

XI. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT (1867-1959) and LE CORBUSIER (1887-1965)

Frank Lloyd Wright

Biographical and background information

1. Born in Richland Center, Wisconsin; studied engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
2. In Chicago 1887-93, worked for firm of Adler and Sullivan.
3. Practiced in Oak Park, Illinois, 1893- 1909; in 1911 established home and practice at Taliesin, near Spring Green, Wisconsin; Taliesin Fellowship founded in 1932; winter home of Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona, begun in 1938.
4. Idea of “organic” architecture.
5. Precursor: Louis Sullivan
 - a. Auditorium Building, Chicago, 1887-90
 - b. Schlesinger & Mayer Department Store (now Carson, Pirie, Scott and Co.), Chicago, 1899-1904

Selected works

6. Early buildings
 - a. Larkin Building, Buffalo, New York, 1904 (destroyed)
 - b. Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois, 1905-08
7. Prairie architecture
 - a. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois (on campus of University of Chicago), 1908-10 (Roman brick and reinforced concrete)
8. Later work
 - a. Kaufmann House (“Fallingwater”), Bear Run, Pennsylvania, 1936 (cantilever construction using locally quarried stone and reinforced concrete)
 - b. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, 1959

Charles-Edouard Jenneret-Gris, known as Le Corbusier

Biographical and background information

1. Born in Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland; studied watchmaking and design with Charles l’Eplattenier; designed several early villas in his hometown.
2. Early influences: Ruskin, Viollet-le-Duc, Camillo Sitte, August Perret, Peter Behrens.
3. Trip to Vienna, the Balkans, Istanbul, Greece, and Italy in 1911. Mediterranean vernacular and the Parthenon were to inspire his work.
4. Moved to Paris in 1916, becoming a French citizen in 1920.

5. Published *Vers une architecture* ("Towards a New Architecture") in 1923. Le Corbusier's Five Points: *pilotis* (pillars) for elevating the house above the ground, the roof garden, the free plan, horizontal strip windows, the free façade.

Selected works

6. Villa Savoye, Poissy, France, 1928-31
7. Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp, France, 1950-55

Readings and web resources

Primary Source Reader

Frank Lloyd Wright, "The Art and Craft of the Machine," and "In the Cause of Architecture"

Le Corbusier and Pierre Jenneret, "Five Points Towards a New Architecture."

Readings on Butler Reserve

Joseph Connors, *The Robie House of Frank Lloyd Wright* (Chicago, 1984)

Vincent Scully, *Frank Lloyd Wright* (New York, 1960)

Le Corbusier, *Towards a New Architecture* (New York, 1986)

Stanislaus von Moos, *Le Corbusier: Elements of a Synthesis* (Cambridge, Mass., 1979)

Web resources

QuickTime VR 360 degree views of Fallingwater, Le Corbusier's Convent of La Tourette, Notre-Dame du Haut and Villa Savoye, and streaming videos on Fallingwater and Le Corbusier available from Wright/Le Corbusier page on Art Humanities website

Explore Fallingwater through an interactive tour at

http://learn.columbia.edu/ha/related_sites/fallingwater/flash/index2.htm

Explore Notre-Dame du Haut online at

http://www.learn.columbia.edu/ronchamp_360/index.html

Visit Villa Savoye and read about the Five Points of New Architecture online at

http://www.learn.columbia.edu/ha/related_sites/villa_savoye/index.html