

NEIGHBORHOODS & CITIES: BUILDINGS

GRADE: 3-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: OPEN

Frank Lloyd Wright designed for more than 70 years and creating both public and private buildings that would become icons of American architecture and design. In this lesson, participants investigate the various buildings that make up their community, compare public and private buildings, and debate the preservation of historic buildings. Afterward, participants repurpose recyclable materials to build their own Wright inspired building.

**Pair this lesson with others in the Neighborhoods & Cities series for a more in-depth exploration.*

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Social Studies

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Examples of public and private buildings designed by Wright

Collection of recyclable materials (no larger than a box of Macaroni and Cheese)

Tape
Glue
Scissors
Construction Paper

1. Examine the different types of buildings that make up a neighborhood and city and how this relates to a community's needs.
2. Explore the concept of preservation and its importance.
3. Create a Wright inspired design from recycled materials.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What did Frank Lloyd Wright's designs contribute to the communities they were built in?
2. What deciding factors determine what buildings are in a community?
3. How can materials be re-used to create artwork?

LESSON PROCEDURE

EXPLORE

- Provide participants with examples of private and public buildings designed by Wright. Images are available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
Public building examples: The Rookery and Unity Temple
Private Building examples: Frederick C. Robie House and Emil Bach House
- Introduce Wright's Oak Park Home and Studio. (<https://www.teachingbydesign.org/about/home-and-studio/>) Ask: Is this building private or public?

ENGAGE

- **Guide discussion to begin addressing the local community. Have participants consider:** What are examples of public and private buildings? Are the public buildings accessible to all? Are there buildings that are both private and public like the Home and Studio? What is their purpose? How do buildings change over time?
- **Introduce landmarks and historic buildings. Discuss preservation and its role in communities. Ask:** Are all preserved, historic buildings private ones that became public? Is it better to preserve a building or make space for new construction? Can old buildings and designs address contemporary needs? What about adaptive reuse? What do historic buildings contribute to a community's identity?

DESIGN

- Using collected recyclable materials have participants each design a Wright inspired building.
- Participants must decide if their building is public or private and consider what it would contribute to a community.
- *Optional: Have participants choose a client and/or site card to present further design challenges. Client and site cards are available in the Multimedia Resource section of the Teaching by Design website.*

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Have participants write a short description of their building detailing what inspired their design and what their building contributes to a community.
- Display designs and allow participants time to view each other's work

CLIENT CARDS

The following cards feature twelve clients with specific needs and design challenges. They can be used and adapted for any design or building lesson to challenge participants with real-world design scenarios. For an additional challenge, the client cards can also be paired with site cards which provide environmental and landscape descriptions. To find lessons that pair with these clients explore build and design in the Lesson Plan section of the Teaching by Design website. And don't forget to check out how Frank Lloyd Wright solved some of the same design challenges!

CLIENT ONE

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
Garage
Large public space
Play space

WANTS

Lots of windows
Connection to nature

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of four includes two adults, a boy (age 6), and a girl (age 2).

Client One is looking for a private and safe home where their children can play inside and outdoors. This family loves to spend their time outside and requests that the house be designed with a connection to nature and include many windows. In addition, they often have friends and family visit, and ask for large, public spaces to have parties and dinners. Finally, the father owns a business where he builds cars and asks for a space at home where he can work and store them.

CLIENT TWO

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
2 Offices/workspaces
1 Private entrance
1 Public entrance

WANTS

Space for their son & 2 dogs

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes two adults and a boy (age 5).

Client Two is looking for a unique home where they can work and raise their young son. Both fathers have home businesses and need separate offices or workspaces. One is a designer and the other is a veterinarian. They also would like 2 entrances, one for their family and the other for clients. In addition to their son, the family also has two medium sized dogs that like to run around. Client Two also has a large extended family that visits often, and requests an extra bedroom for them to use.

CLIENT THREE

NEEDS

2 Bedrooms
Study Space

WANTS

vegetable garden
Greenhouse or garden shed
Space for books

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes two elderly adults and a girl (age 12).

Client Three would like a home that is large enough to include a study space for their granddaughter, but small enough that they can continue to live in as they age. While they do not want a large house or yard to care for, they do enjoy gardening and grow vegetables each summer. They also like to read together and have a large library of books. This family would also like the interior spaces to feel open and be full of light.

CLIENT FOUR

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms
Wheelchair accessible
Large dining area

WANTS

Open floor plan
Separation of public & private spaces

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of four includes two adults and a girl (age 11) and a girl (age 8).

Client Four has a parent who uses a wheelchair and requires space to be able to easily move around. Family dinners are especially important and so a large dining area where they can all sit together is required. The family would also like all the private spaces to be near one another and separate from the public areas of the home.

CLIENT FIVE

NEEDS

3 Bedrooms

Open den/living room

View of backyard from the kitchen

WANTS

A large, quiet master bedroom

Storage space

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of three includes one adult and a boy (age 4) and a girl (age 6).

Client Five would like a house design that helps to keep things organized and has plenty of storage space. With two young children, a large open living room for the family to play inside together is important. Likewise, a view of the backyard from the kitchen is important to help watch the children play outdoors. Client Five would also like a large master bedroom where they can relax each night.

CLIENT SIX

NEEDS

5 bedrooms

Large kitchen

Large Living room

WANTS

A laundry room

Storage

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: House

This family of 6 includes three adults and boy (age 10), a boy (age 14), and a girl (age 16).

Client Six is a large family with lots of diverse needs. Included in the family is a grandparent who would like their own bedroom and bathroom separate from the rest of the family. The family also requires a large kitchen for them to all cook and eat together in and a large living room for the family to watch movies and play games in. The parents would also like a laundry room and additional storage to help with the demands of a larger family.

CLIENT SEVEN

NEEDS

Studio
Client waiting room
Large office

WANTS

Tall ceilings
High placed windows
Space for multiple work stations

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Studio & Office

Client Seven is building a new headquarters for their architectural firm. They require a building that has a large studio with space for up to 6 work stations, and a place for their clients to sit comfortably and wait. Client Seven also requires a separate office that has a space for an assistant as well as a private space to do work. To help the office feel open, the client would prefer high ceilings with plenty of long horizontal windows placed high on the walls. This will help provide plenty of natural light while preserving their privacy.

CLIENT EIGHT

NEEDS

A large multipurpose room
A large exhibition area
3 offices
Single level

WANTS

Windows only in front & offices
Open floor plan

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Museum

Client Eight is building a small, single level museum. The museum will share history and artwork about the local community. They require a large exhibition area for the artifacts and artwork as well as a large space that can be used for meetings, workshops, and other groups. Client Eight would prefer that the windows are only placed at the front of the museum and inside the offices. An open floor plan would also help with the movement of guests and provide additional flexibility for different exhibits.

CLIENT NINE

NEEDS

2 large rooms
A single office with 2 areas

WANTS

Tall ceilings
1 space with plenty of windows
1 space with no windows

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Community Center

Client Nine is building a new community center that needs to separate large rooms that can be used for multiple events. One room should have plenty of windows and provide lots of natural light. The second room should have no windows. To help the spaces feel open even when they are crowded, Client Nine would like the rooms to have tall ceilings. The community center also needs an office that has 2 different work areas.

CLIENT TEN

NEEDS

Reception Area
Breakroom/kitchen
Bathrooms
Conference space

WANTS

Tall ceilings
High placed windows
Open Concept
Opportunity to rent work spaces to

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Office Building

Client Ten needs an office building for their company of 30 employees. While the building will primarily serve their business, they would like the building to be designed so they could rent out work space to others for additional revenue if needed. The design of the space should be open with work stations for each person. A reception area is needed to welcome clients as well as a conference room for group collaborations. The client prefers natural light, but would like the windows to be placed high similar to Wright's Drafting Room in the Oak Park Home and Studio.

CLIENT ELEVEN

NEEDS

- Showroom/gallery space
- Reception/sitting area
- 3 work stations
- Space to collaborate

WANTS

- Welcoming, laid back design
- Open concept with different zones
- Keep historic details

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Re-design of historic building into office space

Client Eleven has recently purchased a two-story home that was originally built in 1889. Client Eleven needs the historic home to be re-designed into an office building for their small design firm. They would like the first floor to be an open space to meet clients and showcase their work with a welcoming, laid-back feel. Upstairs, they need space for 3 designers. While they spend a lot of time collaborating and working together on projects, each needs their own individual work-space. The client would also like to highlight some of the unique details of the historic home in the new design.

CLIENT TWELVE

NEEDS

- Kitchen
- Counter/register area
- Separate to-go and seating areas
- Bathrooms

WANTS

- Feature original fireplace

DESCRIPTION

BUILDING TYPE: Re-design of historic building into coffee shop

Client Twelve needs a historic building to be re-designed into a coffee shop. The building is long and narrow and sits on a busy main street. There is an alley on the left side of the building and a local store that shares the right wall. Client Twelve would like the coffee shop to be a place where people can grab a quick cup on-the-go or sit leisurely with a friend or good book. As a result, they need a unique design solution to help people in a hurry get their cup of coffee separate from those who are staying for a while. Inside, the building also features a large central fireplace that the clients would like to feature in the new design.

SITE CARDS

The following cards feature twelve sites with unique characteristics that create various design challenges. They can be used and adapted for any design or building lesson to challenge participants with real-world design scenarios. For an additional challenge, the site cards can also be paired with client cards which provide specific needs and requests. To find lessons that pair with these sites explore build and design in the Lesson Plan section of the Teaching by Design website. And don't forget to check out how Frank Lloyd Wright solved some of the same design challenges!

SITE ONE

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie with woods

DESCRIPTION

Slight downward slope with surrounding trees. Mostly hidden from the road. Neighboring buildings are visible but not close by. Mostly quiet and outside of the city center.

SITE TWO

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie, Urban

DESCRIPTION

Flat, long, rectangular corner lot (180 x 60 feet). Located on a busy street in an urban area. Neighboring buildings to the north are brick with a mix of architectural styles. South of the site is an open lot with a view of a park and lake.

SITE THREE

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie lake view

DESCRIPTION

Smaller, flat site (50 feet x 70 feet) between two existing buildings. Located in the middle of the block on a busy city street. Lake Michigan is located behind the site to the east across an open lot.

SITE FOUR

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie

DESCRIPTION

Large, open site with prairie grasses and scattered trees. Mostly flat. Rural location with surrounding farmland.

SITE FIVE

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie

DESCRIPTION

An open acre lot situated between residential homes. Wide street in front with an alley at the back.

SITE SIX

ENVIRONMENT: Prairie

DESCRIPTION

Mid-size site located across the street from a community park. Surrounded by buildings on both sides and to the back. The front looks out onto a wide, quiet street with large, old trees.

SITE SEVEN

ENVIRONMENT: Desert

DESCRIPTION

Large sandy site in a quiet area not far from a town center. Large rocks, cacti, and sage are scattered throughout the site. No large trees or other vegetation are included.

SITE EIGHT

ENVIRONMENT: Small mountain range

DESCRIPTION

Large site situated on the side of a small mountain range. Includes many trees and natural vegetation. A small waterfall and stream run through the center separating the site into two.

SITE NINE

ENVIRONMENT: Coastal

DESCRIPTION

Smaller site situated on a rocky coastline and directly on the water's edge. Long and rectangular with no surrounding neighbors.

A road runs along the front of the site and connects to a nearby bridge.

SITE TEN

ENVIRONMENT: Mountainous, rocky

DESCRIPTION

A large lot with a steep elevation. Includes several scenic overlooks and many tall coniferous trees. Large boulders and rocks make up the majority of the landscape with few clear, level places.

SITE ELEVEN

ENVIRONMENT: Coastal, hilltop

DESCRIPTION

Mid-sized site located at the top of a large hill overlooking the coast. Little vegetation other than tall grasses. Quiet area with no visible neighbors.

SITE TWELVE

ENVIRONMENT: Forest

DESCRIPTION

Small site surrounded by mature trees. Other vegetation includes native shrubs and flowers. Elevation is even. Other buildings are nearby, but hidden by the trees.