

VOCABULARY

for Frank Lloyd Wright

Apprentice

A person who learns about a craft or profession by working alongside a master. In his final decade, Wright relied on trusted apprentices to help carry out plans for Samara.

Architect

One whose job is to design, plan, and supervise the construction of buildings.

Architecture

The art and science of designing and building structures according to principles determined by aesthetics, environment, and materials.

Axis

The vertical or horizontal direction of emphasis in a structure.

Banquette

A long upholstered bench seat that is usually positioned along a wall.

Board and batten paneling

A style of wall paneling made of wide, wood planks arranged vertically, or standing on end, to cover a wall surface. The planks create a seam when placed tightly together, and these are covered by a much smaller strip of wood, called batten strips. Wright used board and batten paneling throughout many Usonian interiors to create a sense of space and continuity.

Bay window

A window extending outward from an exterior wall with interior space large enough to occupy.

Biomimicry

The ways by which nature inspires human inventions.

Blueprint

An architect's detailed plan for a structure. A photographic print of the plan is rendered as white lines on a blue background.

Broadacre City

Wright's theoretical concept of a utopian suburban community in which individual family homes are constructed on one acre of land.

Built environment

Human-made resources designed to support human activity: for example, streets, buildings, and parks.

Cantilever

In architecture, a weight-bearing horizontal element that projects away from an exterior wall: for example, a balcony.

Carport

A roofed shed without walls, usually attached to the side of a building and used to shelter a vehicle. Usonian homes frequently featured carports as part of an overall program to keep building costs low.

Cherokee Red

The color of Wright's signature pigmented concrete floor slabs.

Chicago School

A group of Chicago architects, including Louis Sullivan, active at the turn of the 20th century. Their work is characterized by functional designs and steel skeletal construction used for building multistory structures.

Christian Family

The owners of Samara who asked Wright to design their home, including

- Dr. John E. Christian, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at Purdue University from 1934 to 1988.
- Catherine "Kay" Christian, Dr. Christian's wife and social director of the student union at Purdue University.
- Linda Christian, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Christian, born in 1953.

Clerestory window

A window positioned in the upper part of a wall to admit light to a building's interior.

Client

In architecture, someone who pays for the services of an architect.

Commission

A job committed to someone's control; an official assignment.

Contractor

A person who coordinates and supervises a building project.

Cul-de-sac

A street that is closed at one end.

de Koven Hill, John

The primary interior designer at Taliesin who directed the Christians' 1970s redecoration project.

Draftsperson

Someone whose job is to draw the architect's plans and designs for buildings.

Eave

The overhanging edge of a sloping roof.

Elevation

A drawing showing a flattened view of details of one side of a building but excluding perspective.

F. Schumacher Co.

The New York City-based fabric and wallpaper company that featured Wright's Taliesin line from 1955 until the 1970s.

Façade

The exterior public face of a building or any face given special architectural treatment.

Fallingwater

Wright's signature weekend home designed and built over a waterfall for the Edgar and Lilliane Kaufmann family in Bear Run, Pennsylvania.

Fascia

Horizontal bands joined to rafter ends at the edge of a roof.

Floor plan

A diagram of a room or floor of a structure usually drawn to scale.

Froebel blocks

Geometric blocks designed by German educator Friedrich Froebel for children's play and development of spatial understanding. As a small boy, Wright played with Froebel blocks for hours, putting them together in different ways to create three-dimensional forms.

Georges, Aris

The Taliesin apprentice who designed the Samara-themed area rug for the Christians in the 1990s.

Hassock

A thick upholstered cushion used as a low seat or footstool.

Hearth

The inner or outer fireproof floor area of a fireplace, usually made of brick, tile, or stone.

Heritage-Henredon

The North Carolina furniture company that engaged Wright to develop a line of furniture.

Horizontal

Flat and level to the ground (opposite vertical). Most of Wright's structures, including his Prairie Style and Usonian homes were oriented horizontally, a reflection of the environment into which they were built.

Industrial design

The art of dealing with the design issues of manufactured goods.

Kipta, Edward

Wright's apprentice who supervised Samara's local contractor, A. Frank Woods.

Law, James Duff

The author of *Here and There in Two Hemispheres* (1903), and inventor of the term, Usonia.

Leaded glass

Panels composed of small panes of colored or clear glass separated by lead or zinc dividers.

Masonry

Building material such as stone, brick, concrete, and tile that is usually bonded together with mortar to create a wall.

Masselink, Eugene

A Taliesin fellow and Frank Lloyd Wright's secretary, Masselink was an important figure throughout all phases of Samara's planning and construction. He corresponded directly with the Christians about the house and its furnishings over a period of years.

Millwork

Building materials made of finished wood, including doors, window and door frames, fireplace mantels, paneling, stairway components, moldings, and interior trim.

Natural form

Form or shape based on nature and blending with its surroundings.

Negative space

Space between or around objects or parts of an object (opposite positive space.)

Organic

In architecture, an approach to building and design inspired by the harmonious relationship of shapes, patterns, and colors found in nature.

Perforated board

A distinctive architectural feature developed by Wright which created a decorative effect by allowing light to pass through cut-outs in wood panels.

Philippine mahogany

A wood favored by Wright for framing windows and used for interior doors, cabinets, furniture and, wall paneling.

Plywood

Multi-use building material composed of layers of wood glued together, usually at right angles.

Positive space

Space that is occupied by the substance of an object (opposite negative space).

Prairie Style

Descriptive term for Wright and others' early twentieth-century buildings, inspired by the Midwest prairie environment and intended to reflect a uniquely American style.

Radiant heat flooring

A method for heating used in Samara's construction involving a forced hot water system with pipes placed beneath the floor.

Rheostat lighting

A lighting system used in Samara to vary the intensity of light without interrupting the electrical circuit. A dimmer switch could be used by the Christians to control the level of lighting to suit their moods or needs.

Rogers, Tyler Stewart

Architectural planning expert and author of *Plan Your House to Suit Yourself*, a guide used by Kay Christian to plan Samara.

Samara

A winged seed pod of the maple tree and the name of the Christian family residence.

Sandwich walls

Walls composed of thin single-widths of brick with insulation "sandwiched" between that eliminates the need for structural studs and ordinary wall finishing treatments like wallpaper and paint.

Site

The place or location of a structure, especially as it relates to its environment.

Sullivan, Louis Henri

The Chicago architect whose original theories and designs introduced the United States to modern architecture. Sullivan was Wright's mentor and greatest influence.

Sustainable design

The design of objects, buildings, and services that supports principles of social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Taliesin East

Wright's summer home near Spring Green, Wisconsin, designed in 1911 after he left his first wife, Catherine Tobin.

Taliesin West

Wright's winter home and school in the desert near Scottsdale, Arizona, from 1937 until his death in 1959. Now the main campus of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture and home to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Terrace

An open, usually paved space next to a house that serves as an outdoor living area.

Topography

The slope of the land, hills, ponds, flat areas.

Usonia

Term derived from United States of North America coined by James Duff Law in 1903 to distinguish the U.S. from Mexico and Canada. Wright used "Usonia" to describe his vision for homes that serve the lifestyles of middle-income families.

Veneer

Extremely thin slices of wood glued to core panels to create doors, cabinets, or furniture.

Vertical

Upright position or direction (opposite horizontal).

Woods, A. Frank

The Christian family's local West Lafayette contractor.

Wabash Valley

A region spanning parts of Illinois and Indiana named for the Wabash River. The term applies to cities and towns along the river, including Lafayette, Indiana.

West Lafayette, Indiana

An Indiana city located across the Wabash River from its twin city, Lafayette. Samara and Purdue University are located in West Lafayette.

What We Need for How We Live

Kay Christian's 28-page document outlining the family's aspirations for Samara.