

Dear Guests -

It's a pleasure for me to welcome you to the Martin House Complex.

The Martin House almost feels like *my* house, but it was designed and built for my grandfather and grandmother, Darwin D. and Isabelle Martin, and was the home in which my mother, Dorothy Martin Foster, and my uncle, Darwin R. Martin, grew up. It was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of my grandfather's closest friends and America's finest architect. My mother shared many stories of what she did when she and her brother were children living in the house, and I fondly remember some things I did there as a child when I visited my grandparents.

When you visit the Martin House Complex, you'll see many important architectural features that Mr. Wright employed to make this one of his finest Prairie houses ever; but what I remember most are impressions of the complex from the perspective of a small boy:

Playing in the wide open spaces of the house that seemed especially large to me as a small child.

Playing hide-and-seek and hiding behind the large curtains they called *portieres*.

Dropping things from the second floor balcony through the small first floor opening into the basement below (at least until we got caught!).

Rolling balls down the long pergola.

Looking out the many windows that brought views of nature into the house and seeing the trees, the snow, the beautiful flowers...the landscape as it changed with the seasons.

Seeing the stable and stalls for the horses.

Looking up at the tall, white, statue of *Nike* with her wings spread out so wide.

Enjoying dinner with all the family around the dining room table.

Seeing the warm colors of autumn Mr. Wright used in the house: yellows, golds, greens and browns.

Seeing the sunlight shining through the many colors of the art glass windows.

Sitting under the grand piano when my mother played it, filling the house with music.

Checking the brass thermometer - shaped like an obelisk - that my grandfather kept in the library to show the temperature.

Even though the house is now over 100 years old and was very different from the other houses built at that time, it's still an extraordinary and unique house in many ways.

I hope you enjoy your time at the house as much as I enjoyed being there as a boy.

Sincerely,



Darwin Martin Foster
Grandson

