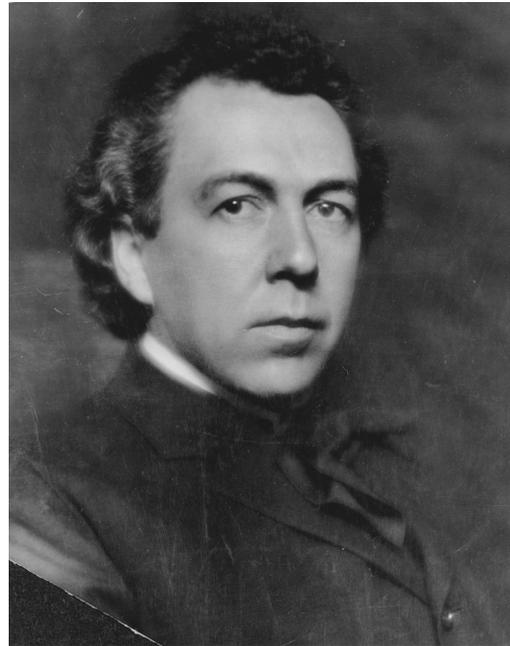


Martin House Fact Sheet

Biography of Frank Lloyd Wright

Frank Lloyd Wright was born in June 1867, in Richland, Wisconsin. His mother decided he should become an architect when he was still very young. She hung pictures of famous European cathedrals in his room and bought him the Froebel system of educational toys.

Wright spent part of his youth working on his uncle's farm in Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin for only about a year. His first venture into architecture was when he assisted with the design of a chapel being built by the architect J. L. Silsbee for Wright's uncle who was a preacher.



In 1887, with \$7.00 in his pocket, Wright set out for Chicago to seek his fortune. He immediately found a job with Silsbee and soon afterward moved on to the firm of Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler, prominent Chicago architects known for their designs for some of the country's first skyscrapers. Wright soon became the head draftsman for the firm. He was primarily responsible for the firm's domestic designs (private homes) and, beginning in 1889, he designed a home for his family and, later, a studio for his private architectural practice in Oak Park, Illinois. It is in this studio where most of his famous "Prairie" houses were designed, including the Darwin Martin complex in Buffalo, New York.

During the years 1909-1910, Frank Lloyd Wright spent most of his time in Europe. There, he published a large collection of his work called the Wasmuth Portfolio. Upon his return to the United States, Wright lived in a home he had designed for himself in Spring Green, Wisconsin, which he named "Taliesin."

From 1916 to 1922, Wright spent large amounts of time in Japan working on the famous Imperial Hotel. Because of its unique free-floating foundation, this hotel was one of the few buildings that survived a huge Tokyo earthquake in 1923, confirming Wright's reputation as a highly regarded international architect.

Wright was a prolific architect, designing over one thousand structures. About forty percent of these were actually built, including Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, the Robie House in Chicago, the textile block houses in Los Angeles, California, Fallingwater on Bear Run in

Pennsylvania, and the Johnson Wax Building in Racine, Wisconsin. In the last phase of his career, he began designing houses that he thought any person could afford to live in. He called this series of houses his "Usonian" houses and many can still be found today in various parts of the country. Also notable on a list of Wright accomplishments is the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, which was completed after Wright died in 1959. Frank Lloyd Wright was a man of enormous confidence and charm and he possessed talent to match. He is considered by many to be a genius and the most famous American architect of all time.

