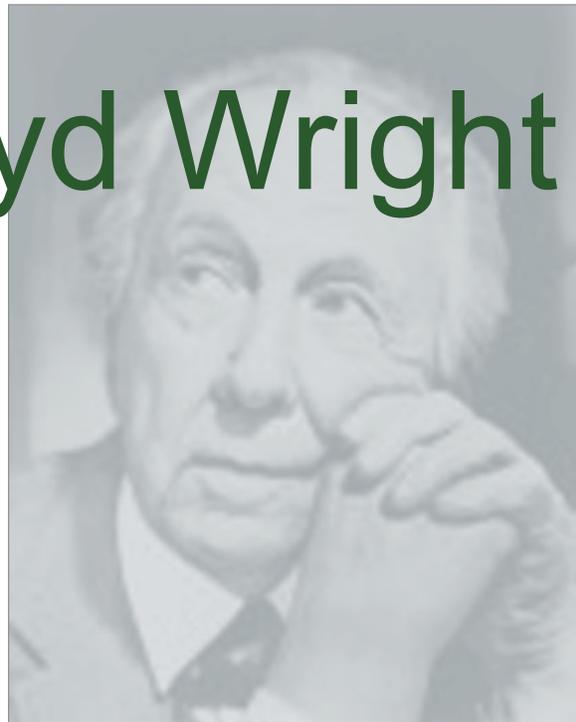


About

Frank Lloyd Wright

and the Prairie Style



Domino's Farms Office Park is heir to a design style developed by American architectural visionary, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Wright stands among a very small circle of serious artists whom the general public can identify by name. This wide recognition results from a professional prominence that spanned nearly three quarters of a century and a creative output that was astoundingly prolific.

Some 500 of Wright's designs were built, and hundreds more were commissioned. At the end of his career, the Los Angeles Times noted that his "imagination continued to outpace even his long lifetime of work."

Wright's concepts are mainstays of architecture education around the world. It would be impossible to imagine an architect working today

who has not studied Wright or who has been untouched by his theories. In the field of residential design, such basic concepts as the carport, or the "open" floor plan—even the basic ranch-style single-level house—all spring from Wright's fertile imagination.

Wright's Impact

Three of Wright's works (two residences: Fallingwater, located in western Pennsylvania, and the Robie House of Chicago; and one commercial structure, the Johnson Wax Building in Racine, Wisconsin) have been included on the American Institute of

Architecture's listing of the top 10 architectural masterpieces of the 20th Century. Wright's portrait as well as representations of Fallingwater, the Johnson Wax Building and his famous Guggenheim Museum have all been featured on U.S. postage stamps.

Wright artifacts are prized by museums and private collectors alike. Exhibits of Wright's



Falling Water

designs draw large and enthusiastic crowds, and people come from around the world to tour his buildings. His home, studio and several houses in Oak Park, Illinois are tourist destinations. There are catalogs devoted to items designed by Wright. His window motifs are especially popular and show up frequently in fabrics, wall coverings, jewelry and other items.



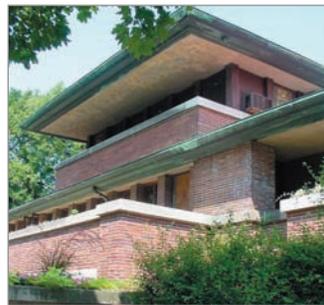
sensitivity to setting and environment remain the standard by which we judge a building's appropriateness.

Frank Lloyd Wright is one of those rare individuals who transcend craft or profession to impress their names and their thinking on



our cultural vocabulary. Indeed, the name "Frank Lloyd Wright" has become a virtual brand name. It stands for architectural excellence and uniqueness, much as the name "Rockefeller" has come to signify wealth.

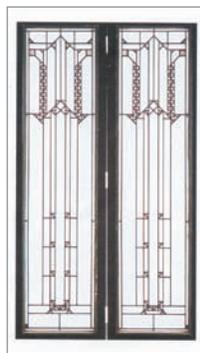
There are numerous Wright web sites. Thousands of books, articles and scholarly monographs analyze Wright's aesthetic philosophy, his design principles, and the minutest details of his projects—even those never built.



Wright is the subject of several biographies. His life was examined thoroughly in a two-part Public Broadcasting series produced by the renowned documentarian, Ken Burns; and he was the inspiration for Ayn Rand's famous novel, *The Fountainhead* (which was later made into a motion picture starring Gary Cooper).



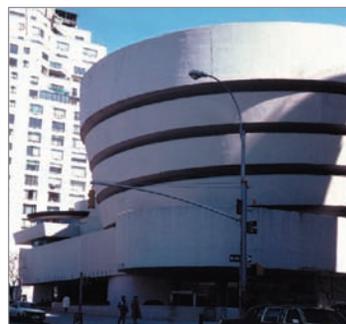
More than four decades after his death in 1959, Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the few practitioners of the visual (or "plastic") arts whom the average person can associate with a particular artistic specialty. As architecture writer Robert Campbell



Wright's Legacy

Wright's designs are still fresh. His sense of proportion continues to please. His

has observed, the "greatest artist this country has ever produced seems at last to be coming into his own. America's other great artists—our painters, sculptors, composers—don't really rank with the tops of all time. They're not Rembrandt or Michelangelo or Beethoven. Wright alone has that standing."



Photos this page (clockwise from top): Wright as a student; Wright at work in older age; Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin; Guggenheim Museum, New York; typical Wright window design; Robie House, Chicago.

Wright's Influence On Domino's Farms

Many of the elements that make Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style immediately recognizable were incorporated into the design of Domino's Farms by architect Gunnar Birkerts, FAIA.

The natural materials that characterize both the exteriors and interiors of Wright's buildings show his appreciation for the colors and textures of the earth. Wright was sensitive to the environment in ways that were ahead of his time but in line with current thinking. Indeed, he was visionary in the degree to which he integrated structure and landscape (based on his understanding of a "kinship of building to ground").

The design conception underlying Domino's Farms Office Park illustrates how Wright's structures seem organically rooted in their settings—how they reflect the topography and blend structural materials with native vegetation. As Wright put it, "The good building is not one that hurts the landscape, but one which makes the landscape more beautiful than it was before the building was built."

Probably the most recognizable feature of Wright's Prairie style is the low-sloping hip roof with its wide overhangs. This signature design element—a distinctively American architectural motif—features a visually pleasing, low roofline, inspired by the endless



flat expanses of the American prairie. The hip roof is particularly appropriate to the rural site of Domino's Farms Office Park. Shading provided by the deep roof overhang is a natural, protective compliment to the building's expansive ribbon windows, and the gentle slope also reduces wind resistance, improving energy efficiency by deflecting air currents (hot in summer and cold in winter).

Domino's Farms' roof has the added distinction of being the largest copper-clad surface on any commercial structure in the world (423,000 square feet in total area). And its green-tinted patina makes the building a visual bridge between the sky and the native grasses of the surrounding landscape, enhancing the structure's natural fit into its countryside setting.

The dean of U.S. architecture critics, Yale art historian Vincent Scully, has neatly summarized the place which Domino's Farms holds in American architectural tradition, describing it as "the ultimate example of [Frank Lloyd Wright's] Prairie Style house type."

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