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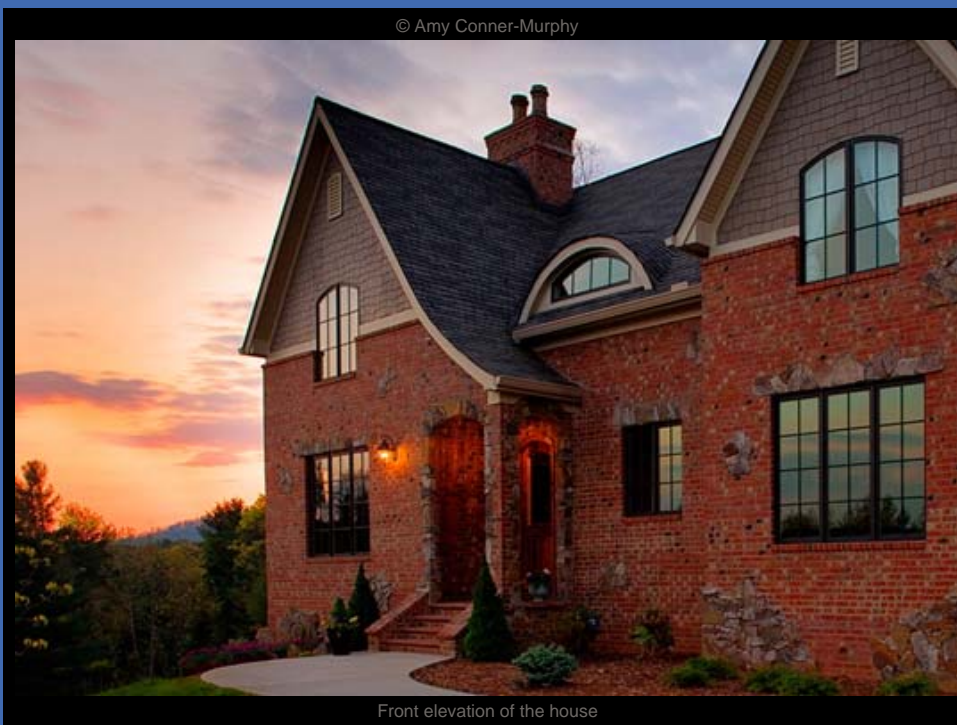
The balance of residential design:

Monday, August 06, 2007
By Suzie Sorenson

Asheville, NC, US (NCS) - Yes, Frank Lloyd Wright is most notable for his architecture, that whole - organic, mimic the landscape from which you build school of thought. But what Wright should also be known for is his total encompassment of a project.

Wright once said, "A building is not just a place to be. It is a way to be." He designed a lifestyle and did so by having a hand in everything from furniture to flatware.

© Amy Conner-Murphy



Front elevation of the house

Fallingwater is Wright's most famous home, known for its inclusion of the surrounding landscape and waterfall into the architecture. Inside, the main living floor is a large space where the living and dining areas flow easily into each other. Upstairs the bedrooms open to a layer of balconies that overlook the tranquil surroundings. Furniture and fixtures designed by



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Wright for the home are intermingled with pieces from the owner's private collection.

"True ornament is not a matter of prettifying externals. It is organic with the structure it adorns, whether a person, a building, or a park. At its best it is an emphasis of structure, a realization in graceful terms of the nature of that which is ornamented," said Wright, who embraced the use of an abundance of glass to allow the outdoors to safely flood the interior spaces and also to represent the mirroring in bodies of water like the site's cascading waterfall.

Following a similar design philosophy to Frank Lloyd Wright is Amy Conner-Murphy an architect and designer out of Asheville, North Carolina who stated, "Integrative design is particularly important in residential design because we are not simply creating a building, but a home. The functionality has to be balanced with aesthetics."

Conner-Murphy has mastered the perfect balance of elegance and a rustic tranquility in her modern day homes. She starts with a conceptual floor plan and the needs of her client before she begins attending to the overall design.



"Each of us has a picture in our head of what a home is supposed to look like and although the styles may vary, it always looks welcoming, comfortable, loving and safe," says Conner-Murphy.

This mountain home was designed by Conner-Murphy for a family with two young daughters. It rests on an acre site that was chosen specifically to accent the way the sun passes over the site and to highlight the stunning mountain views.

"The exterior materials are a bit unusual in the way that they are combined. Stone is frequently used on home exteriors here in the mountains, but the combination of aged brick and stone corners and insets is not typical. The home was designed to give a notion of age, whimsy and solidity without being too overwhelming," Conner-Murphy says.

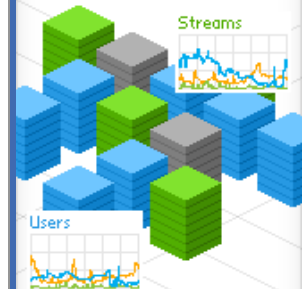
A wonderful stone fireplace accents the great room where the interior décor exudes a sophisticated yet comfortable atmosphere.

"They plan to live in the home at least until the girls go to college, so lots of thought was given to functionality, flow and the aesthetics of casual elegance," she says adding that "it is a fantastic house for entertaining and was also designed specifically with that in mind."

Embracing the surrounding landscape, the rear porch with French door access defines the perfect convergence of nature and space.

It's said that Frank Lloyd Wright's love of design trickled into everything as inspiration came to him constantly. On top of architecture he was also known to design his own unique clothing and had a penchant for the stylish automobile bodies of his day.

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Conner-Murphy too finds inspiration everywhere. "As a designer, I take inspiration from lots of things. It might be the way a ray of sun comes through a window onto fabric or a wall and how the color changes depending on the light. It might be the detail of a dress that comes to life as cabinet hardware or a window treatment. For me, my inspiration most often comes from nature, gardens, and sunlight. I think one of the most important skills a designer can have is to really be in tune with the world around . . . really look at the details . . . and how things fit together."

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