

# Frank Lloyd Wright

ARCH HIST 4119

## CLASS TOPICS/LECTURES & ASSIGNMENTS

Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations must obtain an accommodations letter from the ADAPTS Office [www.adapts.gatech.edu](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu) to ensure appropriate arrangements. Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For policy information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please see [\[http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php\]](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php)  
[http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules\\_regulations/](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules_regulations/) All cell phones should be turned off during class and when entering the Library. In case of emergency (i.e. fire, accident, criminal act), please call the Georgia Tech Police at 894-2500. Please note that Perry Minyard, IT Support Administrator, is also a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified in performing CPR. Class attendance is required for all lectures, discussions, quizzes, and exams

### Reading Assignments

Books are available on reserve in the Architecture Library and some additional readings may be placed on reserve and available through the Electronic Reserves system on the library web site. The Architecture Library web page URL is: <http://www.library.gatech.edu/architect/>  
You will need your GT ID# and your library password to access the system.

Course Introduction      TBA: Book Review Project

Monographs  
Issue Papers

A. J. Downing  
The Stick Style

Readings:      \*Vincent Scully, *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style: Architectural Theory and Design*, 1840-1876," xxiii-lix (including plates)  
Sarah Bradford Landau, "Richard Morris Hunt, the Continental Picturesque, and the 'Stick Style.'" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* XLII, 3 (October 1983), pp. 272-289.

Shingle Style

Readings:      \*Vincent Scully, *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style: Architectural Theory and Design from Downing to the Origins of Wright*, Chpt 5, "Formation of the Shingle Style," pp. 71-90. [and *passim*.]

Frank Lloyd Wright: The Earliest Work  
Case Study: Oak Park House & Studio

Readings:      \*Frank Lloyd Wright, *An Autobiography* [*passim*. throughout course]  
\*Robert Twombly, *Frank Lloyd Wright: An Interpretive Biography*, chpt 1  
"Nearly Everything to Learn [1867-1893]"  
\*Henry-Russell Hitchcock, *In The Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941*, chpts 1-3, pp. 3-22.

- \*Grant Manson, *Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age*, Part I:
- \*Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. 9 Commentaries on Frank Lloyd Wright,
- pp. 1-18, “‘*Form Became Feeling*,’ a New View of Froebel and Wright
- pp. 19-35 “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Mementoes of Childhood”
- pp. 67-74 “Precedent and Progress in the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright.”
- \*Donald W. Hoppen, *The Seven Ages of Frank Lloyd Wright*, pp. 7-16 “Roots”

## Holiday

Wright's work under Sullivan

Independent work 1893-1900: Toward the Prairie Aesthetic

Readings: \*Twombly, chpt 2, “The Art and Craft of Success”

\*Manson, pp 60-97.

. \*Hitchcock, chpt. 4, pp. 23-35.

\*Narciso G. Menocal, “Frank Lloyd Wright as the Anti-Victor Hugo” (Chpt 5 in Craig Zabel and Susan Scott Munshower, eds., *American Public Architecture: European Roots and Native Expressions*, [Papers in Art History from The Pennsylvania State University, Vol V], University Park, Pa.: The Pennsylvania State University, 1989).

\*[Robert Craig lecture, “From Ruskin to Wright: Architecture Coming to Terms with The Two Cultures”]

\*Neil Levine, *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* (1996) [Hereafter: Levine], chpt. 1

Mature Prairie Houses

Case Studies: Robie House

Dana House

Readings: \*Twombly, chpt. 3, “A Radically Different Conception [1901-1908]”

- \*Hoppen, "The First Age," pp. 19-35.
- \*Manson, Part II, "The First Golden Age (partial):
  - Chpt 1 "The Prairie House Unveiled"
  - 2 "The Buffalo Venture"
  - 4 "Variations on a Theme"
  - 5 "The Heyday of the Prairie House"
- \*Hitchcock, Part 3, chpt 5: "The Prairie Houses"
- \*Levine, chpts 2, 3, & 4

#### Public Architecture to 1920

Case Studies: Larkin Building    Unity Temple  
    Midway Gardens                    Imperial Hotel

- Readings: \*Carol R. Bolon, Robert S. Nelson, and Linda Seidel, eds., *The Nature of Frank Lloyd Wright*, chpt 1: Joseph Connors, "Wright on Nature and The Machine"                    \*Hitchcock, chpt 6.  
 "Non-Domestic Work"  
 \*Twombly, chpt. 4 & 5

#### Decorative Arts

##### **Issue Paper Topic 1st Proposal [Argument Statement, Outline & Bibliography due]**

#### Cultural Context for Wright romantic flight to the West and "Romanza"

"Episodes in Indigenous Historicism: Exotic vs Native Revivalism in early 20th c. S

#### Readings: \*Manson, pp. 211-213, "The End of an Era"

- \*Twombly, chpt. 6
- \*Hitchcock, chpt 7, "From the Middle West to Japan and California"
- \*David Gebhard, Romanza essay
  - \*Neil Levine, "Landscape into Architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House and the Romance of Southern California" *AA Files* 3 (Xerox)
- \*Levine, chpt. 5

#### Transition into Middle Period: The West, Textile Blocks

Case Study: Aline Barnsdall "Hollyhock" House

#### Readings: \*Twombly, chpt 7, "Little Experiment Stations in Out of the Way Places [1932-

- \*Dimitri Tselos, "Exotic Influences in the Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright,"
- \*Hitchcock, chpt 8, "Textile Block Houses and Projects and Cantilevered
- \*Paul Reardon, "An Analysis of FLW's Use of Textile Block" (M ARCH Thesis, June 1982, GIT), pp. 1-46, 185-191.

\*Hoppen, pp. 37-57, "The Second Age: Monumental Architecture"

pp. 58-72, "The Third Age: Triangle in the Desert"

pp. 73-93, "The Fourth Age: Horizontal Planes".

\*Kaufmann, Jr., *Nine Commentaries...*, pp. 103-118, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Years of Modernism, 1925-1935"

\*Levine, chpts. 6 & 7

The Machine in the Garden

Case Study: Fallingwater

Readings: \*Twombly, chpt 8, "Back on Top"

\*Patrick J. Meehan, ed. *Truth Against the World: Frank Lloyd Wright Speaks for an Organic Architecture*,

pp. 109-121, "The American System Ready-Cut Houses"

pp. 123-129, "The Preassembled House"

pp. 131-141, "The Marshall Erdman Prefabricated Houses"

\*Hitchcock, Part 6 (chpt 8)

\*Hoppen, pp. 94-113 "The Fifth Age: Tri-Axial Space"

\*Bolon, chpts 4 & 5: "Meeting Nature Face to Face" by Donald Hoffman and

\*Levine, chpt. 8

1930s

Case Study: Taliesin West

Readings: \*Twombly, chpts 9-10

\*Edgar Tafel, *Apprentice To Genius: Years With Frank Lloyd Wright, passim.*

\*Levine, chpt 9

**Issue Paper Topic 1st Proposal [Argument Statement, Outline & Bibliography due]**

**Drop Day**

**Mid-Term Recess**

Geometry and the Work of Wright

Readings: \*Hoppen, pp. 114-137 "The Sixth Age: Curving Space"

138-167 "The Seventh Age: A Spiral Space"

Case Study: Johnson Wax Buildings

Case Study: Jacobs Houses

Scholarly Writing

Late Work of Wright: Residences

Readings: \*John Sargeant, *Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses: The Case for Organic Arc*

**Preliminary [Content] Report on Papers Due in Class [evidence of draft]**

Late Work of Wright: Public Buildings  
Case Study: Florida Southern College [Dallas Theater]  
Guggenheim Museum [Gammage Auditorium]  
Marin County Courthouse/Jail

Readings: \*Meehan, pp. 159-171, "An Adventure in the Realm of the Human Spirit"  
pp 381-411, "Building for Local Government: The Marin County Civic Center"  
pp. 413-441, "A National Cultural Center"  
\*Levine, chpts. 10 & 11

**Graduate Students: FLW Influence**

Taliesin Fellowship  
Bruce Goff  
E Faye Jones  
John Lautner  
others TBA

**Thanksgiving break**

**ISSUE PAPER DUE:**

Completed issue papers DUE  
in class: 2 copies (one marked "for students", one marked "for Prof. Craig")

**Presentation & Discussion of Issue Papers in Seminar**  
**Presentation & Discussion of Issue Papers in Seminar**

**no class this week; juries**

**Final submission of edited papers [Noon, first day of finals week]**

**Frank Lloyd Wright Seminar READINGS are from:**

**Core reference catalog:**

Storrer, William Allin. *The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1993.]

**Readings:**

Bolon, Carol R., Robert S. Nelson, and Linda Seidel. *The Nature of Frank Lloyd Wright*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1988.

Hoppen, Donald W. *The Seven Ages of Frank Lloyd Wright*. Santa Barbara: Capra Press, 1993.  
Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. *In The Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1942.

Kaufman, Edgar Jr. *Nine Commentaries on Frank Lloyd Wright*. Cambridge, MA & London: MIT Press (and New York: The Architectural History Foundation), 1989.

Levine, Neil. *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*. Princeton, N. J., Princeton University Press, 1996.

Manson, Grant Carpenter. *Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1958.

Meehan, Patrick J. *Truth Against The World: Frank Lloyd Wright Speaks for an Organic Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987, 1992.

Scully, Vincent J., Jr.. *The Shingle Style and The Stick Style: Architecture Theory and Design from Downing to the Origins of Wright*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1955 (revised, 1971 (1979 ed)).

Twombly, Robert C. *Frank Lloyd Wright: An Interpretive Biography*. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1973.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. *An Autobiography*. (*passim* throughout course)

**and Selected essays in Xerox folders**

Architecture 4119RC/6119RC  
Seminar in Architectural History

Prof. Robert M. Craig  
Fall Semester, 2010 MW 11:30-12:55

# **FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**

This seminar combines lectures, readings, and student projects on the subject of the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959). Lectures include both a survey of Wright's buildings as well as thematic discussions of aspects of his work and times. Student projects (presented orally in class) include monographs (case studies) of major Wright master works. Readings parallel these inquiries. Students will also be required to prepare a term paper, described as an issue paper. This inquiry is not a case study of a single building, but rather discusses a theme or issue regarding Wright's architecture and is more analytical, critical, and/or theoretical in nature. The presentation of these issue papers will follow traditional graduate seminar format in which the papers will be read and critiqued by the class, discussed in seminar, and opportunity for revision will be afforded the author. The standard for the final submission is publication quality.