THE GROUNDS

Fallingwater is a house dedicated to outdoor living—a retreat from the hectic pace. This is why the Kaufmanns led in Pittsburgh. Immediately hailed as a modern masterpiece, its unique cantilevered construction introduced a new freedom in structural expression. The family used Fallingwater until 1963, when Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. entrusted it to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Bridge
From the bridge, you can observe that the house is a stack of cantilevered concrete trusses designed to hover above Bear Run.

Entry
With a penchant for simplicity and restraint in the design of Fallingwater, Wright kept the structures toward the main entrance and kept low to the existing terrain. Observe the sensation of being encompassed, then released.

East Terrace
Peer into the open plan living room. Imagine all the terrace doors and windows open, blurring the lines between the indoors and outdoors.

Pottery Terrace
This terrace adjoins the great bedroom and was intended as the private terrace for guests of the Kaufmanns. Edgar, Kathleen, and their daughter, Emily, were the Kaufmann’s master bedroom and family are directly above the living room.

Edgar Jonas Kaufman (1855-1936) was the patriarch of a prominent Pittsburgh family and owner of Kaufmann’s Department Store. Edgar and his wife, Helen (1889-1956), traveled in international circles and sought out the company of artists, architects, and other creative individuals throughout their lives. Edgar Kaufmann’s (1855-1936), their only child, was equally progressive and served as the catalyst for his Family’s relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1934, he joined the Taliesin Fellowship, a communal architecture program created by Wright, and visited Taliesin during a visit to Taliesin that his parents met the architect. Soon after, they commissioned Wright to design Fallingwater.

Frank Lloyd Wright was a prolific American architect who designed more than 1,000 structures, 332 of which were realized. Over a career that spanned seven decades before his death in 1959, Wright changed the way we build and live by creating forms of the world that respond to the demands of a new age. His visionary work cemented his place as one of the greatest American architects of all time. Fallingwater best exemplifies Wright’s philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature.

HISTORY

The project was begun in 1935. This new house was an expression of an American dream that would unite the arts, industry, and architecture. The property provided a site that was in keeping with the lands of the Allegheny Plateau. The Kaufmanns wanted a house that would incorporate the landscape as a part of the architecture rather than separate from it, and this new house was to be a part of the lands of the Allegheny Plateau.

The house is a cantilevered structure, which is sure to impress every visitor. It is built on a shallow cantilevered stone slab, which is set on a foundation of gravel. This slab is designed to support the weight of the house and to prevent erosion of the surrounding soil. The house is designed to blend into the landscape, and every detail is carefully considered to enhance the overall effect.

The house is approximately 7,000 square feet and has five bedrooms and five bathrooms. It is constructed of concrete and wood, and the exterior is painted in a natural finish. The interior is beautifully designed with modern amenities and fixtures. The house has a large open floor plan, which is great for entertaining and socializing.

The house also has a beautiful garden that is a perfect place for relaxing and enjoying the outdoor space. The garden is designed to blend into the landscape and features a variety of plants and flowers.

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