



Frank Lloyd Wright: Complete Works, Vol. 2, 1917-1942

Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer

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The Wright stuff: The definitive publication on America's greatest architect

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) is widely considered the greatest American architect of all time; his work ushered in the modern era and remains highly influential today—half a century after his death. TASCHEN's **three-volume monograph covers all his designs** (numbering approximately 1100), realized and unrealized. Made in collaboration with the **Frank Lloyd Wright Archives** in Taliesin, Arizona, this collection leaves no stone unturned in examining and paying tribute to Wright's astonishing life and work.

Whereas the first volume covers the early Chicago years, this **second volume** deals with the work after World War I, beginning with the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and covering Wright's quest to design affordable houses with systematic construction methods and the Usonian concept house, with the forest-sited villa Fallingwater being the dramatic climax.

The years spent working in Japan were followed by **personal turmoil**. In late 1922, Wright divorced from first wife Catherine, and the following year married Miriam Noel. Yet barely six months later she left, initiating a bitter divorce. Shortly after, Wright met his third wife, Olgivanna. During this difficult period a **second fire at Taliesin** strained his already parlous finances; the bank foreclosed, leaving him without home or studio. With nowhere to practice, **he started writing magazine articles, and his autobiography** (published in 1932 to great acclaim).

From 1917 through the Depression, up until 1942, though he designed continually, Wright saw many projects go unrealized, but nevertheless had the chance to build on new concepts and in new regions. His block building system led to idiosyncratic works like the famous Ennis house in Los Angeles, and in 1936 he completed the Herbert Jacobs house, using **his new "Usonian" techniques**, designed to be affordable for the middle-American family. The same year he moved to **Arizona** where, at the age of 71, Wright embraced his rugged new life in the desert, and with his students started building the **Taliesin West complex**. After receiving a **gold medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in London**, he returned to see his Johnson Administration Building opened to great fanfare, nationwide publicity, and lines around the block waiting to tour inside. Despite adversity, Wright emerged from this era with reputation restored and vitality renewed—as manifested in Fallingwater and the Johnson building—while his Usonian homes began to alter the way Americans lived.

Text in English, French, and German

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