WELCOME TO TALIESIN:
PART OF A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Dear Media Partner,

As Frank Lloyd Wright’s home and studio for nearly 50 years and the birthplace of his most iconic designs, Taliesin is the largest and most personal anthology of Wright’s works. Taliesin gives us a glimpse into his unique design ethos and architectural development over the span of an impressive 70-year career. When touring Wright’s living laboratory, you will see prototypes from several famous projects and a stylistic blend of buildings from nearly every decade of his life, all carefully restored to their 1959 appearance.

Taliesin Preservation ensures Wright’s Taliesin will always be a product of its time and place, and actively fosters creative endeavors and progressive thinking through engaging public programming. When immersing at Taliesin, visitors find renewed perspective and learn to see the world through Wright’s eyes.

We invite you to visit us in person as part of your editorial research, and if you need to develop stories, we have provided some on page 16. We are happy to share stock images and, with advanced notice, can provide media access for photography.

Join us in sharing the story of the future by preserving the past.

PHOTO BY TIM LONG
Taliesin is the home, studio, school, and 800-acre property of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Spring Green, Wisconsin. With buildings from nearly every decade of his career, Taliesin is one of the most significant architectural anthologies in the world. In 1976, Taliesin became a National Historic Landmark, and in 2019, it was designated as part of a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

Built on his familial homestead, Taliesin’s roots date back to the 1800s when Wright’s ancestors emigrated from Wales to Wisconsin in search of a better life. Throughout his career, the surrounding Lloyd Jones Valley served as Wright’s inspiration, especially when he constructed his residence, built to blend harmoniously with the surrounding environment.

Over time, Taliesin became a flourishing campus where thousands came to learn Wright’s principles of organic architecture. Wright relied on integrated systems at his rural laboratory – where nature, architecture, agriculture, and culture worked together to nurture personal development. These continue to shape Taliesin culture today.

By creating space for guests to immerse in architecture, culture, agriculture, and nature and view the world through Wright’s lens, we aim to demonstrate a responsibility to place and inspire living a more beautiful life.
HOW MIGHT WE LIVE NOW?

For over 100 years, Taliesin has been a laboratory for people of diverse backgrounds to gather, experiment with materials and space, and identify an architecture for America.

Taliesin Preservation carries on Wright’s legacy for the 21st Century, believing that learning by doing is crucial to individual growth.

We fulfill our mission by:

• Gathering and questioning
• Learning and teaching new ideas
• Experimenting and innovating
• Providing ongoing historic preservation resources for Taliesin’s buildings and natural and cultural landscapes

Our activities allow guests a unique opportunity to engage and impact participants by:

• ADVANCING organic living as a way to approach everyday life at the convergence of the natural, built, and cultural environments;
• EXPANDING social networks of participants through programming, preservation, and conservation; and
• INCREASING knowledge to think critically of our environments and foster change for our communities and economies.

“We are all here to develop a life more beautiful, more concordant, more fully expressive of our sense of pride and joy than ever before in the world.”

—Frank Lloyd Wright, 1957

SETTING THE STAGE

THE DRIFTLESS AREA

The Driftless Area is a topographical and cultural region of the American Midwest, comprising southwestern Wisconsin, parts of unique with fertile soil, and is characterized by steep hills, forested ridges, deeply carved river valleys and spring-fed waterfalls and cold-water trout streams. This area is unique because it was left untouched by the advances of glacial ice during the last Ice Age. The glaciers drastically changed the landscape as they advanced. When they retreated around 10,000 years ago, they left behind vast amounts of rock material known as glacial drift. This corner of Wisconsin, never covered by the ice, is lacking in glacial drift, hence the word “Driftless.”

THE WISCONSIN RIVER

The Wisconsin River is a tributary of the Mississippi River that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Its name is rooted in the area’s Native American Algonquian languages. It is the state’s longest river from north to south, beginning in northern Wisconsin and ending in Dubuque, Iowa.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

The land now occupied by Taliesin and Riverview Terrace is on the unceded ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk and other nations. The area served as a center for the First Peoples to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties.

We feel a profound responsibility to support and strengthen Indigenous sovereignty as part of acknowledging this land. We commit to telling the story of the Ho-Chunk and other indigenous communities of Wisconsin who live here and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands.
1867 Frank Lloyd Wright is born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, to Anna Lloyd Jones and William Carey Wright.
1886 Unity Chapel was completed by architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee and apprentice Wright at age 18.
1887 Wright’s “Home Building” for the Hillside Home School, run by Wright’s aunts, Jane and Nell, is completed.
1897 Wright’s Romeo and Juliet Windmill completed for the Hillside Home School.
1903 Wright’s Hillside Home School is completed.
1908 Wright’s Tan-y-Deri residence completed for Andrew and Jane Porter, Wright’s sister.
1911 Anna Lloyd Jones purchases 31.65 acres in Wyoming Valley for Wright and Mamah Borthwick on Wright’s favorite boyhood hill; Wright is 44 and moves to Taliesin with Mamah Borthwick in December of that year; Construction starts on Taliesin I.
1914 The living quarters of Taliesin I are lost in a fire due to arson, and seven lives are lost, including Mamah Borthwick; Construction starts on Taliesin II.
1915 Taliesin II is completed; Hillside Home School closes.
1922 Wright acquires the Hillside Home School property.
1925 Taliesin II burns in an electrical fire; Taliesin III is constructed.
1932 Taliesin Fellowship is established for architectural apprentices.
1935 Wright designs Fallingwater in the Taliesin Drafting Studio.
1938 Wright purchases land in Scottsdale, Arizona, and designs Taliesin West; Annual migration begins.
1939 Hillside Drafting Studio Completed (Started 1932)
1943 Wright produces sketches of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum at Taliesin.
1949 Midway Barn is completed (after 20 years of construction).
1950 Wright directs the demolition of Hillside Home School “Home Building.”
1952 A fire destroys the Hillside Home School’s southern wing; immediate construction starts on the Hillside Theater and Dining Room.
1953 Construction begins on Riverview Terrace, known now as the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center; Construction halts temporarily in 1959.
1955 Hillside Theater and Dining Room construction completed; Wright is 88.
1959 Wright dies in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 91; Guggenheim, Marin County Civic Center, and numerous residences are under construction.
1967 Riverview Terrace opens as The Spring Green restaurant (now known as the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center).
1976 Taliesin is declared a National Historic Landmark.
1992 Taliesin Preservation reconstructs the Romeo and Juliet Windmill with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.
1993 Taliesin Preservation is established with a loan from the Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA); Taliesin Preservation acquires The Spring Green restaurant and converts it to the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center.
1998 The 229-year-old Tea Circle oak tree falls on the roof of Wright’s Taliesin Drafting Studio.
2000 Preservation of Wright’s Taliesin Drafting Studio completed.
2010 The bedroom of Wright’s widow, Olgivanna Lloyd Wright, is completely restored and opened to the public.
2011 Taliesin celebrates its 100th anniversary and is removed from the list of America’s most endangered buildings by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
2015 Preservation of the Loggia was completed and opened to the public after nearly 20 years.
2017 The 150th anniversary of the birth of Frank Lloyd Wright; Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center celebrates its 50th anniversary; Tan-y-Deri interior and exterior restoration completed.
2018 Taliesin Preservation celebrates its 25th anniversary; Taliesin Preservation wins the WI Governor’s Tourism Award for Arts, Culture, and Heritage;
2019 Taliesin becomes part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site for the 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright; Taliesin Preservation wins the Trustees Emeritus Award for Historic Site Stewardship from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
2020 The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture changes its name to The School of Architecture and moves to Acrosonti in Arizona.
2023 Taliesin Preservation celebrates 30 years.
Unity Chapel is a shingle-style chapel designed by Joseph Lyman Silsbee of Chicago, IL. Wright’s uncle and Unitarian minister, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, commissioned the chapel, and Frank Lloyd Wright designed the interior at 18 years old. Unity Chapel is Wright’s earliest work. A family cemetery outside includes the Lloyd Jones family’s gravesites, including Wright’s original plot. Unity Chapel today remains operated by the Lloyd Jones family. The exterior is accessible to the public.

Wright’s aunts commissioned the Romeo and Juliet Windmill to pump water for their co-educational boarding school, and Wright offered them a striking observatory tower of wood. The design features two intersecting towers, with Romeo as a triangular storm prow and an octagonal Juliet. The aerodynamic structure allows storm winds to wrap around the towers without causing harm. In 1992 Taliesin Preservation fully restored the windmill as its first project on the Taliesin estate, in partnership with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Wright designed Tan-y-Deri as a residence for his sister, Jane Porter, and her family. The Porters worked for the Hillside Home School, just downhill. Welsh for “under the oaks,” Tan-y-Deri sits on a hill adjacent to Taliesin. The design was based on “A Fireproof House for $5000,” featured in a Ladies Home Journal article. Tan-y-Deri underwent a comprehensive interior and exterior restoration completed in 2017.

Wright’s home and studio was a laboratory for architecture and design. Taliesin embodies Wright’s organic architecture ideas in its three iterations — a departure from earlier Prairie School works. From the courtyards and gardens to the Living Room, Loggia, and Birdwalk, Taliesin offers a commanding view of the valley, settled by Wright’s Welsh ancestors. Using natural local limestone and Wisconsin River sand, Taliesin stands as the “shining brow” on Wright’s favorite boyhood hill.

Midway Barn is between Taliesin and Hillside School. Stepping down the hill, it served as the center of agriculture for the property beginning in the 1920s. Midway grew as operations expanded through the decades, with the spired Milking Tower as Wright’s “ode to the Guernsey teat.”

The complex of buildings at Hillside includes spaces from across Wright’s career as a designer: the “abstract forest” drafting studio (1932), the Hillside Assembly Hall (1903), the Hillside Theatre (1955), and the Fellowship dining hall (1955). Hillside is the former home of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, and students used to reside here from mid-May through mid-October. The Assembly Hall exemplifies Wright’s strides to “destroy the box” of traditional architectural design. The Hillside Theatre includes a curtain adapted from a Wright-designed geometric abstraction of the Taliesin landscape.

Wright designed the Riverview Terrace in 1953 as a “gateway to Taliesin” that would house a restaurant, offices, and meeting space for the architects at Taliesin. Construction began under Wright’s supervision and stalled upon Wright’s death in 1959. In 1967, the Riverview Terrace opened as The Spring Green restaurant as part of an investment in developing an arts community in Spring Green along the Wisconsin River. Taliesin Preservation purchased the building in 1990 and adapted it to serve as the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center.
TALIESIN GIFT SHOP

We offer a wide variety of home essentials, Frank Lloyd Wright licensed products, and gifts made locally by Driftless Area artisans. To continue to be an economic driver of the Driftless Region, we are collaborating with local artisans and craftspeople to feature beautiful handcrafted items and exclusive artwork inspired by the beauty of the Driftless Region and Taliesin.

TaliesinPreservation.org/Shop

HOST AN EVENT

When you rent our spaces, you preserve this place.

Riverview Terrace at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and select spaces on the Taliesin property are available for private rental. Treat your guests to an unforgettable experience at your next corporate retreat, board meeting, cocktail party, wedding, or social celebration.

TaliesinPreservation.org/PrivateEvents

PLACED-BASED EDUCATION

We build bridges between students and architecture.

Taliesin Preservation's educational programming makes learning about architecture, art, and nature exciting and accessible. Our student-focused approach enables us to accommodate different learning styles, to meet kids where they are.

Architecture, rooted in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Math), helps students understand how interconnected the world is. Our programs are designed to give students the ability and access to develop their skills to reach their full potential.

We proudly offer educational programs at Taliesin, in schools, and at home to help all students experience Taliesin. Program participants take away a greater understanding of how Wright's principles of Organic Architecture are embedded at Taliesin and learn the importance of sustaining harmonious relationships between the natural and built environments. Students are guided in a variety of immersive experiences that expand insight, excitement, and engagement and change how they think about the world around them.

ARTS & CULTURE

To ensure authentic interaction with the buildings, land, and Taliesin culture of creativity, our public programming embraces in-person experiences.

We host overnight workshops, speaker salons, and exhibitions taught by leading professionals in diverse fields.

For a truly immersive and exploratory experience, we host overnight workshops allowing participants to stay in the historic spaces that Wright and the Fellowship created.
From organizational updates, preservation progress, and media coverage, the Taliesin News page is a great starting point for new stories and behind-the-scenes content. For the latest news, stay in touch with us by signing up for our e-newsletter or follow us on social media @taliesinwi.

Whether you need story ideas, photo galleries, fact-checking, site visits, or interviews, contact us at communications@taliesinpreservation.org.

Restoration continues on the Hillside Theatre, a project announced by Taliesin Preservation and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in 2018 following funding from the National Park Service. The historic theatre once boasted regular productions performed by Frank Lloyd Wright Fellowship members, in line with Wright’s holistic approach to education. Soon the theater will be revived to its former glory, with public performances expected in 2024.

Relaunched in 2023 with a new website, this architectural driving tour is a perfect way to explore Wright’s significant impact on his home state of Wisconsin. Visit nine Wright-designed buildings across 200 miles in the southern portion of the state. With the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail Tracker or newly updated App, roadtrippers can preplan their visit from the palm of their hand. Visit FrankLloydWrightTrail.org and plan your trip today.

Free and open to the public year round, the Welsh Hills Trail offers visitors an opportunity to immerse in the nature that inspired Frank Lloyd Wright’s organic architecture. The relatively flat mile-long path traverses slopes adjacent to Taliesin, affording hikers a unique perspective of the Taliesin property and the ongoing ecological restoration of the historic landscape. The marked trail originates at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and ends at Unity Chapel. Hikers can return on the same trail or take the paved recreational trail along Highway 23 back to the visitor center.