

ARC405Y/505Y Frank Lloyd Wright and Modernism

Paper #2 – Critical Essay (minimum 1000 words)

You are a well-known architectural biographer living in 1932. You have already written about Wright's career during the Oak Park period. As a biographer, you presume that by the age of 65, Wright's career is nearing its conclusion and you want to define his contribution to American architecture before he is no longer alive. (Of course, you have no idea how much longer he may live.) You plan to analyze his work in the period after his return from the European sojourn. You intend to demonstrate how his work has developed after the Oak Park period.

By carefully considering the formal, spatial, ornamental, and typological qualities of Wright's work from 1910/11 to 1931/32, determine what aspects of his early work can still be discerned in this later period. What new qualities, concepts, or formal features have come into play in the meantime? Where has he been especially innovative and inventive during this more recent period? Where has his work been disappointing? Where has it been problematic? How has Wright's personal life affected (and/or been affected) by his work?

Naturally, you cannot write about every single building Wright has built or designed during this period. However, it is important that you make an effort to demonstrate the range of his work by point out the most worthy or characteristic examples in a range of possibilities. Use evidence from Brendan Gill's *Many Masks* and Friedland and Zellman's *The Fellowship* as well as from class lectures to support your argument.

Remember the fundamental law of biographical research and writing: tell the truth.

- I will suggest the rubrics for this paper in class.
- Please use the graphics standards published on the course web site.
- Due date: Friday, March 7, in class