

Usonian—1920s through 1960s



Developed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s, The Usonian style (named after the United States) was Wright's answer to the growing popularity of the International style. The style integrated elements of the International style with Wright's principles of “Organic Architecture.” The Usonian style used the flat roof simplistic styling of the international style, but incorporated elements natural to the particular site, such as stone and wood siding.

The Usonian style was not widely used in Ontario; however, use of the style could be suitable on an infill site. Of the few the Usonian style homes in City, one of the superior illustrations is the Dr. Robert Williams House, pictured above left. Another notable Usonian home is pictured right.



Common Features

- Open plan
- Large overhanging flat roofs, on occasion, low pitched gable roofs were used
- Concealed front entrances
- Board and Batten siding
- Large floor to ceiling windows
- Brick used as accent material
- Banding of windows

Windows

Windows were typically individual casement windows.

Doors

Doors were typically simple, single panel doors.

Colors

Homes were not typically painted except for an accent color. If the siding was left natural to weather and brick, if used, would be left exposed. Window frames and some trim would be painted a complementary accent color, such as maroon.