Frank Lloyd Wright’s Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home
Selected Publications

BOOKS

Contemporary look at approaches to affordable housing, an elaboration of Wright’s idea for modular homes.


Detailed academic study of Wright’s buildings accompanied by photographs, plans, and diagrams of key dwellings.


Collection of essays by top professionals in architecture and preservation addressing preservation and modification to Wright buildings.

This book walks readers through the responses of Wright and several clients to the challenges of designing and living in small houses. Color images features details of house plans, furnishings, lighting, and landscaping.

* Copy available as part of educational resource materials accompanying exhibition.
Exploration of the Cold War era’s preoccupation with an idealized domestic life as a response to the uncertainties of politics and society.

A professor of art history and American studies looks at the complex and shifting American culture of the 1950’s.


First-hand account of working with Wright to plan and build a successful, still-thriving Usonian community near Pleasantville, New York.


Brief contemporary guide to planning, building, and living in small, environment-friendly houses. Similar in purpose and spirit to Plan Your House to Suit Yourself of the 1950s.

Technical presentation of Wright’s designs for Usonian homes and the relationships between architect, builder, and client.


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Book depicting plans for every structure Wright ever built, and also providing information about little known clients.


BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Short book about industrial design for readers in the upper elementary grades. Includes discussion of Wright’s Usonian homes and the practical considerations involved in their design.


Step-by-step description of the construction process for younger readers, or preschool children and their adult companions. Colorful illustrations complement text, making this an inviting read for entire families, especially those building homes.

Narrative for middle school students and older exploring Wright’s life and sources of inspiration.

Introduction to Wright’s ideas concerning light, harmony, space, shape, nature, and materials as they impacted his architectural designs. For ages 10 and up.

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*Kann, Bob. *Frank Lloyd Wright and His New American Architecture.* Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society, 2010. This young readers’ illustrated biography of Wright’s life and career includes a glossary, reading group guide, suggested activities, and a list of additional resources.


**DVDS**


*Frank Lloyd Wright: The Mike Wallace Interviews.* DVD, 2001. Directed by Mike Wallace and Frank Lloyd Wright. 53 minutes. In two separate television interviews in 1957, Wallace and Wright discuss architecture and a wide array of social and cultural topics, including religion, politics, morality, and death. A chance to hear Wright “speak” in person.

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Websites

Frank Lloyd Wright’s SAMARA
http://www.samara-house.org
Samara’s official website provides information about the John E. Christian family’s Usonian home and links to related topics.

All-Wright-Site: An Internet Guide to Frank Lloyd Wright
http://www.allwrightsite.net
This site lists more than 420 Wright buildings by country and state and offers links to hundreds of related web sites.

Architecture – It’s Elementary!
http://www.k5architecture.org
The Michigan Architecture Foundation provides a free download-able curriculum guide for grades K-5. Lesson plans introduce children to the study of architecture and encompass a variety of subject areas, including the visual arts, social studies, language arts, history, science and Math.

Architect Studio 3-D
http://www.architectstudio3d.org/AS3d/design_studio3d.html
This website allows users to plan, build, furnish, and tour their own house Online in three dimensions “with Frank Lloyd Wright.”

ArchKiDecture
http://www.archkidecture.org/teach.html
ArchKiDecture is an educational resource using architecture to teach the visual arts, science, and math to children. It contains links to curricula developed by architects and teachers, including Architect Studio 3-D.

Fallingwater
http://www.fallingwater.org
Although this website mainly concerns Wright’s Pennsylvania masterpiece, Fallingwater, it also contains free educational materials that focus on the relationship between a society and its built environment.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy
www.savewright.org
This is the website of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, a Chicago-based international preservation organization whose mission is to preserve and maintain Wright structures through education, advocacy, preservation easements and technical services. The link to publications yields articles about green building techniques and sustainable restoration.

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The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
http://www.franklloydwright.org/web/Home.html
This website provides information about the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and archives based at Taliesin West in Arizona. Links to Wright’s biography and works offer reliable background information.

Frank Lloyd Wright: PBS Legacy Essays
http://www.pbs.org/flw/legacy/index.html
This site features scholarly essays on aspects of Wright’s ideas, including his thoughts about nature and organic architecture.

Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust
http://www.gowright.org/
The Chicago-based Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust maintains two museum sites: Wright’s home and studio in Oak Park and the Robie House located on the campus of the University of Chicago. Their website offers links to free educational materials for a range of age groups and Disciplines

Guggenheim Museum
http://www.guggenheim.org/
Follow this site’s link to “Arts Curriculum” for educational materials on Wright-related themes: Form Follows Function, Frank Lloyd Wright and Nature, Geometric Shapes, and Organic Architecture. Each is designed for one or more academic disciplines, including the visual arts, math, science, and social studies.

Inhabitat: Design Will Save the World
http://inhabitat.com/
This weblog by young professionals tracks the future of architectural design, following new trends in practices, technology, and materials that promote a healthier and more sustainable future. Children may enjoy the slide show of Architect Barbie’s green dream home, and teachers may find it useful for introducing concepts about the role of the architect and organic architecture and to young children.

The Jacobs House
http://www.usonia1.com
This site features historical background, photographs, and architectural plans of Wright’s first Usonian home near Madison, Wisconsin, between 1936 and 1937.

Meaning of Suburbia: The History Project, University of California, Davis
This link from UC Davis’s website, The History Project, provides hands-on materials for teaching secondary school students about the American suburbs. Included is an essay assignment based on original documents concerning census figures, HUD trends, polls, and magazine articles.

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Metropolitan Museum of Art
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/flwt/hd_flwt.htm
Take a virtual tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Room in the Museum’s American decorative arts collection. The slide show features examples of Wright-designed furnishings, including furniture, glass, and textiles.

Still Bend: The Bernard Schwartz Home
http://www.theschwartzhouse.com/Home.html
This website tells the story of the construction of a Wisconsin family’s Usonian “dream house,” finished in 1940. The history parallels that of the Christian family’s experience of planning and building Samara more than a decade later.

Taliesin Preservation
http://www.taliesinpreservation.org
Based in Wisconsin, Taliesin Preservation’s mission is to conserve Wright’s buildings and educate the public about the architect and his work. Links include a detailed biography of Wright and information about two Wisconsin Usonian homes: the Bernard Schwartz House (1939, Two Rivers), and the Seth Peterson Cottage (1958, Lake Delton). Their histories compare nicely with Samara’s.

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