

INSPIRING INNOVATION

GRADE: 3-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: OPEN

Frank Lloyd Wright was continually innovating and integrating new materials, concepts, and technologies into his designs. He was one of the first architects to use steel beams in a residential building and poured concrete as the main building material. He experimented with natural heating and cooling techniques, concrete blocks, and even designed a futuristic plan for the ideal American city. After examining Wright's work, participants will research the innovative designs and new technologies being used by today's architects.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Science

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Examples of Wright's innovative designs
Sketchbooks

These are the World's Most Innovative Architecture Firms, Lidija Grozdanic, 2016, arch daily. Available at: <https://www.archdaily.com/798252/these-are-the-worlds-most-innovative-architecture-firms>

1. Explore Frank Lloyd Wright's innovative designs.
2. Be inspired by Wright's example to innovate for the future.
3. Develop research methods and strategies

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What drives innovation?
2. How do design and technology work together to shape and improve daily life?

LESSON PROCEDURE

EXPLORE

- Guide participants through an exploration of Wright's innovative designs. Examples are available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- Suggested Examples of Wright work:
 - Frederick C. Robie House
 - Unity Temple
 - Hollyhock House
 - Broadacre City
 - SC Johnson Administration Building and Research Tower
 - Fallingwater
 - Guggenheim
- Discuss design elements as well as the unique aspects of each building.

ENGAGE

- Challenge participants to research and discover what innovative designs and new technologies architects are using today. To help inspire the search, explore a few of the designs in the article, *These are the World's Most Innovative Architecture Firms* by Lidija Grozdanic on archdaily available at: <https://www.archdaily.com/798252/these-are-the-worlds-most-innovative-architecture-firms>
- Set a deadline for research to be completed and for participants to share what they have discovered.

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Have participants review what they have discovered and present what they feel is the most innovative design they found.
- **Discuss each participant's research and ask:** Did your research inspire any innovative ideas of your own? What would you innovate or develop new technology for?