

LA 266 - An Introduction to the Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright - Lecture Outline

Lecture: "*Light Screens:*" *The leaded-glass windows of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1886-1923*

Topics:

FLLW's use of leaded glass coincided with the zenith of American stained glass

Traditional Victorian Stained glass designs used little or no clear glass

FLLW's designs were primarily clear glass with opalescent accents

Permit the eye to go through the window to nature

The window design as a filter, or abstraction of nature beyond

Providing a 'way to see' nature

Influences:

Early FLLW designs were based on standard patterns

An expression of his Arts-and-Crafts influences

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Josef Hoffman textile designs

Linked to Froebel exercises in pattern and form

Triangles

Arcs and circles

Weaving patterns

Love of Japanese architecture and art

Shoji screens and their framing

Bamboo curtains

Abstraction of natural forms: Examples

Sumac tree motif, Susan Dana house

Butterfly motif, Susan Dana house

Tree of Life motif, Darwin D. Martin house

Wheat motif, K.C. DeRhodes residence

Flower motif, Lake Geneva Hotel

Hollyhock motif, Barnsdall residence

Wisteria motif, Ennis residence

Ninety-degree themes: Examples

Heller residence

Wright studio foyer skylights

Francis Little residence

D. D. Martin residence

Fricke residence

Tomek residence

Unity Temple

Chevron themes: Examples

Barton residence

Robie house

Meyer May residence

Zeigler residence

Execution of light screen designs

Unlikely that FLLW personally designed every window. Others given credit include:

Isabel Roberts, secretary

Walter Burley Griffin

Marion Mahony

George Neideken

Use of leaded-glass ended with Ennis residence, 1923

Reasons not known

Replaced with other architectural means of filtering light

Perforated textile blocks

Plywood cutout forms

Tubular glass (Pyrex), Johnson Wax Building