Garage Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses, relatively modest single-family residences built between 1935 and 1964, pose unique challenges for 21st century preservationists. First, while often individually more spacious and luxurious residences. This research posits that a preserved Usonian house can be regarded as an object that both represents and generates social discourse. These sets of beliefs and geographical distribution prevents fully leveraging proven preservation tools such as historic district designations. Third, their modest physical scales place them at risk for demolition or removal in favor of...
Frank Lloyd Wright: Designing Democratic America

From his earliest days, Frank Lloyd Wright wanted to be an architect. More than that, he wanted to create a truly Democratic American Architecture.

He achieved half of that goal in his Prairie designs. But only half. To Wright, Prairie was, ultimately, a failure. Why? Because it catered to the rich, and was unaffordable to the middle-class and working-class people of America.

In 1909 Wright decamped to Europe and wrote his homage to, and epitaph for, the Prairie School, his Wasmuth Portfolio. Upon returning to American he set out to create the Democratic element in his architecture, and a new architectural style, in response to the new America of the 1930s.

Designing Democratic America is the first study to state and prove the SOURCE of Wright's inspiration for his residential designs; abstraction. First in geometry in the Prairie era, then from the site itself and the climate and region.

The proof of this is in Wright's statement to Milton Stricker, one of whose chapters in his own book (never published, but which I edited and formatted) is presented in this book. 2. Designing Democratic America was the first study to state that Wright's Prairie designs were in fact failures, and that his Usonian designs were a complete success.

This book is about that ascension from Prairie to Usonian, his Democratic American architecture, and its fulfillment. It draws upon the reference standard, The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion but, in arranging the materials around design themes, makes what in the Companion is often technical, here open to the neophyte. Yet, in the process of doing so, the author also reveals new insights to the best-read Wrightian.

There are further delights in the graphics of the book. The plans from the Companion are here reoriented so that north is always at the top, making for easy comprehension of Wright's use of the sun by even those who previously blanched at trying to read a plan. The appendix with same-size plans of all Usonian houses in its approach to Wright's source of creativity, it offers new insights to the best-read Wrightian. There are further delights in the graphics of the book. The plans from the Companion are here reoriented so that north is always at the top, making for easy comprehension of Wright's use of the sun by even those who previously blanched at trying to read a plan. The appendix with same-size plans of all Usonian houses

Democratic America is the ONLY study to offer the entire Usonian era residential work in full color and with plans.3. The plans are oriented with north always at the top. Even those with no knowledge of architectural drawing practices can quickly recognize how the sun falls on the building. 4. This book is the first to include the entire Usonian opus in logical design groupings (Storrer's Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian Companion was the first to include all of Usonia with plans, but was nominally chronological) by plan topology. No other book on Usonia covers even half of the Usonian opus.5. This book is the first to show all the Usonia houses in their natural settings.

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