As the two most important and influential architects of the Twentieth century, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier are seen as expressing two very different views on Architecture. They are often misconstrued as being from two very different backgrounds and viewpoints; however, they were both a part of modernism and a machine-age born out of a period of historical discontinuity. One of them was at the forefront of the machine movement, the other playing more of a subdued role. Regardless of the first impressions one may have from looking at their work, they had many of the same ideals and thoughts on architecture. They both have a reverence for simplicity and geometry. Their work shows thoughts toward earlier architectural precedents that were resolved with their own ideals to create something unique. They agreed on many issues of their time involving Art, the machine, nature,
Frank Lloyd Wright

3-18-99

The Great Kanto Earthquake: Reverberations in Japan

In 1868, under the direction of the Meiji Emperor, Japan opened its doors to the West. Abandoning a long-standing isolation policy, Japan began a process of rapid modernization, inviting foreign architects and educators to train the new generation:

"It was clear to the Japanese that if they wanted to become a partner and eventually an equal member of Western society, they had to catch up with their western counterparts in nearly every respect... And so, just as they had borrowed from Chinese culture throughout a significant period of their history, the Japanese now had to adopt elements of Western civilization. Once again, a massive and purposeful borrowing became a matter of survival."

Frank Lloyd Wright acted as the main proponent of a US influence, training a number of disciples by allowing them to apprentice in the United States and to accompany him during his period of occupation in Japan. These apprentices went on to develop their own practices faithful to Wright, but at the same time extend an adherence to his teachings and architectural philosophies outside that sphere to non-conformist architectural groups of the time.

The Tokugawa Era (1602-1868) was marked by an intentional isolation of Japan from the rest of the world, an ending of centuries of borrowing from Chinese and Korean civilizations, the beginning of a period of cultural, political, and technological insulation.

Notes

3 Ibid., p. 12.
6 Wright. An Autobiography, p. 213.