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Tours: Wright Plus '78

A unique opportunity to explore ten interiors of buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries is being offered during a special tour Saturday, May 20, 1978 in Oak Park, Illinois. The house tour, "Wright Plus '78," features six structures by Frank Lloyd Wright and four by other Prairie architects.

Besides his Home and Studio and Unity Temple, these Wright designed residences will be opened: the Arthur Heurtley House (1902), the Mrs. Thomas Gale House (1909), the Apartment over Wright's studio (1911), and the J. Kibben Ingalls House (1909). Also featured are a Victorian house (late 19th Century), the Louis Brink House (1909) by E.E. Roberts, the Flori Blondeel House (1913) by John S. Van Bergen, and the Charles Barr House (1911) by William Drummond.

The all-day event is sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation and will benefit this national landmark. The \$15.00 tax deductible admission includes transportation, expert commentaries, a map of the tour route and background material on the buildings. Registration is at the Oak Park Village Hall designed by Harry Weese and Associates. A tour of the hall is also available.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and only a limited number of persons can be accommodated. For tickets or additional information, write the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation, 951 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302, or phone (312) 848-1976.

Preservation

Affleck House
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

The home designed in 1941 for Gregor S. and Elizabeth Affleck in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, was recently given to the Lawrence Institute of Technology by the Affleck's daughter, Mary Ann Lutomski, and son, Gregor P. Affleck, in memory of their parents.

Gregor S. Affleck, a chemical engineer and 1919 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, first became acquainted with Wrightian architecture while growing up near Wright's boyhood home in Wisconsin. Years later, he and his wife saw drawings and renderings of the Wright-designed "Fallingwater," and they fell in love with its soaring decks and oneness with its surroundings.

"Find a site that no one else can build anything on," Wright answered the Affleck's initial inquiry, beginning a friendship with them that would last long after the house was completed and until Wright's death in 1959. After months of searching, the Afflecks purchased a wooded ravine in the then-hinterlands of Bloomfield Hills, traversed by a stream and overlooking a pond.

"Wright didn't actually visit the house until a few months after its completion," says Mr. Affleck. "The work was supervised by one of his assistants." One of the first things Wright did when he walked into the house was to pick up a saw and cut off the end of a built-in bookshelf that made the space for the piano a little tight. Wright's own rough-sawn handiwork can still be seen.