

Supakit Trabchuagallapa

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Frank Lloyd Wright

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92 years of Wright's life, he had seen the population of USA increased from 38 million people to be five times of that time, by 75 % of them lived in the urban area. Urbanization had occurred along with degeneration of people mind. Lacking of private place, lacking of community, the atmosphere of hopeless in ourselves, and the worst, lacking of dignity of human, all of these are the image of the slum. The interesting thing is that Wright was the one who try to stop these possible problems and created architecture to solve these problems.

Frank Lloyd Wright (June 8, 1867-April 9, 1959) was an architect and he was regarded as one of the greatest architect in 20th century. He was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. His original name was Frank Lincoln Wright which he changed it after his parents (William Cary Wright and Anna Lloyd-Jones) got divorce. He studied in engineering at University of Wisconsin-Madison. But before he graduate, he quit and working as a draftsman at the architect firm of Joseph Lyman Silsbee. After that one year, he quit it because he thinks he was underpaid. Then he got a new job, this time he got a chance to work with Louis Sullivan, the world famous architect at the Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan. At that place, Wright had seen much of Sullivan's concept which it made Sullivan to be the only one who had influence to Wright. Then he started to be famous as an architect, so in 1897, he set himself to be independent from Sullivan and started to work on his own firm in Chicago. After that

five years, he moved his office to his home Oak park. He was married 3 times with Catherine Lee Tobin in June 1889, Maude (Noel) Wright in November 1923 and Olga Ivanovna (Lazovich Milanoff) Lloyd Wright in August 1928. He had 7 children, 4 sons and 3 daughters. On April 9, 1959, at the age of 92, Frank Lloyd Wright died at his home in Arizona.¹

The style of Wright's work show his genius as an architect, his early houses had a style all their own, a horizontal plane, with no basements. With his love of nature, most of his building was built by natural materials and never painted. He used low-pitched rooflines with deep overhangs and continuous walls of windows to combine the horizontal homes into their environments. He also added brick fireplaces in the middle of the home, and made the rooms open to another. His uncomplicated, simple and to be naturally houses were an inspiration of the Prairie School. Which later he develop this concept and call it as "Organic Architecture". Wright had explained about his "Organic Architecture" that an architect should make the building merge with the environment around them. The image of the building must have harmony with the nature like the organ of our body that have to work together. The area must be flexible and can be expand like cell in human body.² With this concept, he had designed many famous architecture. Such as Robie House (1893), in Chicago, Price Tower (1956), in Oklahoma, Solomon Guggenheim Museum (1946), in New York, Kaufman House or Fallingwater (1936), the best all time work of American architecture, in Pennsylvania, Taliesin West (1938), Wright's home, in Arizona, Taliesin East (1911), in Iowa, Imperial Hotel (1915), in Tokyo and etc.

All of Wright's work are safe, high quality, beauty and merged with the environment around them which one of the evidence is the Imperial Hotel. He spent 6 years in Tokyo to study Japanese culture and the earthquake, which it would help him to design it properly and safety. In 1923, there was a great earthquake (7.9 on the moment magnitude scale) in Tokyo, every building was destroy except the Imperial Hotel. The hotel stand undamaged like it is an honor of Wright's effort.³

With Wright's attitude about building and nature that they should be harmony with each other, it made him think that human should not be crowded together because it would obstruct human and the nature or it can be said that obstruct them from their own land. So he did a city plan for Broadacre City in 1935. This city plan, he designed it as to give one family one acre of land which it is a rational expanding suburb.⁴ It also increased space to do activity outside the building which it make human to be more harmony with the nature. But this city plan sound like to be unpractical.

About 50 years pass by after the death of Frank Lloyd Wright, he had created more over 1000 designs of which about 500 were complete. Most of his work still existed in these era and the condition of them still remain in a good shape. But not only the beauty of his work that still exist to be seen trough people eyes, but his work, philosophy in building also remind us the important of life from past to present.

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