



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

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FURNISHING OUR FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOME

by Paul R. and Jean S. Hanna

A house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright should reflect in its furnishing the major theme he used in planning that particular dwelling.

This concept of unity and reinforcement between a building and its furnishings is reflected in our Hanna-Honeycomb House (1936), located on the Stanford University campus, Palo Alto, California. Here, for the first time, Mr. Wright designed and built with the hexagonal grid as the underlying geometric theme, literally from the ground up. The concrete floor, indoors and out, consists of a hexagon grid forming a pattern similar to a cross section of bees' honeycomb.

Soon after the original hexagonal grid floor plan had been refined by Mr. Wright and accepted by us, he submitted designs for built-in furniture. We approved detailed drawings for bookcases and shelves for every room, counters for several rooms, couches, fireside seating, beds,

closets and cupboards, sound chambers for organ and stereo music, and alcoves and niches for displaying sculpture.

The built-in furniture had the same obtuse, 120° angles of the floor grids. This feature of the furniture design permitted traffic to flow more smoothly and brought visual harmony to the dwelling.

As construction of the building progressed, Mr. Wright answered our calls for designs of movable furniture: chairs, ottomans, floor cushions, side tables, etc.—all reflecting the hexagon grid system.

With Mr. Wright's built-ins and the few odd pieces we brought with us when we moved in the autumn of 1937, we man-

Paul Hanna is a former professor at Stanford University and is presently a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution. Mr. Hanna was an editor for the World Book Encyclopedia for many years. Jean Hanna, Paul's wife, also is a former professor. Their book on the Hanna-Honeycomb House was published earlier this year by MIT Press.