

Spring Semester, 1999
48.441, Frank Lloyd Wright and His Taliesin Legacy
K. Gutschow, 9 Units

Taliesin Apprentices Exhibit, Summer 1999
Collaborative Design-Build Project and Trip
CMU & FLLWSA Students, Indep. Study and SURG



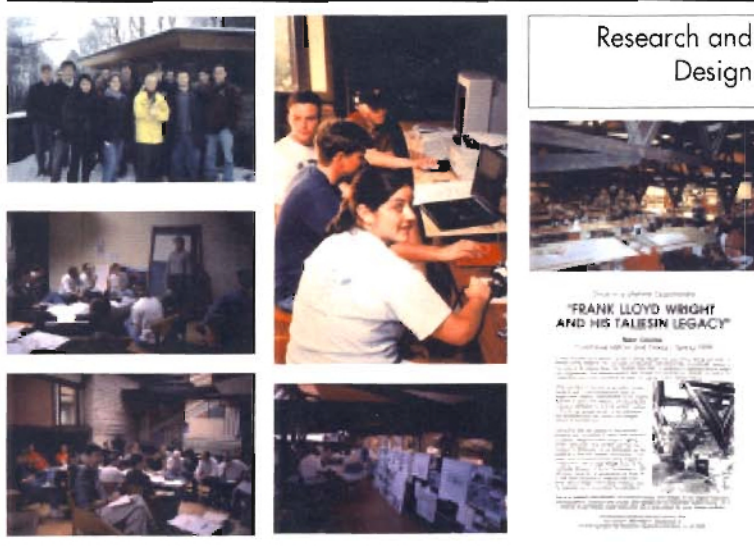
Taliesin Life

The collaborative team-designed exhibit explored the Taliesin apprentices from a unique perspective: it is a project ABOUT the past and present student apprentices that was researched, designed, and built BY current students and apprentices. The complexity of the material and the issues, the sheer volume of available information on Taliesin and the 1200 apprentices, and the closeness of the subject matter under the spell of Taliesin often blurred our vision. Although the goals of the exhibit were re-aligned and the focus often shifted, the exhibit nonetheless begins to explain the Taliesin experience from the perspective of the students and apprentices. The creators of the exhibit hope that the Taliesin apprentices continue to be of interest to scholars of Frank Lloyd Wright and modern architecture, but also to the world of architectural education and practice, as well as the public at large. If this hope is fulfilled, then the exhibit will act as a departure point for further exploration and not an apothecia.



Construction

The overall exhibit concept and the general design were created in an initial two-day group charrette where the whole team had to come to an always difficult consensus. The team then split up into three equal groups. The first selected images and organized all content related issues. The second designed the actual exhibit, including the graphics and the exhibit display units (a series of light boxes and transparencies). The third detailed and constructed the exhibit structure in the Taliesin shop. After twelve days of interactive work the disassembled exhibit was trucked to Pittsburgh, where the complete team worked around the clock for another week installing it in the Pittsburgh AIA Gallery downtown. The show opened for three weeks on June 18, 1999 as part of week-long series of events in Pittsburgh exploring Wright and his legacy. After the summer in storage it reopened August 23rd at the Hewlett Gallery on the CMU campus, allowing friends, peers and faculty to see the summer's work.



Research and Design

This project began as a Spring 1999 architectural history seminar titled "Frank Lloyd Wright and his Taliesin Apprentices" (CMU 48-441), and culminated with the creation of the exhibit "Taliesin Apprentices: Seven Decades of Organic Architecture" at the Pittsburgh AIA Gallery and CMU's Hewlett Gallery. The seminar combined regular coursework on the life and work of Wright, with broad preparatory work for the exhibit on Wright's students, some 1200 Taliesin Apprentices. Over the course of the semester the students did primary historical research on all aspects of the Taliesin apprentices, their education, philosophy, and careers. Through sporadic communication via email and a website (www.art.cmu.edu/taliesin/) dedicated to the exhibit design process, the CMU students collaborated with a similar team at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture (Arizona and Wisconsin) to organize the material into a small exhibit. Funding for the \$15,000 material cost of the exhibit was obtained from several Pittsburgh and Taliesin related Foundations. The process was guided throughout by Kai Gutschow, an assistant professor of architectural history at CMU, and Ari Georges, a senior member of the Taliesin Fellowship and Director of Curriculum at the FLLWSA.

In June 1999 the CMU students ventured on a five-day research and exploratory trip to Chicago and southern Wisconsin to familiarize themselves first hand with the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The students received a SURG grant from CMU to help offset the trip costs. The ten CMU students then hooked up with seven apprentices from the FLLWSA for two weeks of intensive, collaborative exhibit design and construction work at Taliesin. The CMU students slept at the home of a former apprentice nearby and were completely integrated into the Fellowship life at Taliesin. This meant regular chores such as cooking, clean-up, gardening and other such activities that make Taliesin into a functioning, self-sustaining community. By integrating the CMU students into the Fellowship life at Taliesin and working long hours on site in the Pittsburgh galleries, the students and apprentices approached the true spirit of Taliesin's unified architectural and living experiment and its "learning-by-doing" approach to architectural education.



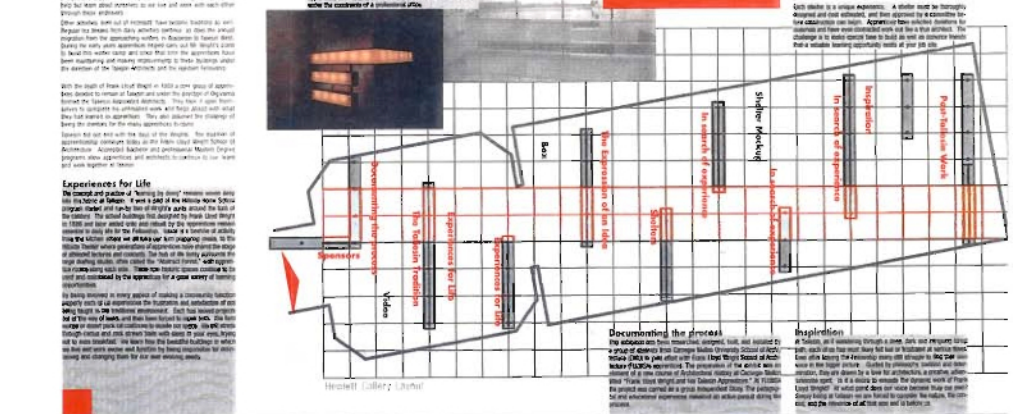
48.441

Architectural History Elective and SURG

School of Architecture
College of Fine Arts
Carnegie Mellon University

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CMU Course 48-441:
Sueh Conte
Erik Halland
Jennell McKinney
Kelli Montgomery
Megan Nash
Jarrett Paleari
Richard Raboffini
Stacey Tatzel
Jared Winchester

Sophomore
Senior
Junior
Senior
Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore

FLLWSA Apprentices:
Fama Elmigami
Manika Heimann
Astron Kaslich
Fushon Mariele
Matthew Schanzberg
Thomas Wright

M.Arch 2
M.Arch 2
M.Arch 1
M.Arch 1
M.Arch 2
M.Arch 2

The Team

The Taliesin Tradition
Seven days in separate cities or places but with a "unity" and a common purpose to explore and understand the work of Wright and his apprentices. The team members in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Taliesin worked together to create a cohesive exhibit that would be both educational and inspiring. The team members in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Taliesin worked together to create a cohesive exhibit that would be both educational and inspiring.

The Expression of an Idea
Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture is the result of his unique vision and his ability to create a cohesive and inspiring environment. The team members in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Taliesin worked together to create a cohesive exhibit that would be both educational and inspiring.

A Gift of Design
The exhibit is a unique experience. It is a gift of design that will inspire and educate. The team members in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Taliesin worked together to create a cohesive exhibit that would be both educational and inspiring.

Real Taliesin Work
The exhibit is a unique experience. It is a gift of design that will inspire and educate. The team members in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Taliesin worked together to create a cohesive exhibit that would be both educational and inspiring.

In search of experience
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Documenting the process
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Inspiration
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Documenting the process
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Installation:
AIA Pittsburgh
June 18 - July 2, 1999



Installation:
Hewlett Gallery
August 23 - Sept 10, 1999

