

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, March 13, 1962

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Two hundred and fifty original drawings by Frank Lloyd Wright, constituting a unique survey of his achievements from 1895 until his death in 1959, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art from March 14 through May 6. The drawings have been selected from more than 8,000 examples in the archives of The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation at Taliesin, the architect's home and studio in Wisconsin.

"Few architects in history have been able to present their buildings as pictorial images as convincingly as could Frank Lloyd Wright," Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, says. "His drawings often reveal his intentions more clearly than do photographs of the finished buildings. But apart from their value in elucidating the architect's purpose, Wright's drawings possess an intrinsic beauty; they are works of superb draftsmanship, skillful composition, and often of unexpected delicacy.

Executed either by Wright himself or by draftsmen working under his close supervision, these drawings were part of the day to day process of design in which he studied effects of composition, mass and texture. Most of those shown are perspective views which Wright required for his own study purposes. Others are elaborate, formal renderings made for presentation to clients.

Included in the exhibition are drawings for many unbuilt projects: terraced gardens and ranch developments; summer cabins for California and glass-walled skyscrapers for New York; a steel cathedral for a million people; a community center for Pittsburgh; hotel towers for Washington, D. C.; designs for an automobile, a helicopter, a coffee cup, and some technical details of special interest. The exhibition concludes with a few examples of the work now being done by the Taliesin Associated Architects, the group of former colleagues and students of Wright who are continuing the practice of architecture according to the principles he established.

Wright maintained that the quality of depth, of physical extension through and around space, is best conveyed by the horizontal plane. Photographs of his finished buildings, Mr. Drexler points out in the wall label, do not always make clear the interweaving of vertical and horizontal elements, and in his drawings Wright seldom attempted to render their location in space with literal accuracy. Instead, he developed techniques of graphic representation comparable to those found in Japanese Paintings and prints, which he admired and collected. Broad areas of color, a resourceful, intricate and refined use of line and a great emphasis on the natural

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setting are all characteristics of Wright's graphic style. Even the most extended buildings are normally shown from a distance great enough to encompass the entire structure and the land around it.

"Landscape," Mr. Drexler continues, "was inseparable from Wright's idea of architecture, and in some of his most beautiful drawings the landscape seems to have been made and revealed by buildings. With every theme he explored Wright disclosed a fresh realm of possibilities. The drawings in the exhibition enable us to follow the development of ideas, and the composite image they produce is of forms in harmony with nature, still capable of growth and change, and perhaps now more than ever relevant to the art of architecture."

DRAWINGS BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, selected and installed by Wilder Green, Assistant Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, is the sixth Museum of Modern Art exhibition devoted entirely to his work. Many examples of his buildings have also been shown in survey exhibitions, including the recent "Visionary Architecture." A chair designed by Wright for the Larkin building is currently on view in the Museum's second floor galleries where a selection from the Museum's own Collection is installed.

A book reproducing 300 Wright drawings and edited by Arthur Drexler, is being published by Horizon Press for the Museum on the occasion of the exhibition.

Thursday, March 29, 8:30 p.m.	
In the Museum Auditorium	
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT. Illustrated lecture by Arthur Drexler, Director, Architecture and Design.	
Tickets at the Museum or by mail	
members	non-members
\$1.50	\$2.00
(includes admission to Museum)	

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Photographs and further information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19. Circle 5-8900.