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## F. C. BOGK HOUSE MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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*This article was written by Harriet Riddle of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1939. She was a friend of the Bogk family and is now friends with the present owners of the house, the Elsners who kindly passed the manuscript on to the Editor.*

After visiting her friend Mrs. Avery Coonley in her charming new home designed and constructed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Mrs. Frederick G. Bogk of Milwaukee decided that she, too, wanted Mr. Wright to design her home. The Coonley house, low and spread out, with beautiful fusion of the garden and house, is an inspiration to anyone. In 1917, therefore, Mr. and Mrs. Bogk began their new home a block west of Lake Michigan. The first design submitted by Mr. Wright was what his clients wanted except for one major change: instead of a flat roof which made the house resemble a mausoleum, a typical tile roof with a five and a half foot cornice was added. With the exception of the insertion of windows on the south end of the living room, a second story over the living room, a basement and an attic, and a garage attached to the house so space above it could be used for a maid's room, the plans were accepted.

Unfortunately, the construction of this house was under way during the war. One by one, the young competent workmen went away to war, and when older men were taken on, work was retarded because they were unfamiliar with modern construction. Even more inconvenient was the fact that Mr. Wright was at work on the Imperial Hotel in Japan at the same time. He tried to give instructions by cable, but now and then he came to the United States for a month or so to catch up the threads of his commissions. Naturally, the transportation of materials was most difficult in a time when the country was more interested in transporting men and war supplies. The tile for the roof, for instance, weighed thirty-five thousand pounds, and it took several months to get it all to Milwaukee. The walnut and gum wood, moreover, being rather rare for woodwork, involved great expense in transportation. Also, the house is almost solid concrete with a brick veneer, both inside and out, and the transportation of these materials was a problem. Expense cannot be spared, however, when only the best of construction materials is being used.

Calling himself a functionalist seems odd when you consider that Mr. Wright originally eliminated the attic and the "unwholesome basement"<sup>1</sup> in the Bogk house. But Mrs. Bogk refused to be inconvenienced by lack of a place for her laundry tubs, her washing machine, and oil furnace. She wished, moreover, a good dry place for her trunks