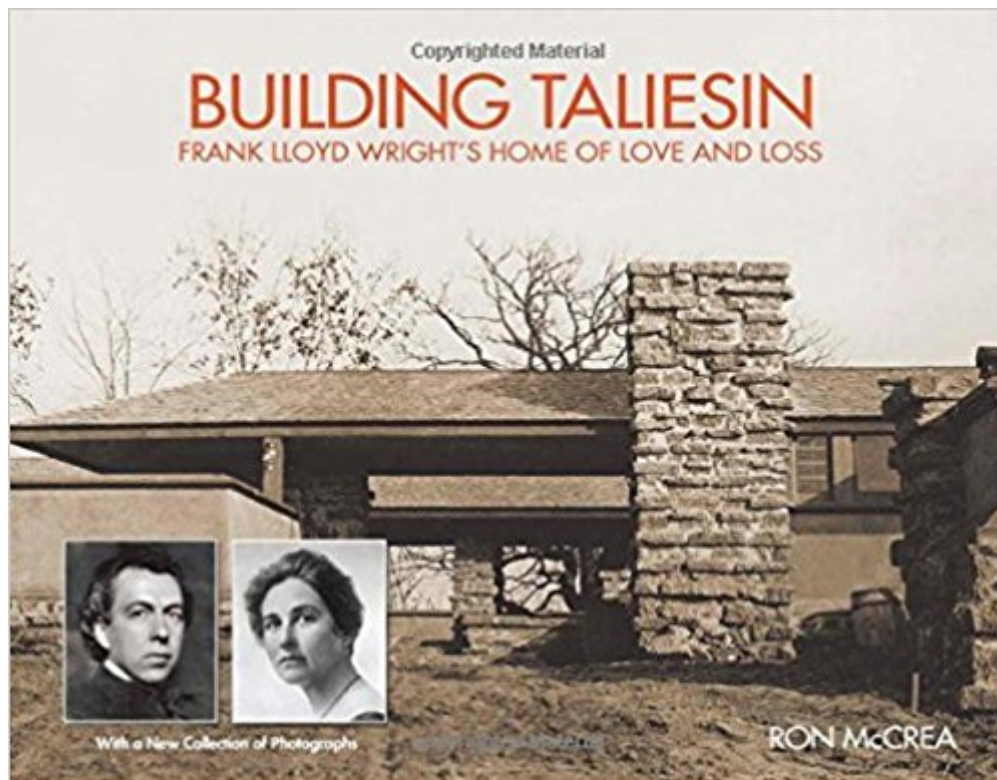




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Building Taliesin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Home Of Love And Loss



Synopsis

Through letters, memoirs, contemporary documents, and a stunning assemblage of photographs - many of which have never before been published - author Ron McCrea tells the fascinating story of the building of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, which would be the architect's principal residence for the rest of his life. Photos taken by Wright's associates show rare views of Taliesin under construction and illustrate Wright's own recollections of the first summer there and the craftsmen who worked on the site. The book also brings to life Wright's "kindred spirit," "she for whom Taliesin had first taken form," Mamah Borthwick. Wright and Borthwick had each abandoned their families to be together, causing a scandal that reverberated far beyond Wright's beloved Wisconsin valley. The shocking murder and fire that took place at Taliesin in August 1914 brought this first phase of life at Taliesin to a tragic end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The photographs in Building Taliesin reveal a masterpiece in the making. This is a beautiful book." (Pedro E. Guerrero, Frank Lloyd Wright's photographer)"Building Taliesin is a thoroughly enjoyable history of the house that Frank Lloyd built for Mamah Borthwick. With rich details and rare photographs, author Ron McCrea offers up new insights into Taliesin and the lovers for whom it was a refuge. A fascinating read." (Nancy Horan, author, Loving Frank)

Ron McCrea is a prize-winning journalist and former Alicia Patterson Fellow who worked on the

news desks of New York Newsday, the San Jose Mercury News, the Washington Post, the Washington Star, the Boston Globe, and the Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin, where he served for a decade as city editor. He appears in the E! Entertainment Network's documentary *Mysteries and Scandals: Frank Lloyd Wright and the BBC's Frank Lloyd Wright: Murder, Myth and Modernism*, and wrote the script for "The Making of Monona Terrace: Frank Lloyd Wright's Last Public Building," a finalist at the New York Film Festival. He serves on the board of directors of AIA Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Society of Architects, as a professional affiliate member, and was the communications director for Wisconsin governor Tony Earl. He holds degrees from Albion College and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Until recently, *Taliesin 1* has always been rather elusive. With the publication of this book, which includes recent scholarly discoveries and a treasure trove of outstanding images, the origins, milieu and physical reality of *Taliesin 1* can now be understood. The vast majority of images are crisp and detailed and are published in a large format. The author's writing style is lucid and logical but also has a story-telling aspect which I enjoyed. A few quibbles: 1. This book deserved a hardcover release. 2. There are a few date / age discrepancies which should have been caught by a copy editor. 3. The one glaring shortcoming of this book is the lack of plans and elevations from the *Taliesin* archives. I know that they exist; they were included in the Frank Lloyd Wright exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum last year. All in all, this is a must-have book for anyone interested in *Taliesin* and the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Highly recommended!

While there have been many books written about Frank Lloyd Wright, this book takes an original look at the beginning of *Taliesin*. In addition to stellar research facts, never-before-published photos add to the complete picture of that era. This well-written, factual presentation is fascinating to read as it approaches FLW's history from "real time" facts, not fictional drama.

Great book if you are a FLW fan! Interesting facts!

Think it's all been written before? This book uncovers new facts and pictures. It is scholarly yet readable. Fantastic research.

More about FLW life and times, but not really that specific on his thoughts on why the home was

designed and how it evolved over time. Very interesting though, but wish it was more architecturally definitive.

good story.

Great photo's and a detailed back story of the construction process in 1911. Interesting details of Fiesole influence on Wright's work.

Very good

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