

Frank Lloyd Wright: Stained Glass Windows - Light Screens Elements of Art

- How are elements of art combined to make a complete image?
- How did Frank Lloyd Wright use elements of art to create his stained glass windows also known as light screens?

LESSON OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES

Students will learn about Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 - 1959), a famous American architect known not only for the houses, buildings and interior spaces he designed, but also for the stained glass/light screens he created using color and geometric shapes and patterns. Students will use elements of art to create their own light screen designs in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright.

KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO VISUAL ARTS CORE CURRICULUM:

Based on Utah State Visual Arts Core Curriculum Requirements (3rd Grade)

Standard 1 (Making): The student will explore and refine the application of media, techniques, and artistic processes.

Objective 1: Explore a variety of art materials while learning new techniques and processes.

- Practice using skills for beginning drawings.
- Use simplified forms, such as cones, spheres, and cubes, to begin drawing more complex forms.
- Make one color dominant in a painting.

Objective 3: Handle art materials in a safe and responsible manner.

- Ventilate the room to avoid inhaling fumes from art materials.
- Dispose and/or recycle waste art materials properly.
- Clean and put back to order art making areas after projects.
- Respect other students' artworks as well as one's own.

Standard 2 (Perceiving): The student will analyze, reflect on, and apply the structures of art.

Objective 1: Analyze and reflect on works of art by their elements and principles.

- Determine how artists create dominance in their work; e.g., size, repetition, and contrast.

Objective 2: Create works of art using the elements and principles.

- Identify dominant elements in significant works of art.
- Discover how an artist has thoughtfully used all of the space within an artwork.
- Create a work of art that uses all of the space on the paper.

Standard 3 (Expressing): The student will choose and evaluate artistic subject matter, themes, symbols, ideas, meanings, and purposes.

Objective 1: Explore possible content and purposes in significant works of art.

- Discuss how an artist's work might be different if it is displayed publically as opposed to being displayed at home.

Standard 3 (Expressing): The student will choose and evaluate artistic subject matter, themes, symbols, ideas, meanings, and purposes (continued).

Objective 2: Discuss, evaluate, and choose symbols, ideas, subject matter, meanings, and purposes for their own artworks.

- d. Create a work of art that uses a similar subject matter, symbol, idea, and/or meaning found in a significant work of art.

Standard 4 (Contextualizing): The student will interpret and apply visual arts in relation to cultures, history, and all learning.

Objective 1: Compare the arts of different cultures to explore their similarities and diversities.

- c. Hypothesize why homes and buildings have generally become larger in modern times.

Objective 3: Recognize the connection of visual arts to all learning.

- a. Use a visual arts form as an aid in expressing an idea in a non-art subject; e.g., a science project, the writing of a poem, a social studies project.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Learn about the elements of art.
- Learn about the artist Frank Lloyd Wright and his work.
- Identify ways artists use a variety of media and elements of art to communicate ideas and emotions.
- Learn about composition.
- Use ideas, skills, foundations, and techniques to create visual artworks through guided exploration and mentoring.
- Implement the elements, skills, foundations, and techniques of visual arts and the principles of design to create visual artworks.
- Reflect for the purposes of self-evaluation and improvement.

SUPPLIES

- Print samples of Frank Lloyd Wright's work including his famous "Falling Water" house and stained glass window designs.
- Power Point presentation of Frank Lloyd Wright and his work (optional)
- Clear transparencies or vinyl
- Pencils
- Sharpies, array of colors, thin and thick
- Scratch paper for drawing initial ideas
- Colored paper or tissue
- White matte board
- Graph paper

VOCABULARY

Organic Architecture - Coined by Frank Lloyd Wright, the term organic architecture is usually used to mean buildings whose shape or function mimics nature.

Fallingwater - Refers to the Kaufmann residence. This is a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935 in rural southwestern Pennsylvania. The home was partly built over a waterfall. The house was designed as a weekend home for the family of Edgar J. Kaufmann, owner of Kaufmann's department store.

Prairie Style - The simple geometric shapes that turn into very ornate and intricate windows represent some of the most integral ornamentation of Frank Lloyd Wright's career. The style is usually marked by horizontal lines, flat or hipped roofs with broad overhanging eaves, windows grouped in horizontal bands, integration with the landscape, solid construction, craftsmanship, and discipline in the use of ornament. Horizontal lines were thought to evoke and relate to the native prairie landscape.

Composition - In the visual arts—in particular painting, graphic design, photography, and sculpture—composition is the placement or arrangement of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art, as distinct from the subject of a work.

Geometric Shapes - Many two-dimensional geometric shapes can be defined by a set of points or vertices and lines connecting the points in a closed chain, as well as the resulting interior points. Such shapes are called polygons and include triangles, squares, and pentagons.

Elements of Art

- Line:** A line is the path between two points. Lines define the edges of shapes and forms.
- Shape:** Shape is an area enclosed by line. It is two dimensional and can be geometric or organic.
- Form:** Forms are 3-Dimensional. They occupy space or give the illusion that they occupy the space.
- Color:** Color is the most expressive element of art and is seen by the way light reflects off a surface.
- Value:** Value is the lightness or darkness of a surface. It is often referred to when shading but value is also important in the study of color.
- Texture:** Texture is the actual surface feel or the simulated appearance of roughness, smoothness, etc.
- Space:** Space is the illusion of objects having depth on the 2-dimensional surface. Linear and aerial perspective are used.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Lesson Introduction:

Before beginning the lesson, introduce students to the work of Frank Lloyd Wright by showing them Fallingwater, a famous house he designed in 1935, in Pennsylvania and the Guggenheim. Then show students some of Wright's stained glass window designs. Look at the colors and geometric shapes used in his glass designs.

Explain and illustrate the elements of art - color, line, shape, form, space, value and texture. Show how Wright used these elements to make his stained glass images. Ask students to identify the dominant elements of art in his art work. Talk about color and composition of the works such as how color is dominant or creates an effect and how the composition of images and shapes create an effect.

"Wright's light screens illuminated his interiors with natural light, touched by the autumnal dashes of his color palette and animated by his exquisite visual geometries. Wright's buildings follow the geometric principles he imposed on each project, and his glass designs also express the geometry that unites the building."

<http://www.flwright.org/researchexplore/franklloydwrightleadedglass>

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN CONTINUED

About Frank Lloyd Wright

Frank Lloyd Wright (born Frank Lincoln Wright, June 8, 1867 – April 9, 1959) was an American architect, interior designer, writer, and educator, who designed more than 1,000 structures, 532 of which were completed. Wright believed in designing structures that were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called organic architecture. This philosophy was best exemplified by Fallingwater (1935), which has been called “the best all-time work of American architecture”. Wright was recognized in 1991 by the American Institute of Architects as “the greatest American architect of all time.”

Wright also designed many of the interior elements of his buildings, such as the furniture and stained glass. He designed more than 4,000 stained glass pieces for more than 150 of his buildings. He referred to the windows as “light screens” because they interacted with the view behind them rather than covering or obscuring it, as stained glass windows often did. As he designed a building, Wright often sought to balance solid walls with light screens, which he felt opened a room and blended it with the surrounding environment. This is a key idea in what is known as the “Prairie” style. [wikipedia](#).

Wright’s designs featured geometric patterns that abstracted natural elements such as plants, waterfalls, and rivers. He used mostly clear or neutral-colored glass with accents of color and iridescence.

Lesson

- Start by looking at two of Wright’s most famous architecture structures, Fallingwater and The Guggenheim. Compare and contrast the structures. Note elements of art - shape, form, line etc.
- Talk about how he used methods of Organic Architecture, Prairie Style, and Geometric Shapes to design his structures (refer to vocabulary words and definitions).
- Introduce Wright’s stained glass designs known as light screens. Highlight the colors, geometric shapes, patterns, elements of art etc. in the designs. He never incorporated pictures of people or realistic landscapes. Instead, he used abstract organic patterns inspired by nature (usually plants). Wright rarely used complex angles or many-sided polygons. His designs used small squares, rectangles, and triangles. “Nothing is more annoying to me than any tendency of realism of form in window-glass, to get mixed up with the view outside.” - Frank Lloyd Wright, 1928
- The colors Wright used are inspired by the prairie: greens, oranges, reds, yellows, and gold. In this lesson plan, students use geometry skills and repeating patterns to create a stained glass design incorporating the ideals of Prairie-Style architecture. Then they make a light screen with permanent markers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqXhmGKUHQ>
- Using graph paper, have students sketch out their light screen designs with pencil using geometric shapes and elements of art. Ask questions like, “Which shapes will you highlight? What happens to the patterns once you begin adding color?” Have students compare designs.
- With a clear piece of vinyl (sticky on one side) or transparency, place the clear material over the graph paper. Outline the design in both thick and thin black sharpies to replicate the lead used in the light screens. Note: Teachers may go straight to drawing the design on transparency with marker and bypass the graph paper step.
- Using colored sharpies, have students fill in their designs as they choose. Introduce the stippling idea when you “dot” one color of marker on top of another to give that rippling effect of stained glass.
- Another option is to give colored tissue or paper to students to arrange on a white background thick paper and lay the transparency over the top to create the light screen affect.
- When finished, mount the artwork on a white background (either solid white card stock or a white frame made out of cardstock) to showcase the students’ light screens a la Frank Lloyd Wright!

Famous Frank Lloyd Wright Architectural Samples

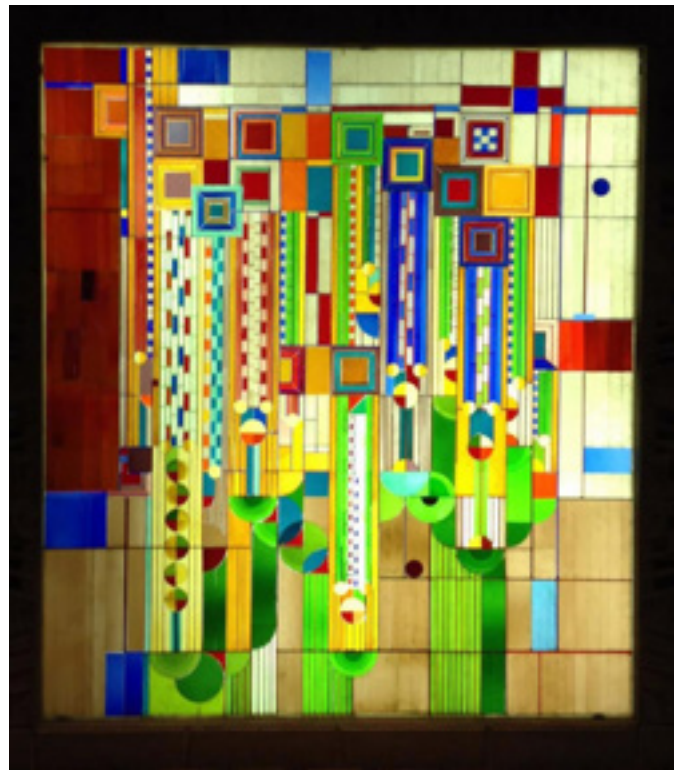
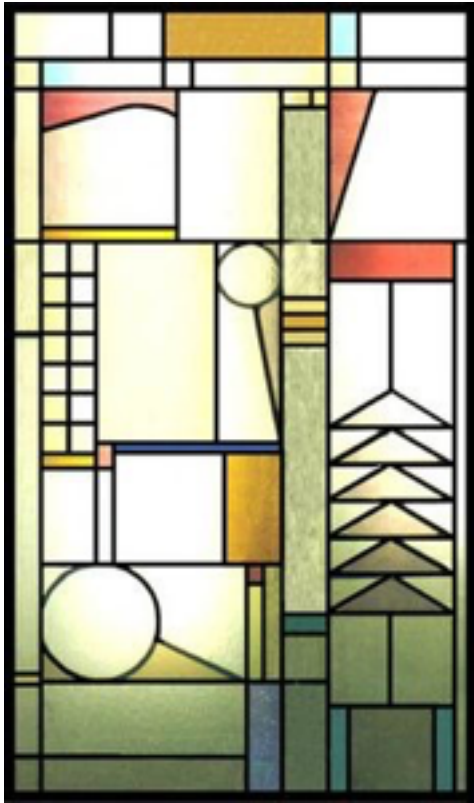


The Guggenheim



Fallingwater

Samples of Frank Lloyd Wright Light Screens



The Elements of Art

are the ingredients of art
(line, colour, value, shape/form, space, texture)

You are required to do some research on the Elements of Art. You may use books or search the web. When done, simply draw a symbol or picture for each of the elements in the boxes provided below to help you remember what they mean. DO NOT include text. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE COLOUR. This will be a **formative assessment** as part of the Knowledge and Understanding area on the unit rubric.

Level 0 The student does not reach a standard described by any of the descriptors.	Level 1-2 The student has limited understanding of topic language and the principles and elements of art.	Level 3-4 The student has satisfactory understanding of topic language and a satisfactory understanding of the principles and elements of art.	Level 5-6 The student has a good knowledge of topic language and a good understanding of the principles and elements of art.	Level 7-8 The student has well developed topic language and an excellent understanding of the principles and elements of art.
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Line	Colour	Value
Shape/Form	Space	Texture

Sample Projects



Additional Resources:

<http://greenbayartroom.blogspot.com/search/label/4th%20Grade?updated-max=2008-09-17T11:33:00-05:00&max-results=20&start=46&by-date=false>

light screen with permanent markers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqXhmGKU4Q>

<http://www.flwright.org/researchexplore/franklloydwrightleadedglass>

wikipedia - Frank Lloyd Wright

kimballartcenter



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