

## FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S HOLLYHOCK HOUSE REOPENS

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<http://www.examiner.com/article/frank-lloyd-wright-s-hollyhock-house-reopens>

**Examiner.com Says:**



*Barnsdall Art Park Foundation*

[Frank Lloyd Wright](#)'s iconic [Hollyhock House](#) recently reopened following a \$4.4 million restoration.

The [Los Angeles](#) property, strewn with split levels and terraces, and constructed with walls that tilt at 85 degrees to lend a Mayan appearance, is a National Historic Landmark. The residence was also recently nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The renovation spanned six years and largely addressed roof, leakage and drainage problems. Wright's [architecture](#) is infamous for such complications, along with materials that easily crumble. Ennis House in Los Feliz, built of interlocking concrete blocks, began to deteriorate because of basic structural instability before the building

was complete. Wright chose redwood, well known to suffer dry rot in desert heat, for his [Taliesin West](#) in Scottsdale Arizona. A vast carpet of thirsty, emerald grass also improbably fronts the desert property.

### **Frank Lloyd Wright's vision**

Wright's architecture has been called beautiful, ugly, harsh, stunning and sometimes just wrong - as well as arrogantly, stubbornly very much Wright. The lesson? Damn the critics. Build your vision.

Hollyhock House's latest restoration lends a fresh look, as close to Wright's vision as seems possible. Although a glass-enclosed hallway is now off-limits as well as other areas, the primary rooms are open to viewing. Various architectural flourishes were also cleaned or restored, including the numerous and repeated abstract riffs on the Hollyhock flower design for which the residence is named.

The residence, which was never occupied, reopened February 13, 2015, and received visitors for a full 24 hours, free of charge. Wait times stretched up to three and one-half hours.

### **Hollyhock House origins**

Eccentric Pennsylvanian oil heiress Aline Barnsdall purchased a 36-acre site, then known as Olive Hill, in 1919. Barnsdall commissioned Wright to build a theater where she could stage her novel plays. The project expanded, and eventually included the residence, Hollyhock House, which was completed in 1921. Barnsdall deeded the land and property, now known as Barnsdall Park, to the City of Los Angeles in 1927.

Hollyhock house has had other restorations. The City launched a two-year restoration in 1976, and adjustments and fixes following the 1994 Northridge earthquake were completed in 2005.

Self-guided tours can be taken Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for students, seniors and children under 12. For docent-led tours, group tours and other guided tours please phone 323.913.4031. Visit the [Hollyhock House website](#).