

# 8 of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings named UNESCO World Heritage Sites

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Late architect and interior designer Frank Lloyd Wright is a defining figure in modern American architecture who has created some of the country's most iconic buildings over his staggering 70-year career.

His influence will now be recognised on a global scale, as eight of his structures have recently been named UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They are some of the only 20th-century pieces of architecture to receive this honour and the buildings join a small number of UNESCO Sites in the US. Prior to their addition, there were a total of 1,092 UNESCO World Heritage Sites with only 23 of them domestically located.

The eight sites included on the World Heritage List were constructed during the early-to-mid 1900s. They are Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois; the Frederick C Robie House in Chicago, Illinois; Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin; Hollyhock House in Los Angeles, California; the Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House in Madison, Wisconsin; Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona; Fallingwater in Mill Run, Pennsylvania; and the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum in New York, New York. By recognising Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture as United Nations Education Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites, it is lauding his

designs as having great influence not only in the United States, but the rest of the world. "It is an immense honour to have Lloyd Wright's work recognised on the world stage among the most vital and important cultural sites on Earth like Taj Mahal in India, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and the Statue of Liberty in New York," Wright Foundation Chief Executive Officer Stuart Graff said. "To have this unique American legacy placed alongside these precious few sites around the globe is meaningful because it recognises the profound influence of this American architect and his impact on the whole world."

Champions of Wright's buildings are encouraged that the UNESCO distinction will help to preserve more of his structures. About 20 percent of them have been destroyed over the years, due to natural disasters, demolition and plain disregard. "There are nearly 400 remaining structures designed by Wright," explains Barbara Gordon, Executive Director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. "Our hope is that the inscription of these eight major works also brings awareness to the importance of preserving all of his buildings as a vital part of our artistic, cultural, and architectural heritage."

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