

LOOKING @ DESIGN

GRADE: 1-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: 30 minutes

In this looking activity, participants view examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs and make quick sketches of the design elements they notice first. Afterward, sketches are gathered and explored collectively through further looking and discussion.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Images of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs
Sticky notes (one pad per participant)
Pens & Markers

OBJECTIVES

1. Explore the dominant design elements found in Frank Lloyd Wright's work.
2. Understand how design elements come together in a work of art and the effect they create together.
3. Build visual literacy and the ability to talk about art.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What is a design element?
2. How do you make thoughtful decision when creating art?
3. What are the steps for artmaking or the design process?

LESSON PROCEDURE

- Distribute a pad of sticky notes to each participant.
- Show images of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs one at a time for 30 seconds each. Images are available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- During each 30 second period, instruct participants to make quick sketches on a sticky note of the first design element they notice. Participants should make one sketch per sticky note and as many sketches per image that they can draw in 30 seconds.
- Once all the Wright designs have been shared, have participants post their sticky notes on a wall.
- Have participants step back and take a few minutes to look at the sketches collectively. Then, begin a discussion about what they notice. **Ask:** What do you see? What design elements stand out? Did we all notice the same things in Wright's work? Did we see the same thing, but make different sketches? Why did we notice different elements? Did we see what Wright intended for us to see? Do our sketches accurately represent Wright's work?
- Finally, have participants reflect on what the sketches tell us about Frank Lloyd Wright's designs and try to group the sticky notes together.