

The Museum of Modern Art

EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH *FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AT 150: UNPACKING THE ARCHIVE*

NEW YORK, May 24, 2017—The Museum of Modern Art presents a variety of events and educational programs in conjunction with *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive* (June 12–October 1, 2017), a major exhibition encompassing Wright's multifaceted work as one of the most prolific and renowned architects of the 20th century.

The People's Studio: Design, Experiment, Build invites visitors to think like designers and explore architecture through themes connected to community, nature, and the integration of art and daily life. Visitors can browse resources, try their hand at drawing and drafting techniques, create with building and design materials, and participate in workshops, conversations, and other experiences developed in collaboration with artists, architects, and designers. For those interested in exploring the works and themes highlighted in the exhibition more deeply, several four-week classes focus on Wright's techniques and processes through the lens of his extensive archive.

MoMA STUDIO

The People's Studio: Design, Experiment, Build

June 12–October 1, 2017

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Activities and events build on the educational principles behind the Taliesin Fellowship, Frank Lloyd Wright's teaching program at his home and studio, and make connections to the progressive teaching practices of Black Mountain College and MoMA's own history as a place of learning. The inclusive, collaborative atmosphere of the People's Studio is inspired by these pivotal moments in modern-art education and the belief that learning should be achieved through active, hands-on experiences that promote social exchange.

Open during regular Museum hours. Free with Museum admission and open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

HEARING LOOPS: In order to serve visitors with hearing loss, The People's Studio: Design, Experiment, Build includes induction hearing loops for sound amplification. Visitors to the installation can turn their hearing aid or cochlear implant to T-Coil mode to hear enhanced sound effortlessly.

Learning Communities in Modern Art and Design

Monday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.

In conjunction with the opening of the People's Studio: Design, Experiment, Build, a new education space in the Museum, this panel discussion examines three case studies in experimental education that have greatly influenced subsequent generations of learners and educators. Closely tied to the exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*, this program offers multiple perspectives on the relationship that artists, architects, and designers have long had with educational techniques.

Presenters include Jennifer Gray, Project Research Assistant, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art; Eva Diaz, Associate Professor of History of Art and Design, Pratt Institute; and Wendy Woon, The Edward John Noble Foundation Deputy Director for Education, The Museum of Modern Art. The conversation will be moderated by Ellen Lupton, Curator of Contemporary Design, Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, and Director, Graphic Design MFA Program, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA); with an introduction by Barry Bergdoll, Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art. Carol Becker, Dean of Faculty and Professor of the Arts, Columbia University School of the Arts, will be a respondent.

Tickets (\$15; \$10 members and corporate members; \$5 students, seniors, and staff of other museums) can be purchased online or at the information desk, at the film desk after 4:00 p.m., or at the Education and Research Building reception desk on the day of the program.

MoMA CLASSES

Behind the Scenes: Constructing Frank Lloyd Wright

Four Thursdays: June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20

Frank Lloyd Wright's notoriety almost makes a critical reexamination of his work impossible. Arguably the most prolific architect of the 20th century, he was also the first celebrity architect—a savvy self-marketer who recognized the power of media to advance his ambitions, carefully staging photographs, installations, and stories to cultivate a particular public image. What new ideas could possibly be advanced about such a renowned, well-known figure? This course investigates curatorial and historical strategies for deconstructing Wright, and considers the roles conservation, archival practices, and historical preservation play in shaping our understanding of his work. Conversations with curators and conservators and a trip to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives will complement visits to the MoMA exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*. In addition to learning about Wright's practice, we will learn about the process of historical inquiry and how new knowledge is produced.

This course is designed to complement [Original Histories: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Birth of Modernism](#). The course is instructed by Jennifer Gray (PhD, Columbia University), a historian of modern art and architecture specializing in the relationships between social politics and the built environment. She is a Project Research Assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design and a lecturer at The Museum of Modern Art, an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University, and co-curator of the exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*.

Non Member: \$355; Member: \$325; Student/Educator/Corporate Member employees: \$250
Space is limited; to register for classes, visit moma.org/courses.

Original Histories: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Birth of Modernism

Three Tuesdays: June 27, July 11, July 18 (no class on July 4)

Explore the visionary practice of Frank Lloyd Wright through critical inquiries centered on race and cultural identity, landscape and the politics of nativism, ornament, industry, and social democracy. Wright was a generator and conduit of modern ideas; he traveled extensively throughout Europe, the USSR, Asia, and South America; designed over a thousand projects during his lifetime; and published hundreds of articles and books. He established an architectural school called the Taliesin Fellowship, which functioned as a laboratory of innovative design, progressive educational practices, and collective living. His politics and architectural philosophies challenged existing social and economic structures, even as he pioneered radical engineering solutions and prefabricated construction systems that challenged the building industry. This course is based on close investigation of original drawings, models, photographs, films, and other primary, archival materials presented in the exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*. The aim is to open up Wright's work to questions and debates, and to understand the complexity and relevance of this singular figure.

This course is designed to complement [Behind the Scenes: Constructing Frank Lloyd Wright](#). The course is instructed by Jennifer Gray (PhD, Columbia University). She is a Project Research Assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design and a lecturer at The Museum of Modern Art, an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University, and co-curator of the exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*.

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CONVERSATION PROGRAM

Frank Lloyd Wright and the Natural World

Tuesday, June 13, and Wednesday, June 14, 12:30 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

Join curators Jennifer Gray and Ken Tadashi Oshima for a special tour and discussion of [Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive](#), focusing on Wright's many dynamic, complex, and sometimes contradictory connections to the natural world. The conversation will explore Wright's avid interest in farms and productive landscapes; his approach to nature, plants, and indigenous landscapes; and his fascination with Japanese gardens and their impact on his own landscape designs. Special attention will be paid to his use of framed interior views of gardens, which resonates with MoMA's own relationship between the Museum's interior spaces and the Sculpture Garden.

This event meets in the People's Studio on Floor 3 and is free for members and Museum ticket holders. No registration is required.

AGORA

June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 3:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

These events meet in the People's Studio on Floor 3 and are free for members and Museum ticket holders. No registration is required.

In ancient Greece, the *agora* was an outdoor gathering place where students learned from philosophers who posed moral, social, cultural, and political questions. Our take on these open forums invites discussion about art and design in our world through a series of open-ended questions. Taking place in the People's Studio and moderated by MoMA educators, this summer's theme is "the city."

Topics:

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

3:00–4:00 p.m.
Petra Pankow
Can Cities Save the World?

Wednesday, July 5, 2017
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Jane Royal
How Should Cities Support Community?

Wednesday, July 12, 2017
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Paula Stuttman
How Do Artists Transform Cities?

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Lauren Kaplan
What Makes a City Livable?

Wednesday, July 26, 2017
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Diana Bush
Should We Live in Cities?

Wednesday, August 2, 2017
3:00–4:00 p.m.
Petra Pankow
Are We Defined by Where We Live?

DRAWING SESSIONS

Drawing Sessions meet in the People’s Studio on Floor 3 and are free for members and Museum ticket holders. No registration is required.

Drawing Session: Nature Patterns in the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright

Led by Corey D’Augustine

June 27, 1:00 p.m., July 11, July 25, August 8, 2:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

Frank Lloyd Wright found inspiration in nature, writing, “When I say Nature, I mean inherent *structure* seen always by the architect as a matter of complete design.” This session will use the same drawing exercises through which Wright and his students translated natural forms into abstract patterns, which then became generative concepts for many of his architectural projects. Participants will explore a series of drawing techniques through the careful observation of plants and stones.

Drawing Session: Thinking like Frank Lloyd Wright

Led by Paula Stuttman

September 5, September 19, 2:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

Frank Lloyd Wright believed that a building should exist in harmony with its surrounding space, and the outside environment should be reflected inside the structure. This is an aspect of what Wright called “organic architecture.” In this collaborative activity participants will employ Wright’s theories in designing our own building for a chosen site.

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS

Thursdays, 1:00–2:30 p.m. and 3:30–5:00 p.m.

All workshops are free with admission. Not appropriate for children under 10. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins half an hour prior to each workshop.

Paper Construction Workshop with Fritz Horstman

June 22, 1:00–2:30 p.m., 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

In this workshop participants will experiment with form, structure, and design principles using the simplest of materials: paper. As part of the People's Studio's special focus on Black Mountain College, the experimental art school in North Carolina (1933–57), the workshop draws on the teaching of artist Josef Albers, who was an influential instructor there. Albers considered material knowledge and manual skill to be of the utmost importance. Principles of structural strength, rhythm, precision, and a material's tendencies and limitations are the focus of these exercises.

Graphic Design Workshop: Frank Lloyd Wright's Language of Ornament with Ellen Lupton

June 29, July 20, July 27, 1:00–2:30 p.m., 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

As a young boy, Frank Lloyd Wright had a letterpress print shop in his basement, and his early experiments with printing and typography fueled a lifelong interest in two-dimensional design. Throughout his career, Wright designed extraordinary lettering, books, posters, illustrations, magazine covers, real estate brochures, architectural ornaments, and stained glass windows. Wright was also fascinated by Japanese prints and by Owen Jones's *Grammar of Ornament*, a 19th-century text that sought to uncover universal laws of decoration. An avid photographer, Wright used the camera to study plant life, and many of his two-dimensional works translate this natural imagery into tightly structured geometric designs.

This workshop explores Wright's engagement with graphic design, employing rigorous design principles through a process that is playful and approachable. Participants create designs using Wright's favorite two-dimensional design tools: ruler, triangle, compass, and colored pencils. Any visitor should be able to achieve satisfying, mind-opening results by actively exploring the intellectual logic behind Wright's designs.

Architecture in Play: Froebel Gifts and the Principles of Design with Fritz Horstman

August 3 and 10, 1:00–2:30 p.m., 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

Friedrich Froebel was an influential German educational theorist who invented the concept of the kindergarten. His "gifts" are a series of toys that allow children to build and experiment with forms, structures, and shapes. Frank Lloyd Wright played with these toys as a child and credited them as an influence on his development as an architect. He believed that they introduce central principles of design. In this workshop, participants will discover Froebel's "peas gift," which brings together point and line to make three-dimensional forms. Soft peas or other materials are used as nodes in which toothpicks can be inserted to construct crystal-like structures.

Democracy in Print Workshop with Kerry Downey

August 31 and September 7, 1:00–2:30 p.m., 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

Frank Lloyd Wright believed that life and art should be fully integrated and education should be attained through experience. At Taliesin, the school he founded with his wife Olgivanna in his Wisconsin home and studio in 1932, students lived and worked together. Their architecture training was combined with learning practical skills, and studying other artistic mediums, politics, and the humanities. One result of this interdisciplinary environment is the Taliesin Square Papers, publications that include short texts in which Wright discussed the politics of the time and his own views on fostering American democracy. In this workshop, participants will design their own pamphlets and voice their own opinions about contemporary democracy. Emphasizing the Taliesin value of working directly with one's

hands, participants will learn the pamphlet-stitch, a simple bookbinding technique. Also in keeping with Wright's educational ideals, this workshop will encourage participants to use the pamphlet as a space to play and experiment with different ideas and materials.

Organic Architecture Today: Mushroom Bricks Workshop with David Benjamin

September 21 and 28, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Floor 3, Exhibition Galleries

In this two-session workshop participants will work with a new type of sustainable material made from agricultural waste and mycelium, the branching, rootlike structure of mushrooms. Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's interest in plant structures and integrating buildings into their natural environments, we will consider what organic architecture means in the age of biotechnology. In the first session, on September 21, participants will learn about mycelium, how it has been used in architectural projects, and the wider ecological ideas involved. They will then design their own object and create a mold, which will be 3-D printed offsite. In the second session, on September 28, participants will learn how to grow the mycelium material inside their molds and take their objects home. No design, fabrication, or software knowledge is required.

Please note that this workshop takes place over two sessions over consecutive weeks. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions.

Space is limited. Not appropriate for children under 10. Free with museum admission, but a separate ticket, available online beginning August 21, is required. Drop-ins on the day of the program will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis in the People's Studio, beginning 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

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EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORSHIP

Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive is organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

Organized by Barry Bergdoll, Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University; with Jennifer Gray, Project Research Assistant, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art.

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Additional support is provided by the Annual Exhibition Fund.