

Frank Lloyd Wright
Reading Questions

“Prairie Architecture”

In this reading Wright addresses the Prairie House—the style of house he developed and which made him famous c. 1900. In some ways he follows Sullivan’s habit of poetic, lyrical language, but in other cases he is pretty direct. Read through the entire reading and try to determine the following:

What types of houses does he criticize? He claims that a house should be built for a specific place—what specific examples does he provide for houses built out in the Midwest?

He uses the word “shelter” frequently—what does that imply about the relationship of the house and family to the rest of society? In connection with this, what does he say about fireplaces?

What is a casement window and why does he prefer it over a sash window?

What is he arguing for when he writes about simplicity?

What does he mean about rooms being “boxes” and what is his alternative (and how does he defend it)?

What do you think of his “list” of what should and should not be part of a house?