



Professor Michael Desmond, PhD

*Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Trustee
LSU School of Architecture*

ARCH 5004.2 Concentration Seminar / T-Th 4:30-6:00

This course will be a survey of the extensive range of Wright's built and unbuilt architecture over seventy years of practice crossing the entire North American continent encompassing reconceptions of the character of dwelling and public architecture through futuristic visions of the city and the landscape that lie still ahead of us today. We will use the lens of the concept of the organic to explore this architecture and the discourse surrounding its definition through readings and discussions ranging from the early 19th century scientific debates in France between Georges Cuvier and Geoffrey Sainte-Hillarie, the strong effects of the concept on German and British romanticism following Kant, and the thought of the American Transcendentalist to the Darwinian synthesis and Nietzsche's response. As a key precursor to the modernist conception of form follows function, 19th century organicism laid the foundations of a debate that engaged the genesis of abstraction as it stretched across art, architecture, literature and philosophy in 20th century America. In what ways are Wright's conceptions reflected in the work of the European Modernists, in the work of architects around the world today, and in current ideas of sustainable design. There will be weekly lectures, extensive readings and student led discussions leading to final explorative individual research papers.

Optional research trip to Avery Archives in NYC.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT and the ORGANIC in ARCHITECTURE