

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE

Frank Lloyd Wright was an American architect who understood that cultural values could be created and conveyed through the development of space and structure. Architecture, according to Wright, should be designed to enrich the lives of its inhabitants. He believed that landscapes and structures should be developed to coexist in a harmonious environment, and inspire an intuitive connection between people and nature.

The objective of my research paper is to explore the concept, origins, and effects of "Organic Architecture" as a philosophy developed by Frank Lloyd Wright. I will be drawing upon Frank Lloyd Wright's book "The Nature House" to examine the origins and principles of organic architecture. In addition, I will use interviews (Wallace, 1957) and David Pearson's "The Breaking Wave: New Organic Architecture" to further investigate his philosophy.

As Wright was influenced by the philosophical theory of Transcendentalism, I will examine Naomi Uechi's article to demonstrate its roots in principles of organic architecture. In particular, Thoreau's concept of simplicity becomes evident in Wright's written and architectural designs.

Throughout his works, Wright was inspired by a Japanese concept that described the unity of objects, humans, and actions within a civilization. Wright's work was characterized by an all-encompassing plan, entailing a unification of everything from the materials used, the furniture designed, the shapes of structures, and the landscape. I will refer to Kevin Nute's book to discuss the significance of Japanese culture and ideas on Wright's concept of organic architecture. To Wright, the relationship between man and nature is not to be seen as a dichotomy, but as a congruous system.

Wright had once expressed a distaste in the development of European architecture in America (Klinkowitz, 2014). Utilizing architecture to promote his vision of the country, he pushed the limits of architecture and adapted innovative methods to foster the harmonious connection between people and the land (Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, 2004). I will use Jerome Klinkowitz's book "Frank Lloyd Wright and Manner of Thought" to discuss Wright's historical effects on American culture.

Taking cues from organic architecture principles, architects today aim to build more sustainably with the environment in mind. Wright's school of architecture fosters the minds of young architects, educating them to innovate and build into the future, with the understanding of Wright's architectural philosophy. A strong understanding of nature is instilled to the students of the school, which is exemplified by looking at the designs of the student shelters (Dirksen, 2014)

Today, the roots of sustainable architecture in North America could be traced back to Frank Lloyd Wright's philosophy of organic architecture. Drawing upon examples of his buildings, I will analyze the differences between sustainable and organic architecture to investigate his role as an "environmentalist" or "sustainable architect" before the beginning of the environmentalist movement in the mid-twentieth century. Although Wright did not call himself an environmentalist (Uechi, 2013), there is no doubt that his emphasis on the human relationship with the environment has influenced American attitudes towards nature.

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