

Pratt Institute School of Architecture
Undergraduate Architecture Program
Course Syllabus

Spring 2005	ARCH 506P FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
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The Architecture and Thought of Frank Lloyd Wright

Credits: 3
Type of Course: Elective Seminar
Class Meetings: Wednesday 2pm-5pm
Location: Rm 310
Prerequisites: ARCH 308
Enrollment Cap.: 20
Instructor:
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course surveys the buildings and design philosophy of Frank Lloyd Wright. It examines various influences of his work and considers the relevancy of his “organic” approach to the contemporary designer.

Learning Objectives

For the architectural student, the study of architectural history and the work of specific architects should be an aid in the mastering of design. FLW is one of the most masterful designers of modern times and as such is an invaluable source for us as designers.

Course Requirements & Grading Criteria

- Exams: quizzes on reading and a final exam
- Notes must be taken in class. You must submit a xerox copy of your notes at end of the course.
- Student Hours per Week: three in class, approximately six in preparation
- Evaluation of Student Work: Grade will be derived as follows:
 - Quizzes on Reading: total approx 20%
 - Final exam: approx 40%
 - Project: approx 30%
 - Lecture notes: approx 10%
- Grades may be lowered for poor attendance and lack of participation.

REQUIRED TEXT

- *Frank Lloyd Wright*, Robert McCarter, Phaidon Press. ISBN: 0 7148 3854 3

Also recommended:

- *Frank Lloyd Wright* by Vincent Joseph Scully, Jr., George Braziller
- “The Art and Craft of the Machine,” in *Frank Lloyd Wright: Writings & Buildings*, Kaufmann

(Both in library)

LECTURE NOTES

The lectures in this course cover major architectural issues in Wright’s work as well as powerful ideas behind the work. Among these ideas are Industrialization, Post-industrial everything, Existentialism, Eastern thought/Western thought, Buddhism, Organic architecture, Humanism/Anti humanism, Einstein’s relativity theory, and differences between America and Europe. Often these ideas will show up in scattered form throughout the lectures, but I expect you to catch them.

One way we will know if you have comprehended these architectural issues and ideas is if they show up in your notes. They will also be addressed in the final exam.

One way you retain material in a course is by taking notes. While it is difficult to listen to a lecture and take notes at the same time, it is vital to be able to do so. If you do not take notes, chances are you will not retain the material. While I hope my lectures are interesting, they are intended as more than entertainment. However, if you do, you must still take notes during the lectures.)

Notes should not be a verbatim transcript of the lecture, but an organized outline of the key ideas. Of course it is difficult to comprehend the material in a lecture and get it into an organized outline during the lecture, but it is the act of doing so that helps give you a mastery of the material and helps you retain it. Doing this makes you an active participant in the lecture, not just a passive listener, and helps you make the material your own. Since this is an architecture course, you should include sketches and diagrams in your notes.

The best way to study is to review your notes shortly after class every week. If you are really serious, you might want to rewrite or type up your notes each week while the lecture is still fresh in your mind. You will of course want to review them again before the final exam.

If this is a good course, and if you have taken good notes and perhaps re-written them, you will want to keep them, indefinitely as part of your personal architectural library.

As in indication that I take this seriously, I want you to turn in a xerox copy of your notes for the course.

COURSE PROJECT: Analysis of a Wright building

Pick one (or more) FLW building. Then pick one (or more) historical building that shares organizational features with the FLW building you have chosen. In your presentation, diagrammatically communicate the organizational similarities of the FLW and historical buildings.

Analysis should be done with drawings (size: 11" x 17"). Any drawing medium is ok, including computer drawings. Models are also acceptable. All drawings must be your own, *no xeroxes*. Failure to present on the assigned date will result in a loss of one letter grade on the project.

You can use any medium and style of drawing. Your drawings will be hung in class and discussed. You might imagine that we are an office and your drawings are being shown to a client, so we want them to look professional. Thus they can be in a sketchy style, but they should convey that we can draw and can present architectural ideas clearly.

All of the ideas you wish to present must be in your drawings. Use labels as necessary. Assume that your project will be published in a magazine and you will not be there with every issue to explain it.

Besides your 11" x 17" drawings which you will pin up and discuss, you must also submit a set of 8 1/2" x 11" Xeroxes of your drawings which I will keep. If you use color in your originals, do not worry that the xeroxes do not pick up the color.

Each drawing should have a title block with the following information

- (Name of Building) Analysis Project
- Your name
- ARCH 506P, Frank Lloyd Wright
- Date

The title block should be integrated into the composition of your drawings.

NOTE ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

(I am required by the administration to include this in all my course outlines.)

Students are reminded that cheating and plagiarism are not permitted, and can lead to serious consequences.

Pratt Institute holds issues of academic integrity in the highest regard. So do we. Instances of cheating, plagiarism, and misappropriation of intellectual property will not be tolerated and will be handled in the following manner:

- I am required to report the incident to the registrar, and it will be recorded in your file.
- More than one report to the registrar during your entire time at Pratt will result in a hearing before the Academic Integrity Board, at which time appropriate sanctions will be decided. These may include dismissal from the Institute.
- I will determine the nature and severity of the infraction and apply appropriate sanctions that can range from asking you to repeat the assignment, failing you for the assignment, failing you for the course and/or referring the case to the Academic Integrity Board.

For more details about these procedures please see the *Student Handbook*, the Pratt Bulletins, and the *Judicial Procedures at Pratt* pamphlet.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Please read the following guidelines carefully. If you have any questions, don't be afraid to ask. We would much rather help you than police you.

CHEATING

If you are using dishonest methods to fulfill course requirements, you are cheating.

Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining or offering copies of exams or information about the content of exams in advance.
- Bringing notes in any form to a closed book exam.
- Looking at another student's paper during an exam.
- Receiving or communicating any information from or to another student during an exam.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a bit more complicated, but the rules of documentation and citation are very specific and are tailored to different academic disciplines. Types of plagiarism include:

- Including any material from any source other than yourself in a paper without proper attribution. This includes material from the Internet, books, papers from other students, and from any other source.
- The extensive use of the ideas of others in your paper, even if in your own words, without proper attribution.
- Turning in work as your own that was done by another person.

Please remember that all written work must be in your own words or cited and documented appropriately, and all work must be your own work. If you do not understand how to do this properly, it is your responsibility to ask. It is then my responsibility to show you how or point you to resources that will.

Note: There may be quizzes on the reading at the beginning of any class. There are two implications of this: Do the reading, and arrive promptly.

1. 1/19 **Introduction, Background, Beaux Arts, Chicago School**
Modernism's opposition to the Beaux Arts
Wright and Sullivan: similarities and differences
Wright and modernism

2. 1/26 **Overview of Wright's work**
 - Reading: McCarter, Introduction and Ch 1

3. 2/2 **Early houses, Prairie style, Robbie House**
Discussion of Vincent Scully, Frank Lloyd Wright
 - Reading: Scully
 - Reading: McCarter, Ch 2, 3, 5
 - **Quiz on Scully**
Characteristics of the Prairie style
The open plan
The open plan and the modern family, relativity, existentialism

4. 2/9 **The Larkin Building. Unity Temple. Martin House, Patterns**
 - Reading: McCarter, Ch 4
Pattern and pattern repetition

5. 2/16 **Taliesin East. Other early work. Greene and Greene and other parallels. Wright and the Europeans.**
 - **Pattern Analysis due**
 - Film

6. 2/23 **Philosophy**
 - Reading: Art and Craft of the Machine
 - Reading: McCarter, Ch 6
 - **Quiz on Art and Craft of the Machine**
Philosophy: Discussion of Frank Lloyd Wright's relationship to: Chicago School, Industrialization, Post-industrial everything, Existentialism, Eastern thought/Western thought, Buddhism, Organic architecture, Humanism/Anti humanism, Einstein's special relativity, and the differences between America and Europe.

7. 3/2 **Imperial Hotel. California houses**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch 7,8
Imperial Hotel surviving the earthquake
Tile houses and industrialization
Comparison with Corbu
8. 3/9 **Falling Water**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch 10
Becoming an icon
Falling Water, the Lovell House, and the Gale House
Wright's approach to design
9. 3/16 **Johnson's Wax. Wingspread. Hanna House. Taliesin West**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch 13
The anti-column column
- 3/23 *No Class. Spring Break*
10. 3/30 **Guggenheim Museum; Other late projects**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch 15
Patterns and themes
11. 4/6 **Price Tower; Mile High; Other later projects**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch 9
 • **Presentation of course projects (A-O)**
Rejection of the rectilinear steel frame
12. 4/13 **Relevance of Wright for today**
 • Reading: McCarter, Ch Conclusion
 • **Presentation of course projects (P-Z)**
The architect as form giver (form properly understood)
Modern/post modern
Industrial/post-industrial
13. 4/20 • **Final Exam**
 • **Course Notes Due**
14. 4/27 *No class. Jury Week*
15. 5/4 **Discussion**

