

MR. HENRY R. HOPE, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA.

Dear Mr. Hope:

Your letter of June 14 was received to-day and I am glad we have had an exchange of letters because now I know we are on common ground. It appears that you want a house by F. LL. W. but your wife likes Mr. Wright's work but prefers not to take it STRAIGHT.

Of course this is only my opinion and you should take it as such; Le Corbusier is a great architect and a leader in what is known as the International style. That word style really tells the whole story as it is only a mode and when carefully analyzed is only OLD F. LL. W. with the life taken out of it and warmed over. Gropius too is well named as his work seems sort of GROping around in search of a style.

With Frank LLOYd Wright, you have the real thing, un-diluted and un-STRAINED organic architecture with a natural use of basic materials. I know that occasionally Mr. Wright gets a client who wants one of his houses but does not really know why. I have never met one who was not enthusiastic about his house but I have heard that there are such. Though I do not mean this about myself, one must have FIBRE and be really honest with himself and the world to want and enjoy a F. LL. W. house. There is no room for sham, pretense nor hypocrisy in one. "You a'int been no place nor seen nothing" until you get one.

Mrs. Hope will think me quite terrible but I hope she will find me otherwise when you come to see our house. Mrs. Affleck, too, did not always want a Wright house. You should hear her now.

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B L O O M F I E L D   H I L L S ,   M I C H I G A N

Contrary to the opinion of women's bridge clubs, I think men live in their houses as much as women do (with their damn clubs, etc.) and he should have the priveledge of selecting it as well as paying the bill.

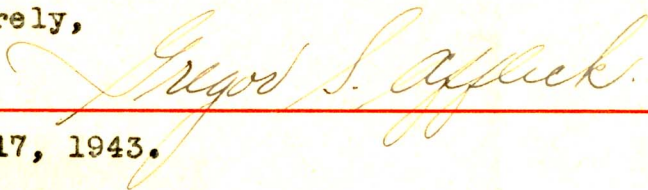
One hears so much about Mr. Wright which is not true, that it is only fair that one should meet him and really find out about him. I have never had an argument with him and I can truthfully say that I have enjoyed every instant I have spent with him. My only regret is that I have not enough money to get more plans and do it all over again. He has always been swell to my friends and I know he would approve having me ask you to visit Taliesen to see for yourselves. I did not even have the money to build, to say nothing of the land, when I went to see him. He told us what kind of land to buy, so I considered that as a specification. All he needs to know is you and your likes and desires, the size of your family, etc. When he asks about the amount of money you want to spend, do not throw out your chest (it will cost more than that), but some of it will be your fault.

Maybe when we meet, you can tell me the name of that Wright client. Then we will get the other side of the story and that will be funnier still. Clients are usually so loyal that they are not entirely truthful (Mrs. A, for instance).

I am sorry that the storm interfered with your show, but maybe that was only the first storm. Don't let them get you down, you are wright, or right (the spelling makes no difference).

More power to you. Write again.

Sincerely,



June 17, 1943.