

Partners in Art Presentation

Frank Lloyd Wright – “Fallingwater”

3rd grade

Prezi-

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PREZI SLIDE 1 (FLW Overview/Title Slide)

<Introductions>

Today, our presentation will be a little bit different. We're not going to be discussing someone who is known as an artist. However, the person we will learn about is someone whose work is considered to be its own kind of beauty and art. This person is Frank Lloyd Wright.

Frank Lloyd Wright was an architect. Do you know what that means? (a person who designs buildings and often oversees their construction)

Wright believed in designing structures that were in harmony with the environment and the natural world, a philosophy he called [organic architecture](#).

PREZI SLIDE 2 (Young Frank Lloyd Wright)

He was born in Richland, Wisconsin on June 8, 1867 (over 150 years ago)

His father was a preacher and his mother was a teacher. His mother taught him to love nature and was a big influence on his desire to be an architect. The family moved a lot while he was young - they lived in Rhode Island, Iowa, and Massachusetts before returning to Wisconsin in 1878.

PREZI SLIDE 3 (Block Design)

Frank received a set of Froebel blocks when he was nine and he started building. He loved to create new designs, to find different ways to build houses and buildings out of the blocks. Did any of you like to do that when you were young?

When Frank was 18, his parents divorced and to help support the family he got a job working for a Dean at the University of Wisconsin in the school of engineering. He always knew that he wanted to be an architect and worked hard to learn as much as he could.

PREZI SLIDE 4 (The Auditorium Building, at the Chicago Stock Exchange)

He moved to Chicago in 1887 and worked for an architect firm, Adler and Sullivan. The firm is responsible for much of the design and rebuilding of Chicago after the great Chicago fire of 1871 - and you may recognize many buildings they have done in Chicago today. This is a picture of the Auditorium Building at the Chicago Stock Exchange in downtown Chicago. It was designed by Adler and Sullivan.

PREZI SLIDE 5 (FLW home in Oak Park, IL)

Frank got married and built his first house and studio in Oak Park, IL in 1889. He used this first house to experiment with design concepts. You can actually still tour this house today!

PREZI SLIDES 6 and 7

He was still working for the architect firm, Adler and Sullivan, but he began designing and building houses as a side job. His company found out about this and he ended up getting fired from his job. These first houses that Frank designed and built are called the “Bootleg” houses and many are still standing in the suburbs of Chicago.

PREZI SLIDE 8

After getting fired, Frank worked on his own and created a style known as the Prairie style of homes. These houses were long, low and horizontal. They had low roofs, deep overhangs, and did not usually have attics or basements. They also had long rows of windows. Living rooms were large and open to encourage the family to gather together. Fireplaces were usually a focal point. The home was usually rather simple – there was not a lot of extra decoration. Let’s look at a few examples of homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in this Prairie style.

PREZI SLIDE 9

Avery Coonley house in Riverside, IL built in 1907

PREZI SLIDE 10

Frederick Robie house in Chicago, built in 1908

PREZI SLIDE 11

This is the inside of the Robie house – do you notice the low ceilings and open spaces? There is also a large living room, with the fireplace as the focus.

PREZI SLIDE 12

Frank Lloyd Wright also designed stained glass windows for many of these houses. His window designs often mirrored his home designs, containing long, straight lines and geometric patterns.

PREZI SLIDE 13

In 1934, Frank designed one of his most famous houses, which is called Fallingwater. Can you see why?

A quote by FLW: "No house should ever be *on* a hill or *on* anything. It should be *of* the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together, each the happier for the other."

PREZI SLIDE 14

Do you remember a few minutes ago, we talked about organic architecture? That was the idea that buildings should exist in harmony with the natural world. Many people believe that [Fallingwater](#) is a masterpiece of organic architecture. It has also been called "the best all-time work of American architecture".

PREZI SLIDE 15

FLW moved to Arizona in 1937 and built a compound called Taliesin. It was a laboratory for Wright, where he experimented with new types of design, from 1937 to his death in 1959.

PREZI SLIDE 16

Now the home of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and archives, it continues today as the site of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

PREZI SLIDES 17 and 18

Wright also designed a series of homes now called Usonian homes. Usonian homes commonly featured flat roofs and were usually constructed without basements or attics, all features that Wright had been using in Prairie homes. Also just like in Prairie houses, Usonian living areas had a fireplace as a point of focus. Bedrooms were out of the way and were small, which encouraged the family to gather in the main living areas. These homes tended to be smaller and more affordable, which allowed many people to live in a Wright-designed house at a relatively lower cost.

PREZI SLIDE 19, 20, 21

Frank continued to work until late in his life. In addition to designing homes, he designed many famous buildings, including the Guggenheim Museum in New York City (slide 19), the Price Tower in Oklahoma (slide 20) and the Marin County Civic Center in California (slide 21).

PREZI SLIDE 22

Frank Lloyd Wright died in 1959 at the age of 92. He had seven children - many became architects themselves. One son, John Lloyd Wright, invented Lincoln Logs!

His designs are still recognized and are inspiring to architects working today.

PREZI SLIDES 23-26

Let's finish our discussion of Frank Lloyd Wright with a look at some of his famous stained glass designs. It has been said that no other architect or designer has transformed the use of stained glass in architecture as much as Frank Lloyd Wright. He believed strongly that his windows were an important part of his organic design. His windows are known for their use of clear glass with touches of color, and the use of geometric designs that were unique to each building for which they were created.

Frank Lloyd Wright called these windows "light screens." His light screens brightened the inside of the homes he designed with natural light and soft color. They added to the beauty of his designs, both inside and outside of each home.