suffice the gallery would be practicable, and two large and two small bedrooms with the gallery might be had by rearranging servants' rooms and baths.

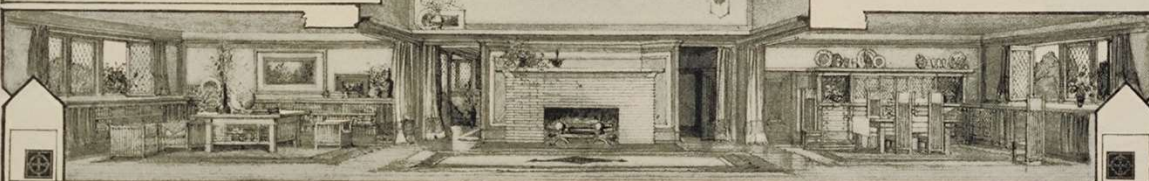
The interior is plastered throughout with sand finish and trimmed all through with flat bands of Georgia pine, smaller back bands following the base and casings. This Georgia pine should be selected from straight grain for stiles, rails and running members, and from figured grain for panels and wide surfaces.

All the wood should be shellacked once and waxed, and the plaster should be stained with thin, pure color in water and glue.

EDITOR'S NOTE—As a guarantee that the plan of this house is practicable, and that the estimates for cost are conservative, the architect is ready to accept the commission of preparing the working plans and specifications for this house to cost Seven Thousand Dollars, providing that the building site selected is within reasonable distance of a base of supplies where material and labor may be had at the standard market rates.



HALL, LOOKING TOWARD ENTRANCE



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LIVING-ROOM AND GALLERY
INTERIOR VIEW OF THE FIRST FLOOR OF THIS HOUSE

THE DINING-ROOM