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**Hollyhock House One of Eight Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings  
Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List**

***Collection of Wright-Designed Buildings Represents  
First Modern Architecture Designation in the U.S.***

**July 7, 2019** – The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, has officially inscribed ***The 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright***, which includes eight major works spanning 50 years of Wright’s career, on the UNESCO [World Heritage List](#).

Wright is widely considered to be the greatest American architect of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the sites in the group inscription span his influential career. They include [Unity Temple](#) (constructed 1906-1909, Oak Park, Illinois), the [Frederick C. Robie House](#) (constructed 1910, Chicago, Illinois), [Taliesin](#) (begun 1911, Spring Green, Wisconsin), [Hollyhock House](#) (constructed 1918-1921, Los Angeles, California), [Fallingwater](#) (constructed 1936-1939, Mill Run, Pennsylvania), the [Herbert and Katherine Jacobs House](#) (constructed 1936-1937, Madison, Wisconsin), [Taliesin West](#) (begun 1938, Scottsdale, Arizona) and the [Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum](#) (constructed 1956-1959, New York, New York).

There are more than 1,000 World Heritage sites around the world, and the group of Wright sites is now among only 24 sites in the U.S. The collection represents the first modern architecture designation in the country on the prestigious list.

“This recognition by UNESCO is a significant way for us to reconfirm how important Frank Lloyd Wright was to the development of modern architecture around the world,” says Barbara Gordon, Executive Director of the [Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy](#), an international organization dedicated to the preservation of all of Wright’s remaining built works. “There are nearly 400 remaining structures designed by Wright. Our hope is that the inscription of these eight major works also brings awareness to the importance of preserving all of his buildings as a vital part of our artistic, cultural, and architectural heritage. All communities where a Wright building stands should appreciate what they have and share in the responsibility to protect their local — and world — heritage.”



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**“Hollyhock House** is one of Los Angeles’ greatest cultural treasures — a landmark elegantly rendered from Frank Lloyd Wright’s imagination and Aline Barnsdall’s vision,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “The history of this home and its excellent craftsmanship will inspire Angelenos for generations to come, and Hollyhock House’s well-deserved place on UNESCO’s World Heritage List is a fitting tribute to this bold structure.”

“This designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site underscores the significance of Los Angeles’ rich history of modern architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House is a beloved masterpiece locally, and now a treasure world-wide. The inscription of this nomination marks the first modern architectural cultural property designation not only in California, but the United States. It has been a pleasure working with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and all parties in our efforts to preserve and restore the priceless cultural resources at Barnsdall Art Park — and our work continues! We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing that our collaboration here at home enhanced this serial nomination,” said Mitch O’Farrell, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 13th District.

“It is brilliant when architects shape the future, and exceptional when their work becomes a unique part of the city’s landscape. We are grateful for the inclusion of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House on the World Heritage List, and thankful that the artistry of his work will be made available for all to experience. This recognition results from the strong vision Aline Barnsdall followed in commissioning the house and in donating it and the surrounding land to eventually become Barnsdall Park. We are excited to make this treasure more accessible with our recently completed virtual accessibility experience and with our digital archives,” said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

“The Department of Recreation and Parks is delighted that Hollyhock House has joined the prestigious list of iconic and historically significant spaces in the United States. Los Angeles is a place of natural and architectural wonder, and we are honored this treasure in Barnsdall Park is recognized,” said Michael A. Shull, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

The eight inscribed sites have played a prominent role in the development and evolution of modern architecture during the first half of the 20th century and continuing to the present. UNESCO considers the international importance of a potential World Heritage Site based on its “Outstanding Universal Value,” which in the Wright series is manifested in three attributes. First, it is an architecture responsive to functional and emotional needs, achieved through geometric abstraction and spatial manipulation. Second, the design of the buildings in this series is fundamentally rooted in nature’s forms and principles. Third, the series represents an architecture conceived to be responsive to the evolving American experience, but which is universal in its appeal.



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The Wright nomination has been in development for more than 15 years, a coordinated effort between the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, each of the nominated sites and independent scholars, with a substantial financial commitment realized through subsidies and donations, countless hours donated by staff and volunteers, and the guidance and assistance of the National Park Service. The nomination effort was spearheaded by Fallingwater Director Emerita and founding Conservancy board member Lynda Waggoner, with Fallingwater contributing support and expertise in the nomination’s preparation. The Conservancy will now coordinate the activities of the Frank Lloyd Wright World Heritage Council, chaired by Waggoner, which was established to support the responsible conservation and promotion of the eight World Heritage sites.

In 2015, the U.S. nominated a series of 10 Wright-designed sites to the World Heritage List. At its meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in July 2016, the World Heritage Committee decided to “refer” the nomination for revisions. Over the past two years, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy worked with the council of sites and leading scholars to revise the nomination and rework the justification for inscription.

The National Park Service submitted the Wright nomination to the World Heritage Centre in Paris on November 20, 2018, and it was reviewed and inscribed at the 2019 session of the World Heritage Committee, on Sunday, July 7 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The complete nomination document can be downloaded from [SaveWright.org](http://SaveWright.org).

High-resolution photos of the eight sites are available for download here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g2buxf1nk81b3yr/AADxswquCXJTZ7H-M5jc1homa?dl=0>

**About Hollyhock House**

The storied history of Hollyhock House begins with Aline Barnsdall, a Pennsylvanian oil heiress interested in producing theater in her own venue. Purchasing a 36-acre site in Hollywood known as Olive Hill in 1919, Barnsdall commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build a theater where she could produce avant-garde plays. Soon after, the project morphed into a performing arts complex that included her residence. Construction on the project began in 1919 and ended in 1921 when Barnsdall fired Wright, citing costs as the primary reason for the contract’s termination. At the time, Frank Lloyd Wright was already an established architect, who was concurrently working on the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

A philanthropist, art collector, political radical, and single parent, Barnsdall deeded the land now known as Barnsdall Park and its Frank Lloyd Wright designed structures as a permanent home for the appreciation of art and



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architecture to the City of Los Angeles in 1927. In doing so, she provided an accessible arts center to the community that incorporated and preserved the famous Hollyhock House as a crucial component. Aline Barnsdall’s pioneering vision gave birth to the California Modernism movement and helped grow the careers of notable architects including Wright, Schindler, and Neutra — all of whom were instrumentally involved in the project.

The house has served various purposes, including a fifteen-year run as the headquarters of the California Art Club beginning in 1927. After a major restoration by the City (1974 to 1976) it became a public museum. It was among the first structures to be designated as a historic-cultural monument by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission in 1963. In 2007 it became a National Historic Landmark.

Hollyhock House is the first house of Wright’s second period and his first residence in Southern California. Named for Barnsdall’s favorite flower, the Hollyhock is incorporated throughout the design scheme of the residence.

“After a \$4 million restoration completed in 2014, the property is an important historical revelation for first-time visitors and regulars alike. Visitors experience the house in much of its original splendor. Floors, windows, doors, decorative molding, and long-forgotten paint colors were recreated with utmost attention to detail,” said Ed Avila, President, Project Restore.

The latest phase of renovation took place from 2008 through 2014, with a total of \$4,359,000 spent on conservation efforts. The project was partially funded by grants from the California Cultural and Historic Endowment and the National Park Service’s Save America’s Treasures program. Project Restore managed the restoration portion of the project and administered the grant funds.

“Given its historic and architectural significance, our department’s 10-year renovation of Hollyhock House was one of our most significant and meaningful City projects,” said Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer of Los Angeles. “We are honored to be a part of returning the site to public use and bringing its beauty alive again.”

“Hollyhock House is an extraordinary structure that was formed by a unique relationship between one of America’s most talented architects and a visionary client, Aline Barnsdall. As Frank Lloyd Wright himself wrote, ‘Miss Barnsdall wanted no ordinary home for she was no ordinary woman.’ We in Los Angeles are the beneficiaries,” said Deborah Weintraub, AIA, Chief Deputy City Engineer of Los Angeles.

“It is such an honor for the City of Los Angeles Department of General Services to have worked on the preservation of the Hollyhock House and to share this



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treasure with the rest of the community and the world,” said Tony M. Royster, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of General Services.

Hollyhock House is operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). DCA provides educational programming, conservation services, and individual and group tours of this historic site that offer a window into Aline Barnsdall’s life and her artistic vision, in addition to her extraordinary partnership with one of the United States’ greatest architects.

“This is a great moment for Hollyhock House and the City of Angels. It is overwhelming to realize the world officially recognizes the outstanding universal value of this home. We are indebted to Frank Lloyd Wright for his inspired design, his client Aline Barnsdall for giving this treasure to the city, and the scores of stewards who have, over the past 98 years, maintained what is now the 24<sup>th</sup> site in the United States on the World Heritage List,” said Jeffrey Herr, DCA Hollyhock House Historic Site Curator.

#### **About The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy**

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to facilitate the preservation and stewardship of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through advocacy, education, and technical services. The staff and a corps of dedicated and knowledgeable board members and volunteers accomplish the Conservancy’s mission through strategic initiatives that include advocating against demolition and neglect of Wright structures, providing access to expert technical conservation and restoration resources, connecting preservation-minded buyers and sellers of Wright properties, advancing original Wright scholarship through *SaveWright* magazine, and honoring those who demonstrate extraordinary efforts in stewardship of Wright’s legacy through the Wright Spirit Awards.

#### **About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’s vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.



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DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

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