TEACHING BY DESIGN

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TRUST

INSPIRING INNOVATION

GRADE: 3-5
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

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

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

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 designs 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?