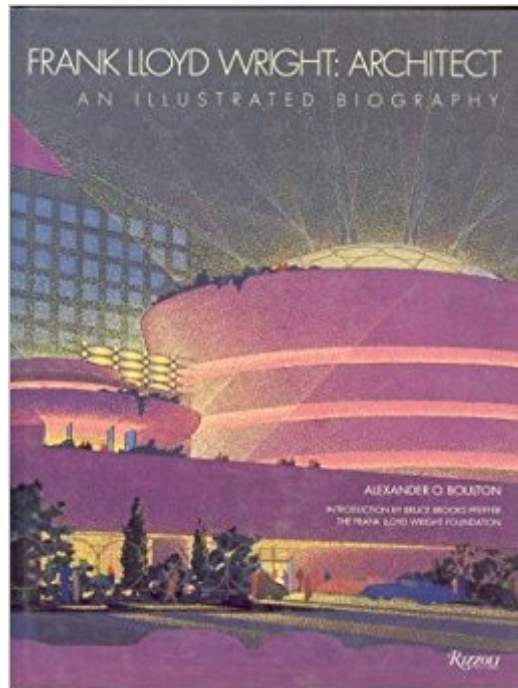




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Frank Lloyd Wright: Architect: An Illustrated Biography



Synopsis

Traces the life and work of the twentieth-century American architect who called his innovative ideas "organic architecture".

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Hardcover: 28 pages

Publisher: Rizzoli (August 15, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0847816834

ISBN-13: 978-0847816835

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 8.8 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Gr. 8-12. There are many adult books about Wright, including one just out from the same publisher (Frank Lloyd Wright: The Masterworks), but this handsomely designed, large-size volume is an exciting introduction to Wright's life and work. In considerable detail and without condescension, Boulton shows how Wright changed forever contemporary architecture with his radical approach to creating a uniquely American design for homes and buildings--a design that included an open plan; the use of steel, reinforced concrete, and plate glass; and a harmony with the natural environment. This is also an art book: interspersed throughout the spacious text are many fine reproductions of Wright's drawings and color photographs of his famous homes and buildings. His life story, including the scandal that surrounded his private life, is presented in a straightforward style. Most moving are the quotes from Wright himself, which reveal his creative genius, his arrogance ("Yes, I intend to be the greatest architect of all time"), and his political idealism ("I don't build a house without predicting the end of the present social order"). There are no source notes, but Boulton ends with a detailed chronology and glossary and an annotated bibliography. Hazel Rochman

A handsome, large-sized volume, attractively illustrated with photos, Wright's own drawings, and decorative designs based on his works, but one whose audience is a bit problematic. Boulton's account of Wright's early life seems to be addressed to young people; the architect's personal life as an adult (a typical genius, he was irresponsible with money, left a wife and six children, and had relationships with three more women; some assistants were notably loyal, but he was such an idiosyncratic autocrat that others found him impossible) is narrated in a forthright, nonjudgmental style. But the author's assessment of Wright as an architect verges on scholarly--anyone not already versed in art history will find it difficult, even with the help of the glossary of technical terms, key figures, etc. Also, though the illustrations are fine as far as they go, there are intriguing descriptions of buildings that, frustratingly, are not shown; and while the spidery sans-serif is in harmony with Wright's style, it's not easy to read, especially in large blocks. Still, for the informed reader, a coherent, intelligent portrayal of an extraordinarily fecund imagination, and of the evolution of Wright's architectural innovations and their importance in architectural history. Chronology; glossary; bibliography; index. (Nonfiction. YA+) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

As promised.

Not only is this book a cool pop-up book - with the designs depicted in 3 dimensions in their corresponding environments - but in addition to several color photographs, there's also architectural drawings of each design, plus Wright's sketches of the completed work in color! Finally, several of the pictures are aerial photographs from overhead, so you really gain an understanding of the overall shape and form of each building. While this book only focuses on 6 of Wright's best known projects, it delivers a perfect snapshot of his definitive style and provides an in-depth overview of his greatest works. I bought this for my, then 8 year old son, and he loves it! A confirmed "architect in training," he pulls it out from time to time and studies all the pictures. He's learned so much about Wright and has memorized the names and styles of his buildings. He can even see other Wright projects (not depicted in this book) and determined who designed them. So if you're a devotee of the master, or have a child with a budding interest in the architecture, this book provides a comprehensive view of Wright's work in picture, illustration, blueprint and model (albeit paper).

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