

Prairie—1905 through 1920



Developed by Frank Lloyd Wright during the early part of his career, the Prairie style was developed to create a unique American style of architecture appropriate for the Midwest. Although not used historically in Ontario, the Prairie style would be compatible in most neighborhoods as an infill structure, or as part of new development.

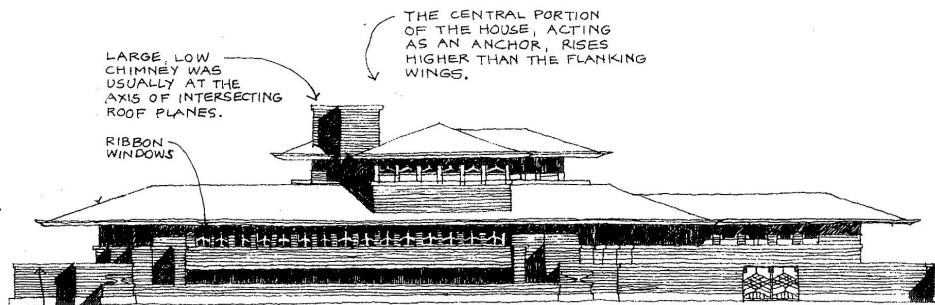
The most famous Prairie style homes are in around Chicago and its suburb, Oak Park. The best examples of the Style are the Robie House, pictured above, and the Dana Lawrence House, pictured right.



Many of the features common to a Prairie style house are similar to those on a Craftsman style home. For example, both styles extensively used stained glass and wood on the interior of the homes, and both styles used built-in cabinets and buffets.

Common Features

- Large overhanging roofs
- Covered terraces
- Low pitched hipped roofs
- Stucco for exterior walls
- Large porches
- Extensive use of brick
- Banding of windows



Typical Prairie Architectural Features

Windows

Windows were typically individual casement, but upon occasion were single-hung wood frame. Stained glass windows were also used to accent interior or exterior features.

Doors

Doors were typically simple, with a stained finish, and could include stained or beveled glass panels. Glass sidelights, with either stained or beveled glass to match the front door, were also used on larger homes upon occasion.

Colors

Homes were typically painted in color schemes consisting of 3 colors. Base colors were typically light to medium earth tones, usually browns. If the base of a home was brick, it would be left exposed. Trim Colors were typically in contrast the base color. Darker colors, usually earth tones, were used. Window frames would be painted a third accent color, usually a darker color, such as maroon.