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Photos available by request

Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior

National touring exhibit at Elmhurst History Museum explores Wright's holistic approach to designing interiors

"Any building should be complete, including all within itself. Instead of many things one thing... No part of anything is of any great value except as it be an integrated part of the harmonious whole."

– Frank Lloyd Wright, *An Autobiography*, 1932

ELMHURST, IL — The Elmhurst History Museum announces the opening of "***Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior***," an exhibition exploring the interior design of Frank Lloyd Wright's houses, often considered his greatest architectural accomplishment. Through reproduction drawings, photographs, and photographic murals, the exhibit illustrates the myriad ways—both obvious and subtle—in which Wright created the visual character of interior space and objects within it, each an essential detail of the larger whole.

Organized and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, in cooperation with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, AZ, the exhibit will be on view at the **Elmhurst History Museum, located at 120 E. Park Ave. in Elmhurst, Illinois from October 23 through December 20, 2020**. The exhibit is sponsored locally by Feze Roofing and York Theatre/Classic Cinemas.

The Inside Story on Wright

House plans in the exhibit reveal the heart of Wright houses as a single, expansive space from which subordinate spaces extended outward in multiple directions, like spokes radiating outward from the hub

of a wheel. Porches and terraces, wings of bedrooms, and floor-to-ceiling walls of glass expanded the central hearth space to adjacent interior spaces, and to infinite space in the natural world beyond. By organizing the interior in this way, Wright increased the sense of generous living space anchored by the central core.

Drawings and photographs of interiors show the ingenious ways Wright maximized the feeling of open space while accommodating the various functions for daily living. This concept is exemplified in Wright's Robie House, located on the University of Chicago's campus in Hyde Park, where a single sightline extends from one end of the house to the other to visually connect all of the areas. Functional furnishings were built into the structure in order to free floor space, as evidenced by a photograph of a very small bedroom in the Mossberg House in South Bend, IN.

Wright's rejection of past styles led him to the contemporary visual language of abstraction and geometry. For Wright, this language had a deeper source as the structure and ornament of all forms in nature. Just as a living form is one entity in structure and ornament, so the house was to be a single whole in structure and expression. Wright used the term "organic" to convey his belief that structure, interior, furnishings and ornament should be as one. He conceived every feature of the house as a part expressing a single idea—from the structure, to the interior, to the smallest details.

Wright's objects are not decorated, but rather the character of the structure engages the viewer's senses of sight and touch by color, texture, pattern, contour, light and shadow. The works in "Architecture of the Interior" reveal how all elements in Wright's design express the overarching abstract geometric order of the house.

Complementary Exhibit at Elmhurst Art Museum

In addition to the Elmhurst History Museum's fall exhibit, the nearby Elmhurst Art Museum, located at 150 Cottage Hill Ave., will host a related exhibition, "**Wright Before the 'Lloyd,'**" from September 10-February 14, 2021. This exhibit is curated by Chicago's cultural historian, Tim Samuelson, and will feature architectural artifacts and images to weave together the story of Wright's early life and career before he made his indelible imprint on the world of architecture. For more information, visit www.elmhurstartmuseum.org.

"We are fortunate that the timing worked out so that we can present two Wright-themed exhibitions concurrently in Elmhurst this fall," said Dave Oberg, Elmhurst History Museum's Executive Director. "Wright's influence is so strong in the western suburbs and throughout the Chicago area, and we hope

this will provide a very special opportunity for visitors to experience two different perspectives on Wright—one from the interior and one from the exterior. We are grateful to partner with our neighbors at the Elmhurst Art Museum to make Elmhurst a destination for Wright enthusiasts this fall.”

To acknowledge the significance of the dual exhibits and to encourage visitors to experience both museum displays, the City of Elmhurst will designate Saturday, October 24, 2020 as “Frank Lloyd Wright Day in Elmhurst.”

Wright-related Programming

In alignment with “*Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior*” and current COVID-19 restrictions, the Elmhurst History Museum has planned a number of virtual programs to build on the exhibit’s themes.

- **November 1:** John Waters, Preservation Programs Manager at the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, will share images and insights into the spaces that Wright created, and discuss the importance of preserving the architect’s buildings for future generations. The link to this pre-recorded lecture will be available at elmhursthistory.org (in the Programs section) starting at 9:00 a.m. on November 1 through December 20, 2020.
- **November 5:** The Elmhurst Public Library will partner with the Elmhurst History Museum to present a virtual family workshop on Zoom, “Art Glass Made Wright,” on Thursday, November 5 at 4:30-5:30 p.m. The program is appropriate for children in grades 3 to 8 and will be facilitated by the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. Registration is required and available at elmlib.org starting on October 17.
- **November 15:** Dave Oberg will present a free Facebook Live Gallery Talk from the Elmhurst History Museum on Sunday, November 15 at 12:00 p.m. Oberg will share in-depth details about Wright and the exhibit, and participants are encouraged to submit questions during the talk.

More information on these programs can be found at elmhursthistory.org in the Programs section.

Make a Reservation to see “Architecture of the Interior”

“*Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior*” will be open from October 23 through December 20, 2020, at the Elmhurst History Museum, located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. Admission is free, and limited free parking is available. Reservations are required and visits are limited to one hour

with a maximum of 15 patrons. Face masks are mandatory for entry. For reservations and more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit the Museum's web site at www.elmhursthistory.org.

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The Elmhurst History Museum is a department of the City of Elmhurst supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. The Museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. General admission is free. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our web site at www.elmhursthistory.org.

Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior is organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, in cooperation with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, AZ. **International Arts & Artists** is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, art institutions and the public. Visit www.artsandartists.org

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation was established by Frank Lloyd Wright himself in 1940 to be a cultural and educational institution and the primary conservator of his work. The Foundation owns the national historic landmarks Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona and Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin. The Foundation stewards the vast Frank Lloyd Wright Archives; owns and manages the intellectual property for all of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs, drawings, plans, art, and other creations from his prolific 70-year career; and engages in a variety of meaningful outreach programs and partnerships. www.franklloydwright.org