

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS SMALL FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT EXHIBITION

In an exhibition entitled FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: TALIESIN AND TALIESIN WEST, opening at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday, April 16, the winter and summer homes of the great architect will be represented by sixteen large kodachromes and two architect's plans. The exhibition, which has been arranged by the Museum's Department of Architecture, will remain on view through June 15 in the first floor gallery of the Architecture Department.

The sixteen color transparencies were made by Ezra Stoller for the August, 1946 issue of FORTUNE MAGAZINE and the two original plans of the buildings were drawn by Mr. Wright especially for the exhibition. These are the only existing drawings of the buildings as they stand today and as they were photographed by Mr. Stoller. The transparencies were taken in Spring Green, Wisconsin, where the summer home of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Taliesin Fellowship is located, and in Scottsdale, Arizona, where Taliesin West, the winter home of Mr. Wright and the Fellowship is. The two residences include private apartments for the Wrights, studios for the master, dormitories and workshops for the Taliesin Fellowship students, as well as communal living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens.

Taliesin, the summer residence in Wisconsin, was originally built in 1911. It was rebuilt in 1925 after being destroyed by fire and has since been frequently altered and enlarged. Taliesin West, the winter home in the desert of Arizona, was begun in 1938 and has since been added to and changed. The two buildings reflect the difference between the Arizona desert and the Wisconsin farmland, thus reaffirming Frank Lloyd Wright's ability to adapt buildings and native materials to their setting and purpose. The low, rambling Wisconsin house merges with the surrounding hills and is so subtly landscaped that its size is not apparent, particularly when half hidden by summer foliage. Its walled balconies, wide stone terraces and long bands of windows embrace the countryside. Above low-pitched roofs extend bold chimney blocks of native limestone.

Wright has created his winter home, Taliesin West, out of rock fragments from the Arizona desert, concrete, redwood and canvas. The vivid colors, rough textures and jagged outlines of this unorthodox structure reflect the character of the untamed land. The construction of this building is revealed on the outside. From a massive base project supporting redwood frames which jut into the sky as sharply as the surrounding mountains. Conventional windows, walls, doorways and roofs have been eliminated, and instead movable canvas flaps offer protection from sun and rain, or roll back to unite interior and exterior.