INTRODUCTION

Project

This project is about Frank Lloyd Wright, introducing this architecture and how he came to be who he is as an architect.

- With writings, images, and annotated diagrams, showing his style and how he developed as an architect.
- The focus is in the modern era and how things have developed throughout time.
- This project also analyzes the buildings and pieces of work that Frank Lloyd Wright did.

- The building presented are the Darwin D. Martin House, Imperial Hotel, Fallingwater, and the Robie House.

ARCHITECT

Frank Lloyd Wright went through many processes when it came to becoming one of the masters of architecture. From 1888 to 1959 was the approximate time period where Frank Lloyd Wright started and ended his practice.

- He was born on June 8, 1867.
- Started as a draftsman with architectural firm of Siblies.
- Worked as a designer at the firm Beers, Clay and Dutton.
- Official apprentice in the firm Adler and Sullivan.
- Wright started his own practice on the top floor of the Schiller Building, then moved to Steiney Hall.
- Wright started his own studio at his homes in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Chicago.
- He died on April 9, 1959.

MOVEMENT

Frank Lloyd Wright grew up in Wisconsin. He gained his style from where he lived. The name of his style is Prairie.
- Prairie involves horizontal lines with an emphasis on the exterior.
- The way to make the exterior the focus is by low-pitching and hipping the roof, long lines of windows, and eaves were wide and hung over the building.
- Brick courses or wood bands would be the material used for the Prairie style, but mostly the materials would be unfinished.
- These buildings were considered an open plan, due to the windows extended long throughout the house. The windows brought in a lot of light and nature.
- Wright also introduced the organic style in the 1920s and 1930s.

BACKGROUND

PHILOSOPHY

Organic architecture was Frank Lloyd Wright’s philosophy. This philosophy displays harmony in nature, human, and habitat.

- The entire composition integrates exterior and interior to become unified.
- Wright gained his philosophy from his mentor Louis Sullivan. The phrase Sullivan used was “form follows function,” Wright changed the slogan to “form and function are one.” Wright’s slogan helped him integrate nature into his pieces.
- Organic architecture was the reinterpretation of natural principles. He wanted to be able to create more natural then literal nature.

ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

The organizing principles of Wright work with a style and system that he uses with all his buildings.

- The geometrical urban grid with asymmetrical axes is the main thing that Wright uses when it comes to planning and organizing his ideas of the architecture.
- The grid helps organize the plans of the buildings; this especially helps with the steel frame construction.
- Bringing together the form, design and function into the building. By bringing these aspects together, it would help make it more unified.

DESIGN LANGUAGE

Frank Lloyd Wright has many aspects to his design language.

- The use of overhanging eaves is a key to Wright’s buildings. When you see many pieces of Wright’s, you will notice the recurring of the overhangs.
- Horizontal lines, the use of planes, and proportional details are three other aspects of Wright’s design language. The horizontal lines are repeated throughout all of Wright’s buildings in creating a sense of unity and commonality between Wright’s pieces.

PORTFOLIO

DARWIN D. MARTIN HOUSE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK, 1903-1905

The Martin House was designed for the Martin family. This building was considered to be one of Wright’s most important projects of his Prairie Style. Wright’s idea for this house was to make it little as possible. He wanted the space to be unified and come together. The house has horizontal lines, planes and uses the overlapping eaves. Brick is the primary material, which was something Wright worked with a lot. The space has an asymmetrical layout with open room spaces.

IMPERIAL HOTEL, TOYKO, JAPAN, 1923

Wright built the Imperial Hotel in 1923. The purpose of this building was for western visitors coming to visit Japan. Wright’s building was designed in the Maya Revival Style. The building included tall, pyramid-like structure using concrete and stone. The use of layering was seen in the building as well as horizontal lines. The building integrated with nature by having it around water, like it was floating.

FALLINGWATER, MILL RUN, PENNSYLVANIA, 1937

Wright made this building for millionaire, Edgar J. Kaufman. The house was placed on top of a waterfall in the deep ravine. The purpose of this space was to be a country retreat/weekend getaway. Just like most of Wright’s pieces, he used the integration of nature. This building uses concrete and stone for its structure. It has geometrical forms and an imagination of abstraction. Many windows were used in the Fallingwater building; it enhanced vertical and horizontal shapes within the building.

Jillian Schuck
Architectural Theories & Concepts
Autumn 2013
**Overview**
Robie House, Chicago, IL, 1908-1910
Frank Lloyd Wright was the architect to the building the Frederick C. Robie House. He built this piece for the Kaufman family as a country retreat and weekend house. The space was to be very open to the outside with a mass amount of windows and with the integration of nature into the architecture. The house was to conform to nature.

**Concept**
"Radical though it may be, the work here illustrated is dedicated to a cause conservative in the next sense of the word. At no point does it involve denial of the elemental law and order inherent in all great architecture, rather it is a declaration of love for the spirit of that law and order, and a reverential recognition of the elements that made its ancient letter in its time vital and beautiful
Frank Lloyd Wright (Curtis, p. 113)

"...Mr. Wright’s revolution in architectural space—free-flowing yet interpenetrating interiors, the play of interlocking horizontal forms with their vertical counterpart reflected on the exterior, the dissolution of indoors to outdoors, outdoors to indoors.”
Edgar Tafel (Tafel, p. 59)

**Analysis**
Structure

Three-Dimensional Idea

Two-Dimensional Idea

Plan to Section

Circulation

Key:
- Massing
- Primary Hierarchical Pt.
- Second Hierarchical Pt.
- Third Hierarchical Pt.

Key:
- Primary Axis
- Secondary Axis
- 1st Prominant Shape
- 2nd Prominant Shape
- 3rd Prominant Shape

Key:
- Primary Entry
- Dedicated Circulation
- Vertical Circulation

Key:
- Steel frame construction
- The building is a steel frame construction because of the thickness of the walls. Also, Wright uses a grid, so we know that it is a steel frame. The grid is colored in green

Key:
- Primary Hierarchical Pt.
- Secondary Hierarchical Pt.
- Third Hierarchical Pt.

Key:
- Windows
- The magenta color represents all the windows in this elevation of the Robie House. The windows help with natural lighting. Besides having natural lighting, Wright used windows to help integrate nature into the space and to be more open.