

Frank Lloyd Wright

By Robert McCarter

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This monograph explores the underlying themes and principles of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture. It examines the consistent and systematic qualities underlying all of Wright's designs. The text's chronological presentation, which emphasizes key designs and those related to them thematically, is paralleled by an examination of the development of three primary principles, simultaneously active in Wright's work, and singled out by him as being of fundamental importance in his understanding of architecture.

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Frank Lloyd Wright By Robert McCarter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2108007 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Phaidon Press
- Published on: 1999-08-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.50" h x 1.38" w x 10.00" l, 4.82 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Of all the books that have appeared in the last 10 years on Frank Lloyd Wright and his architecture, this is the one that will last. It is in all ways comprehensive: its text is as organized and complete as a set of blueprints; its striking pictures of projects as small as the modest Usonian houses or as grand as the Guggenheim Museum are arranged in order by the visual information they reveal about each project; and even its copyediting is noticeably coherent, with dates just where one expects such details to be, in the first picture captions for each project. The book as a whole is so carefully conceived that, reading it, one knows exactly where to look for any particular bit of history. And while, for casual readers, the essays may offer too much to digest at first, Robert McCarter's prose is agile and passionate. "Wright understood buildings to be the background or framework for human existence," he writes. "Architecture gave dignity to daily life." -- *Margaret Moorman*

From Library Journal
This book is not a biography of Frank Lloyd Wright but rather an investigation into Wright's philosophy of design and space. McCarter (architecture, Univ. of Florida) dulls his attempt, however, by writing a chronological narrative in the irritating manner of a tour guide, using the first-person plural "we." The reader is bombarded with descriptions of sizes and shapes of rooms and hallways, heights of ceilings, and textures of concrete slabs; there is so much minutiae that it is impossible to see the theory through the clutter. The book is filled with beautiful photographs and illustrations, as most books on Wright's works are, but they do not aid in the tour, and often we are left to our own imagination concerning the appearances of rooms and their decor. The author does offer valid insights into Wright's philosophy, but these expositions are buried under page after page of details. More discussion and less description would have greatly improved this book. Recommended only for specialized architectural and interior design libraries; general collections should consider Neil Levine's The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright (LJ 6/1/96).?Glenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu
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Review
"One of the handsomest books yet on America's architect of the century."-The Sunday Times "Robert McCarter's volume is a masterly achievement."-Times Literary Supplement "As a presentation of Wright's complete career, it is difficult to imagine McCarter's book being bettered."-Architects Journal "Of all the books that have appeared in the last 10 years on Frank Lloyd Wright and his architecture, this is one that will last. Robert McCarter's prose is agile and passionate."-amazon.com "A sumptuous and revealing book... An intensely human and at times poetically interpreted description of Wright's work and life."-(World Architecture

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