a lecture by

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

TUESDAY, SIXTEEN MAY 1950, EIGHT PM
THE WILLIAM NEAL REYNOLDS COLISEUM.

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE **school of design**
NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE

". . . What is architecture anyway? Is it the vast collection of the various buildings which have been built to please the varying taste of the various lords of mankind? I think not. No, I know that architecture is life; or at least life itself taking "form" and therefore it is the truest record of life as it was lived in the life of yesterday, as it is lived today or ever will be lived. So architecture I know to be a Great Spirit. It can never be something which consists of the buildings which have been built by man on earth mostly now a rubbish heap or soon to be one. Architecture is that great living creative spirit which from generation to generation, from age to age, proceeds, persists, creates, according to the nature of man, and his circumstances as they change. . . Architecture is the scientific art of making structure express ideas. Architecture is the triumph of of human imagination over materials, methods, and men to put man into possession of his own earth. Architecture is man's greatest sense of himself embodied in a world of his own making. It may rise as high in quality only as its source because great art is great life."

Frank Lloyd Wright

The career of Frank Lloyd Wright has seen a radical departure in the 1890's from the prevailing neo-Classicism of the time into his own revolutionary "Prairie Style," and the spread of his ideas in Europe and Asia. Through the twenties there was a continual personal development and struggle in face of rejection in his own country. With the growing acceptance of the thirties, Wright's genius was expressed in the outpouring of brilliantly creative work, the full development of what he terms "organic" architecture. Finally, at the age of 80, Wright received the belated acclaim of his own country when awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects at the 1949 Convention in Houston. This citation truly said: "Frank Lloyd Wright has moved men's minds. . . he has kindled men's hearts. . . he was and is a titanic force. . . ."

The architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright defies analysis or comparison. It is more than merely unique or daring. He revolutionized the architecture of his own time and time to come. For more than fifty years he has been, and is still a pioneer in waging the struggle against imitation, sham and eclecticism to revitalize architecture into again being a timeless art, expressive of man's creative imagination and poetic vision, expressive of man's divine potential in exploiting to the highest degree man's talents, capacities and senses towards achieving a vital, full and rich life.

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