How to Research Your FLW Building
Avery Library and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

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Overview

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Introduction by Hannah Bennett, Director of Avery Library

Avery Library history and background by Jenny Davis, Public Services Librarian for Avery Library

Drawings & Archives overview, history of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives, and how to research your Wright building using the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives by Pamela Casey and Shelley Hayreh, Archivists at Avery Drawings & Archives
Avery Library was established in 1890, and named for Henry Ogden Avery, a young New York architect and friend of Robert Ware, the founder of the Department of Architecture at Columbia.

After Henry Ogden Avery’s premature death, his parents Samuel Putnam Avery and Mary Ogden Avery established the library as a memorial to their son. They offered his personal collection of 2,000 books, original drawings, and an endowment to ensure the future growth of the collection.

In 1912, Avery moved into its present McKim, Mead & White building, Avery Hall, which also houses the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.
Avery Library today

Our research collection consists of over 650,000 volumes and 1,300 periodicals, and covers a wide range of subject areas related to the built environment and fine arts: archaeology, architecture, art history, city planning, decorative arts, design, historic preservation, landscape architecture, painting, photography, real estate development, and sculpture.

These materials cover all time periods, languages, and geographic areas.
How do we build our research collections?

- Avery Librarians collaborate with librarians in Global Studies to collect across all geographic areas and languages.
- Our holdings support the curricula of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation and the Department of Art History and Archaeology.
- Recommendations from our users also help to shape our collections.
- We actively work to collect new formats, such as web archives.
A comprehensive listing of journal articles on architecture and design, including the history and practice of architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, historic preservation, and interior design and decoration. The Avery Index is an essential tool for many researchers in these areas.

The index began in 1934 as a card file, was published in print for the first time in 1963, and is now searchable through online database platforms.
Avery special collections: Drawings & Archives

Archival special collections of drawings, photographs, and architectural records documenting architecture and design practices.

900+ collections focus largely on American and New York City architecture of the 19th and 20th centuries.
Avery special collections: Avery Classics

Avery Classics is one of the largest architectural rare book collections in the world.

About 40,000 printed volumes published over seven centuries, important holdings of graphic suites, periodicals, manuscripts, broadsides, photographs, and printed ephemera.
Avery special collections: Art Properties

The **Art Properties** collection comprises more than 13,000 works of art in all media, reflects nearly all cultures and time periods. Researchers may make appointments to view and study most works from the collection with advance notice. Art work is displayed in selective locations on each campus and storage.
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives at Avery Drawings & Archives

Who we are and what we do

History of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

Collections in the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

Resources for homeowners:

Online collection page, finding aids, ArtStor

Current services (pandemic restrictions)
Drawings & Archives at Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

The Department of Drawings & Archives is an architectural archive within Avery Library that documents architecture and design practices.

Collection strengths are **19th and 20th century New York City and American Architecture.**


In 2012, Drawings & Archives acquired **The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives** in partnership with the Museum of Modern Art.
Our goal is to connect users to our collections, and guide them to what is available for research.

We support a diverse research community that includes: students, scholars, architects, historic preservationists, exhibition curators, and homeowners.

Typical services include: on-site research appointments for the public, classes and instruction sessions, imaging services, and exhibition loans.
History of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

1893: Wright opens his practice in Chicago

1897 to 1925: Wright moves four times and suffers two catastrophic fires

1940: Wright establishes the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, repository of drawings created

1959: Wright dies, and his manuscripts and correspondence are added to the archive
FLWF Archives
Post-Custodial History

1985: Olgivanna Lloyd Wright dies; vaults are built at Taliesin West and systematic cataloging begins

1988: *Index to the Taliesin Correspondence* is published

1992/3: *Frank Lloyd Wright Collected Writings* and *Frank Lloyd Wright: the master works* is published

2012: Avery Library and the Museum of Modern Art acquire the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

2013: Avery Drawings & Archives opens the archive to the public
Collections in the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

Core Collections (pre-1959):

❖ Architectural drawings
❖ Books and publications
❖ Correspondence
❖ Exhibition files
❖ Fellowship Talk recordings
❖ Fellowship Talk transcripts
❖ Films
❖ Manuscripts
❖ Personal and Taliesin Fellowship photographs
❖ Project photographs
❖ Specifications
❖ Family papers and ephemera

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) has been recognized by the American Institute of Architects as "the greatest American architect of all time" and throughout its distinguished history, Avery Library has comprehensively collected materials by and about Frank Lloyd Wright. From his first published work to his drawings and papers, to comprehensive coverage of the critical literature devoted to Wright and his legacy, Avery’s library and archival collections offer an unparalleled resource for investigating Wright and his prolific body of works. In 2012, Avery's existing holdings of Wright related archives was monumentally expanded by the co-acquisition with The Museum of Modern Art of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives. Collected here are guides to Avery's Wright holdings, together with guides to our research support services. MORE >>

Our work on the Wright collections is ongoing. Parts of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives are currently open for research while others are in active states of processing. Similarly, items from the collections are being imaged to support research, publication and exhibition projects. We are in the early stages of planning large-scale digitization of our holdings, and hope to present digitized content online in the coming years. Contact us to inquire about how you can help support Avery’s Wright projects.
Collections in the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

Collections of Secondary Creators:

❖ Olgivanna Lloyd Wright papers
❖ Olgivanna Lloyd Wright recordings
❖ Iovanna Lloyd Wright papers
❖ Oral Histories
❖ Eugene Masselink drawings
❖ Wesley Peters papers
❖ Taliesin Associated Architects drawings and records
❖ George Gurdjieff papers
❖ William Marlin research papers
❖ Kay Rattenbury collection
❖ [and more]
Avery Drawings & Archives: Resources for homeowners and where to start

1. Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives online collection page
2. Online collection finding aids
3. Artstor digital collection of black and white study images of drawings

Frank Lloyd Wright and Edward Serlin, Usonia houses, New York, circa 1949-1953. PH 6804.0003
Drawings & Archives created a landing page for the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives identifying archival collections open for research, those still closed for processing, and links for related archives.

From this collection page, researchers can read a brief description of what a collection contains, and access finding aids for collections now open for research.

https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/avery/franklloydwright/collections.html
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives: Collections of primary interest to homeowners

Architectural Drawings
Correspondence
Project Photographs
Specifications

Drawings, project photographs, and specifications are organized by project number

Correspondence is organized by correspondent

Architectural Drawings, 1885-1959
Nearly 1,100 projects, built and unbuilt, are represented. The over 24,000 sheets in the collection include presentation and execution of buildings.
Collection Record | Online Finding Aid

Correspondence, 1885-1965
Over 140,000 documents in this collection of understanding Wright's personal and professional correspondences also includes project records, invoices and receipts. The bulk of the correspondence
Frank Lloyd Wright: an index to the Taliesin Anthony Alofsin, is a master index to the Wright correspondence. It was published by Garland Publishing.
Collection Record | Online Finding Aid

Project Photographs, circa 1887-2008
The Project Photographs collection contains over 32,500 500 projects by Frank Lloyd Wright, with formal and informal models, and architectural exhibitions. The collection consists of slides, and transparencies, and contains many duplicates.
Collection Record | Online Finding Aid

Specifications, 1890-1960
The collection includes specification documents in this series range from descriptive materials, to guidelines for plumbing, electrical projects and for more modest projects through directly onto design drawings. These are not architectural drawings series.
Collection Record | Online Finding Aid
What is a finding aid?

Finding aids are **tools created by archivists** that describe the contents of collections, acting as a guide/inventory for archives. They help researchers identify if material exists and where it is located within a collection.

**Search tip:** Click on ‘View All’ and use ‘Ctrl+F’ to keyword search within a finding aid -- for example, search by project number or building name.

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**Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives** : architectural drawings, 1885-1959

**Table of Contents**

- Summary
- Arrangement
- Description
- Using the Collection
- About the Finding Aid / Processing Information
- Subject Headings
- History / Biographical Note

**Summary Information**

**Abstract**

Nearly 1,100 built and unbuilt works by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright are represented in this comprehensive collection. The over 24,000 sheets in the collection include plans or drawings developer conception, presentation, and execution of buildings.

**At a Glance**

- **Bib ID**: 12471376 View CLIO record
- **Creator(s)**: Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959; Taliesin Fellowship
- **Title**: Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives: Architectural drawings, 1885-1959
- **Physical Description**: 26,000 drawings (approximate)
- **Language(s)**: English
- **Access**: This collection is available for use by appointment in the Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. For further information and to make an appointment, please contact drawings@library.columbia.edu

**Container List**

- **View All**
  - Series I: 1880s
  - Series II: 1890s
  - Series III: 1900s
  - Series IV: 1910s
  - Series V: 1920s
  - Series VI: 1930s
  - Series VII: 1940s
  - Series VIII: 1950s

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**Arrangement**

The drawings are arranged chronologically by project number and are divided into eight series: Series II: 1890s; Series III: 1900s; Series IV: 1910s; Series V: 1920s; Series VI: 1930s; Series VII: 1940s; Series VIII: 1950s; Series IX: Unidentified work by type.

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[https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-a/ldpd_12471376](https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-a/ldpd_12471376)
FLWF Archives
Architectural drawings

Organized by **decade**, and then by **project number**

The finding aid shows **how many drawings exist** for each project in the archive at Drawings & Archives

The finding aid also provides **links to a new online collection** of black and white study images of the drawings
Black and white study images of drawings available online at Artstor

In the 1990s, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation partnered with the Getty Research Center and photographed the architectural drawings collection in black and white.

Avery has made this collection of black and white study images available online on the Artstor website.

These can be accessed online by searching by project in our architectural drawings finding aid, or directly from the Artstor collections page.

Please note: as the study images are in black and white, they are not exact representations of the drawings, but are an excellent resource for research purposes.

Fallingwater, perspective drawing (top) and study image (bottom) #FLW 3602.004
How to research your building using available resources online through Avery Drawings & Archives

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Step 1: Go to our Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives collection page

https://library.columbia.edu/libraries/avery/franklloydwright/collections.html

Step 2: Find your building’s project number by downloading the Project List spreadsheet (an Excel document) from the collection page

Step 3: Consult the collection page to see what collections are open for research

Step 4: Using your building’s project number, consult the online finding aids to see what material exists related to your building

** Collections of primary interest to homeowners include: Architectural Drawings, Correspondence, Project Photographs, Specifications
Current public services at Avery Drawings & Archives

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**Typical (pre-COVID) services include:** on-site research appointments for the public; classes and instruction sessions; imaging services; exhibition loans; research support via email and in person

**Current services (pandemic restrictions):** on-site research appointments limited to Columbia students and faculty; research support via email. Find updates regarding appointments on the [Drawings & Archives website](#).

**Avery’s Digital Imaging Services are closed,** meaning no new digitization is possible. For updates to these services, or for questions related to imaging requests or the online Artstor collection, reach out to our colleagues in Avery’s imaging team: [averyimaging@columbia.edu](mailto:averyimaging@columbia.edu) or visit their [website](#).
Recap: How to Research Your FLW Building

To learn what the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives hold related to your building: consult the Wright Foundation archive collections landing page; download the Project List to know the Wright project number; and consult finding aids to the parts of the archive open for research to learn what relevant material exists in the archive.

To see online black and white study images of drawings related to your building, access these by project number through the Architectural Drawings finding aid or directly through Artstor.

For updates on changes to appointment policies at the archives, visit the Drawings & Archives webpage or email us: avery-drawings@columbia.edu.

For updates on changes to our digitization services or questions about the Artstor study images, visit the Avery Digital Imaging webpage or email: averyimaging@columbia.edu.
Thank you!

For questions related to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives or our finding aids, email Avery Drawings & Archives: avery-drawings@columbia.edu

For questions related to digital imaging requests and the Artstor project, email Avery Imaging: averyimaging@columbia.edu

For general questions about Avery Library, email: avery@library.columbia.edu