

## 16-B Fallingwater, 1935–1939

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959)



16-B Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959), *Fallingwater* (Kaufmann House), Mill Run, Pennsylvania, 1935–1939. Photograph courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. © 2008 Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Ariz. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

### The Art

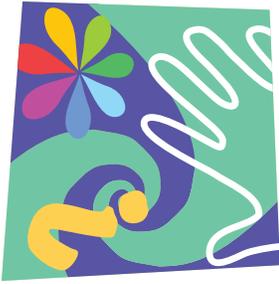
This is a photograph of Fallingwater, a house designed for a rich businessman by a famous architect named Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright wanted this house to look like it was part of the landscape surrounding it. He studied the site from every angle before deciding where the house should be placed. Wright finally decided to build the house on the side of the cliff. He designed the house to be suspended above the waterfall and nestled into the side of a mountain so that it would look like part of nature itself. Wright built the house this way so the people living in it could enjoy the natural beauty around them without changing it. The house itself was modern, with terraces and rooms with glass walls. The walls that were not made of glass were built with stone.

### The Artist

Wright lived in the early part of the 20th century and made his living as an architect. An architect is someone who designs buildings like homes, stores, offices, schools, and community centers. Wright was very different from architects who came before him and also from those who worked during the same time period he did. He did not just design buildings—he built buildings that became part of the natural world around them. Wright was not afraid to try different things. Buildings designed by Wright are still very famous, and people travel great distances to see them.

### The Historical Perspective

The design of Fallingwater was one of the most original ideas in the history of architecture. Most country homes at that time were built back from the road on tidy lawns with pretty land surrounding them. Wright reversed that idea by building his houses into the landscape. He also used materials that made the houses seem like they were a part of the countryside, such as woods and stones found around the houses, and a lot of glass to make the inside of the houses blend into the outside. The designs Wright used in the homes he built in the 1930s were considered very new and modern. They are still considered unusual today.



## Conversations and Teaching Activities

Head Start Children ages 3 to 5

Encourage children to look closely at this photograph—the objects, the background, the colors used. Ask questions, introduce new vocabulary, and find books that relate to the artwork.

### Describing



- ✓ What do you see in this photograph?
- ✓ What is a balcony? Do you see balconies? Can you count them?
- ✓ Have children identify horizontal and vertical lines. Are there any diagonal lines in the photograph?
- ✓ How did Frank Lloyd Wright make this house look like it was part of nature?
- ✓ What is different about the water in the photograph?

### Analyzing and Interpreting



Ask the following questions to stimulate thinking and discussion:

- The title of this photograph is *Fallingwater*. Why do you think this house is called Fallingwater?
- Why would someone who lives in a city enjoy this house?
- Point to and explain the balcony. What do you think it would feel like to stand on one of the balconies?
- What do you think you would hear or see if you were standing on the balcony?
- What might you see if you looked out one of the glass walls? Children might say trees and birds.
- Do you know the name of another famous house?
- Are there other things you would like to tell me about this photograph?



## Connecting and Extending

### Introducing Vocabulary

architecture	landscape	terrace
balcony	modern	vertical
cliff	nature	waterfall
horizontal	nestled	
innovative	suspended	



## Connecting and Extending continued...

### Related Family Literacy Experiences

Parents and children can:

- ✓ take art materials to the downtown area of their community and find a unique building to draw.
- ✓ take a nature walk and write down all of the sounds they hear.
- ✓ build different type of buildings using natural and recycled materials.



### Books

***Architecture Counts*** by Michael J. Crosbie and Steve Rosenthal (John Wiley and Sons, 1993)

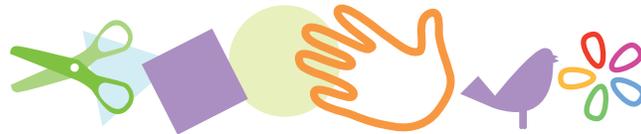
Readers are introduced to the numbers one through 10, as well as pictures of architectural features.

***Houses and Homes*** by Ann Morris (Mulberry Books, 1992)

This book offers photographs of houses and homes around the world, from the plains of Asia to the shores of Nigeria to the bustling downtown of London and Buckingham Palace.

***This is my House*** by Arthur Dorros (Scholastic, 1992)

This book explores houses and homes from places around the world. Each example includes the phrase "this is my house" in the language of the country where the structure is located.



### Related Educational Experiences

- ✓ Walk around your Head Start center. Help children draw a map locating important places in the center, such as the office or the hallways.
- ✓ Recreate the Head Start center using construction objects in the block area or on a table top.
- ✓ Build houses with balconies and terraces using sturdy shapes of packing Styrofoam from electronics products or do the same with small cubes or Legos.
- ✓ Explore the neighborhood and talk about homes that are unique and different from others. Teach the poem "The House that Jack Built."
- ✓ Use water and small rocks and plants to demonstrate the principles of a waterfall.

- ✓ Expand on the topic of a house and home for all creatures. A nest is a home for a bird; an ant hill is a home for an ant, etc.

*The ideas listed are just a few of the many activities that could be used to introduce or extend children's learning. Your knowledge of your children and families supports your ability to ensure positive learning experiences and outcomes for students. As an educator, you probably have ideas for books, songs, finger plays, and activities that you have thought of when introducing or extending children's learning related to the "A Head Start on Picturing America" artworks. We encourage you to confer with your colleagues, visit the local library or bookstore, and share your ideas with others.*