



Unity Temple: Frank Lloyd Wright; Architecture in Detail

By Robert McCarter



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Unity Temple represents the high point of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Prairie" period, and the founding of a place of sanctuary for the Unitarian congregation - a branch of Protestantism founded by his own great-great grandfather in 1726. Located in Oak Park, Illinois, the temple is ordered on a rigorous system of proportion determined on both exterior and interior by the measurements of the central interior sanctuary space. This detailed account invites the viewer (as Wright's creation does itself) to see the act of building as sacred, and buildings as sacred places.



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One of the latest installments in Phaidon Press's innovative Architecture in Detail series, this title explores Frank Lloyd Wright's legendary Unity Temple, a building representing the pinnacle of his Prairie Style. Each uniquely formatted paperback (60 pages, square) in the series presents a celebrated building in the history of architecture and explores it in concise detail. Completed in 1908, Unity Temple represents a decisive step in religious architecture of the 20th century. Text and extensive captions explain all the photographic and illustrative details, from the solid concrete columns to the geometric grid of 25 stained-glass skylights that flood the interior with warm light. Like the other books in the series (which feature buildings by Ando, Gropius, Kahn, Aalto, and Corbu), this one includes reproductions of original documents, technical drawings, an essay, and a complete bibliography and chronology. The plethora of details presented amounts to the most in-depth approach to an individual building.

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