

Wright in Wisconsin

Walk in Frank Lloyd Wright's footsteps to discover the architect's inspiration for design and the foundation of a true legacy. Born and raised in Wisconsin, Wright rooted many of his design principals in the landscape of his surroundings. Join the Martin House travel team as we discover Wright's home state and many of his designs including: [Taliesin](#), Wright's famed home, studio and school for many years; the [Jacobs House](#), the [S.C. Johnson building](#), [Annunciation Church](#), the [Unitarian Meeting House](#), and more! Participants will enjoy guided tours, a taste of local cuisine and motor coach transportation through Wisconsin's beautiful landscape.

Please see below for more detailed information on the places we will be visiting in Wisconsin.

[The Fred B. Jones House | Penwern \(1900-03\)](#)

Lake Delavan, Wisconsin

Designed as a summer home for Oak Park businessman Fred B. Jones, this estate consists of four structures: a main house, boathouse, gate lodge and stable, which were built on a 10-acre site with 600 feet of lakefront and a commanding view of Delavan Lake. Penwern is privately owned and open to the public only for special Frank Lloyd Wright-related events.

[The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church \(1956-61\)](#)

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Located in a suburb of Milwaukee, this church was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last major commissions; construction was completed after the architect's death. The basic design of the church is inspired by the architect's reinterpretation of two traditional Byzantine forms: the Greek cross and the dome.

[American System-Built Homes \(1915-17\)](#)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Throughout his career, Frank Lloyd Wright took special interest in designing beautiful yet affordable homes for moderate-to- low-income families. Most notable is a series known today as the American System-Built Homes. By system-built, Wright avoided pre-fabrication off-site; rather, he created homes through a standardized system that involved bringing pre-cut lumber and other materials on site for assembly. Wright produced more than 900 working drawings and sketches of various designs for the system. Six examples were constructed, still standing, on West Burnham Street and Layton Boulevard in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center (1938-58; 1992-97)

Madison, Wisconsin

Monona Terrace opened its doors after nearly 60 years of debate on July 18, 1997. It was first designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1938 as a cultural, governmental and recreational building. Wright made several alterations to the design during his lifetime. Madison voters approved referenda to construct Monona Terrace – on the same site Wright had originally proposed – as a community and convention center in 1992. While Wright’s design was used for the building’s exterior, the interior as executed was designed by former Wright apprentice Anthony Puttnam of Taliesin Associated Architects.

Herbert Jacobs First House | Jacobs I (1936-37)

Madison, Wisconsin

Commonly referred to as Jacobs I, this is the first of two Wright-designed residences for Madison newspaperman Herbert Jacobs. It is considered by most to be the first truly Usonian house. Wright provided the Jacobs with a low-cost construction, an open, L-shaped interior plan, floor-to-ceiling living room glass, a slab floor, and the first adaptation in the United States of radiant floor heating. A multi-year restoration project began in 1983, and in 2003 this private home was declared a National Historic Landmark.

Taliesin (1911; rebuilt 1914; 1925-1959)

Spring Green, Wisconsin

Taliesin was the Wisconsin home of American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. The name is Welsh and means "Shining Brow," a fitting label for its setting majestically looking over Spring Green, Wisconsin's Wyoming River Valley. Taliesin refers to two things: Frank Lloyd Wright's residence begun in 1911; and his 600-acre Taliesin estate, which includes the Taliesin residence, the Hillside Home School, Midway Barns, and Tan-y-Deri (the house that Wright designed for his sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Andrew Porter).

Herbert Jacobs Second House | Jacobs II (1946-48)

Middleton, Wisconsin

In 1943 Herbert and Katherine Jacobs, of Madison, Wisconsin, commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design a home for them for the second time. It is a passively solar heated and naturally cooled design, which Wright termed the “Solar Hemicycle.” The house was constructed in 1946-48, and has been continually occupied since then. In 2003 it was designated a National Historic Landmark building.

Unitarian Meeting House (1946)

Madison, Wisconsin

Frank Lloyd Wright was commissioned to design the Meeting House in 1946. Construction began in 1949 and was completed in 1951. The original single-level building, constructed of native limestone, copper, and glass, features a multipurpose auditorium and adjoining social area

and kitchen. A unique angular hall, one of the many examples of the triangle shape associated with the building and its furnishings, connects this area with offices, classrooms, and another social hall. Two later additions were designed by Taliesin Associated Architects in 1964 and 1990. In 2004, the Meeting House was officially declared a National Historic Landmark.

SC Johnson Administration Building and Research Tower (1939; 1950)

Racine, Wisconsin

In 1936, H.F. Johnson, Jr. commissioned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design a company administration building that reflected the innovative spirit of the SC Johnson company. The SC Johnson Administration Building opened in 1939, followed by the Research Tower in 1950—Wright's vision of a vertical compliment to the Administration Building. The Research Tower is one of the tallest structures ever built on the cantilever principle and is one of Wright's most unique architectural achievements. Today, both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places.