

California Architectural
FOUNDATION

Introducing the Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright

A presentation prepared by Polly Osborne, FAIA



credit: Andy Caulfield



My name is Polly Osborne and I am an architect. I grew up in Monterey County. I loved nature and I liked to build sand castles. One day on Carmel Beach I saw this house nestled into the trees and rocks. That may have been the first day I thought about being an architect. I wanted to know more about the architect who designed this house.



First of All:

What is the difference between buildings and architecture?

Architecture is the art of designing buildings. So, for a one room building, say a chapel, you could have four walls, a ceiling and a floor, (a building) add some nice low roofs and a rose window and it's architecture...



Credit: Polly Osborne

Or you could have a space filled with light from a glass roof and a soaring ceiling rising to a peak 110 feet tall that looks like a space ship taking off to Heaven!

And that's the kind of architecture Frank Lloyd Wright did!



Credit: Lazlo Regas Beth Shalom Synagogue

Why does Architecture matter?

Architecture makes a big difference in how things look and work. It can help us feel better, connect us to each other, and even help us do better in school. Good architecture is important for all parts of our lives.



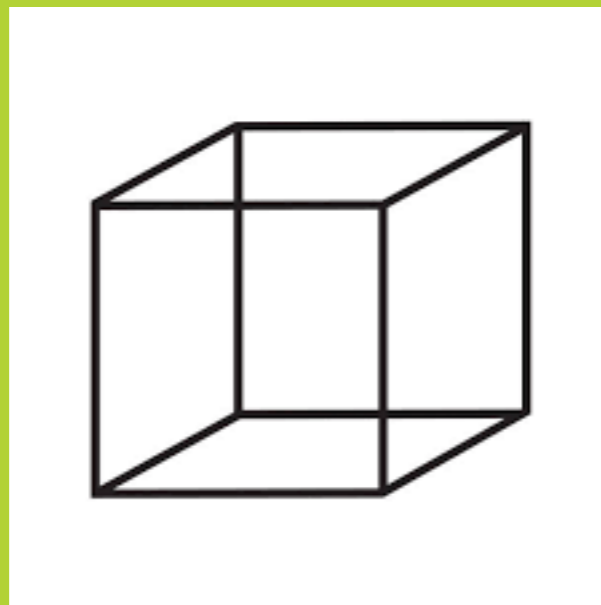
Credit: Frank Lloyd Wright Trust



Credit: Christopher Little

What elements would your perfect house have?

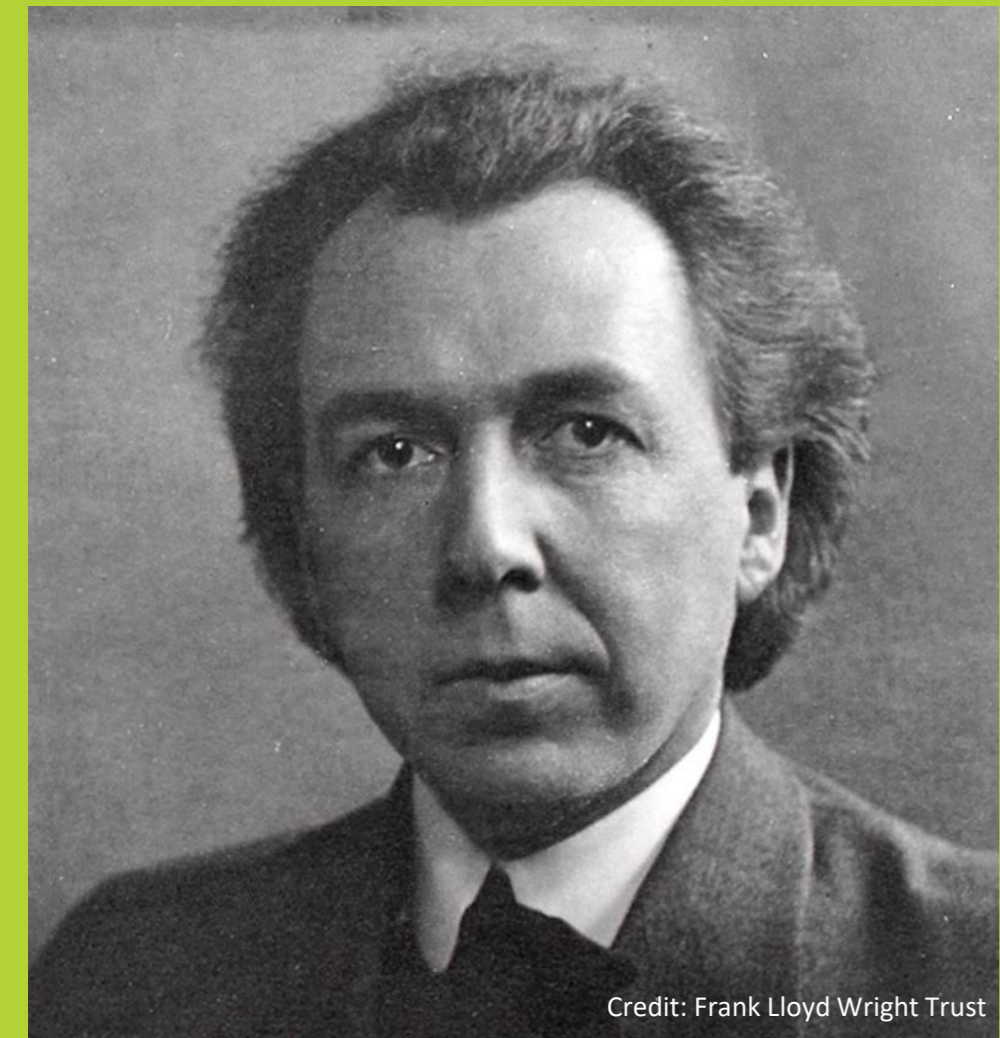
Let's start with a box and imagine it becoming a house...



Share the things that would be part of your house.

Let's Talk About Architect

Frank Lloyd Wright



Credit: Frank Lloyd Wright Trust



Photo by Andy Caulfield



Credit: Christopher Little

Who was Frank Lloyd Wright?

Frank Lloyd Wright was born in 1867 and died in 1959. He looked at the world in a unique way. He saw geometry in nature and imagined structures that were in harmony with nature. He design over 1000 buildings and about 500 were built. He was the most famous 20th Century American architect.

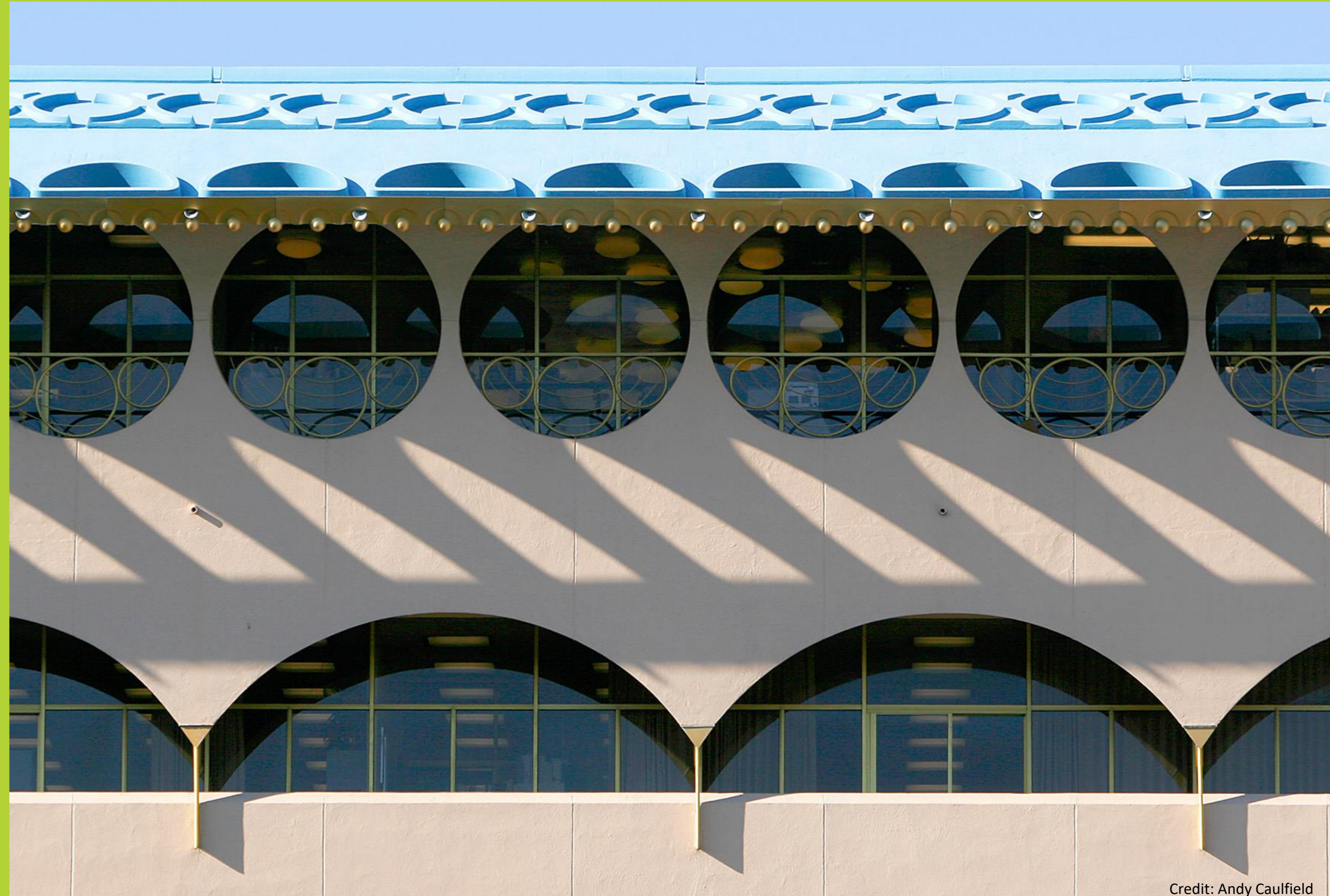


Photo by Andy Caulfield

He designed his
first building in
1889 when he was
22...



...and his last
building when he
was 92, in 1959.



He spelled Nature
with a capital “N”
because he thought
it was so important
in people’s lives.



Frank Lloyd Wright's only building directly next to the ocean is in Carmel, California. It was known as the "Cabin on the Rocks" inspired by its location. This would be a house I looked at often from the beach when I was growing up, and you can too!



Credit: Polly Osborne

Another house by Frank Lloyd Wright and inspired by its setting is called "Fallingwater." It was inspired by the double waterfalls of Bear Run, a stream in Pennsylvania. It was built in 1937.



Frank Lloyd Wright designed other houses in California. This is the Paul Hanna House in Palo Alto, South of San Francisco.



Credit: Polly Osborne

Frank Lloyd Wright's Sturges House is in Los Angeles. These houses were built almost 100 years ago!



Credit: Polly Osborne

What
Inspired
Frank
Lloyd
Wright?



Credit: Polly Osborne



Credit: Andy Caulfield

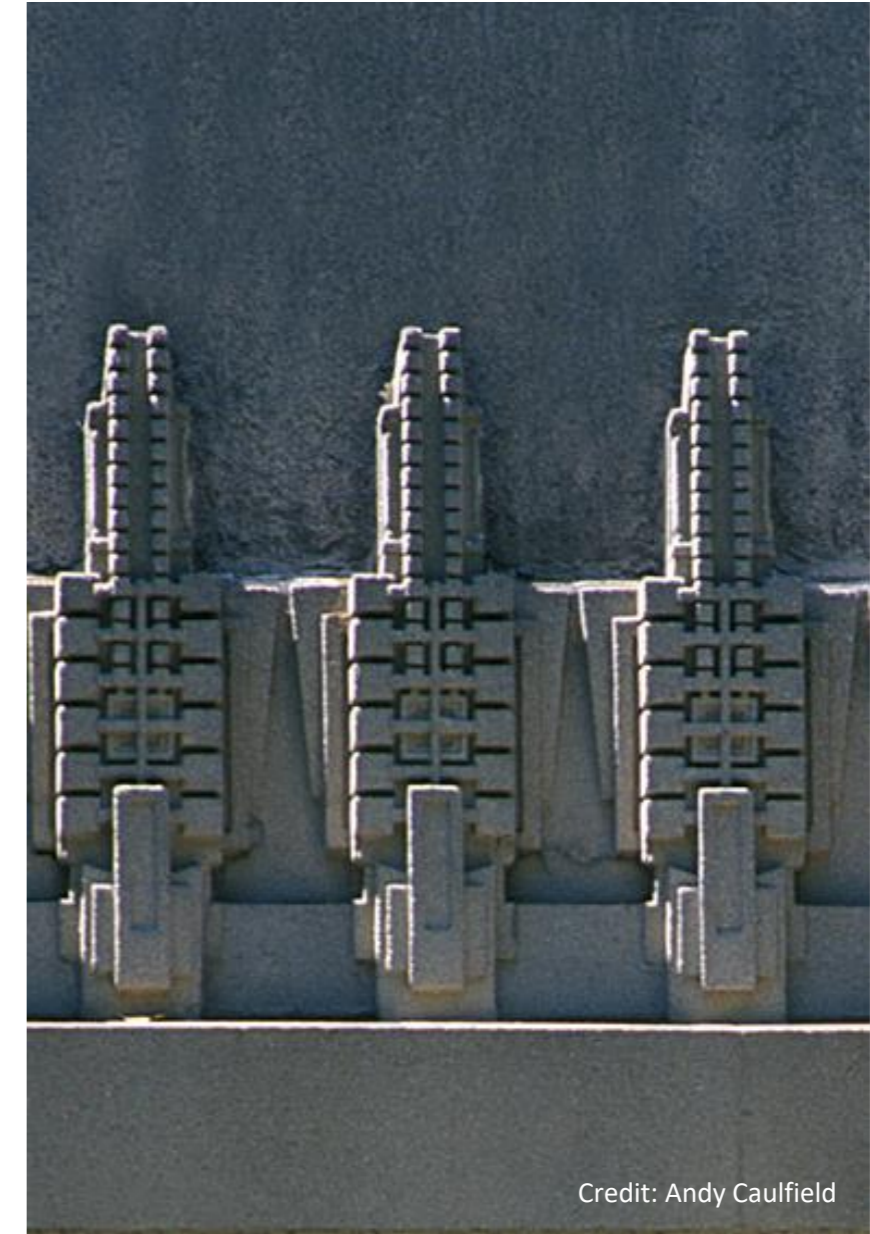
Nature & Geometry were important inspirations to Frank Lloyd Wright.



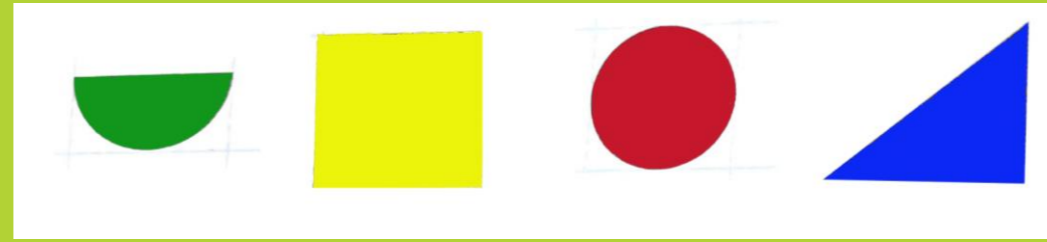
Nature



Geometry



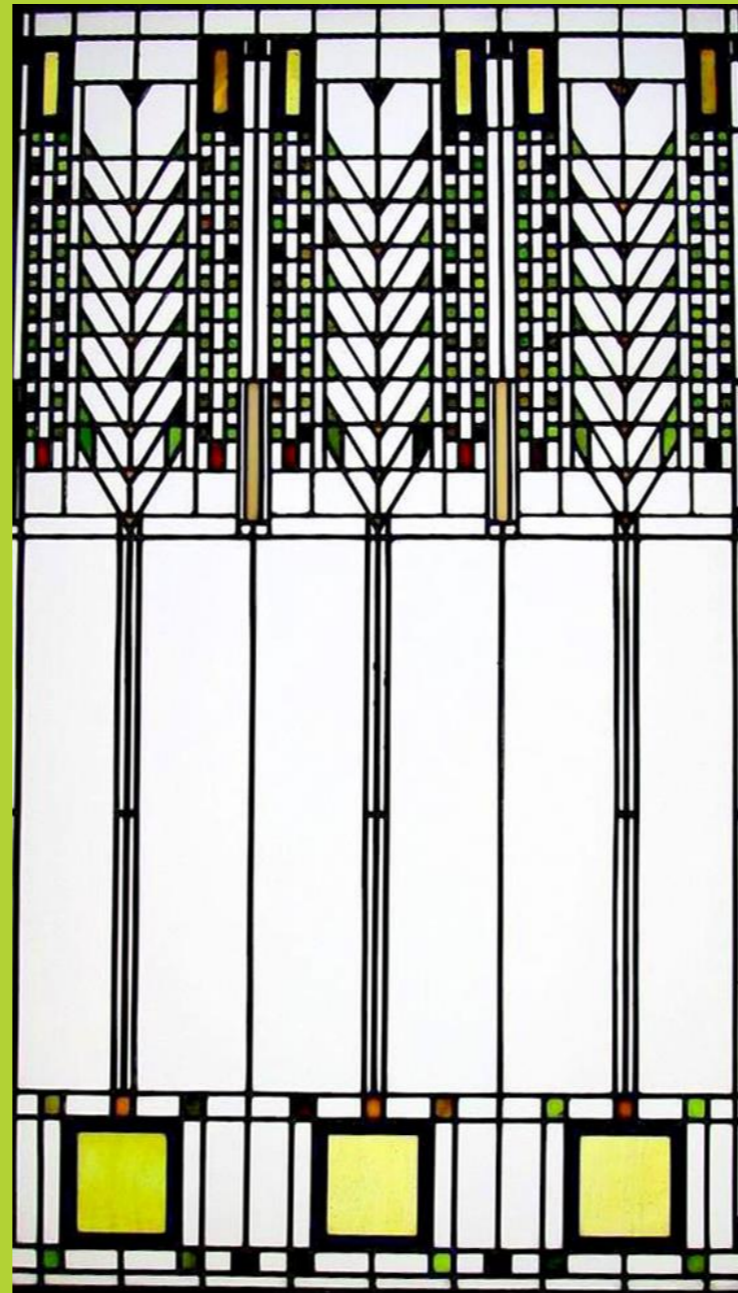
Result: Stylized Hollyhock Design



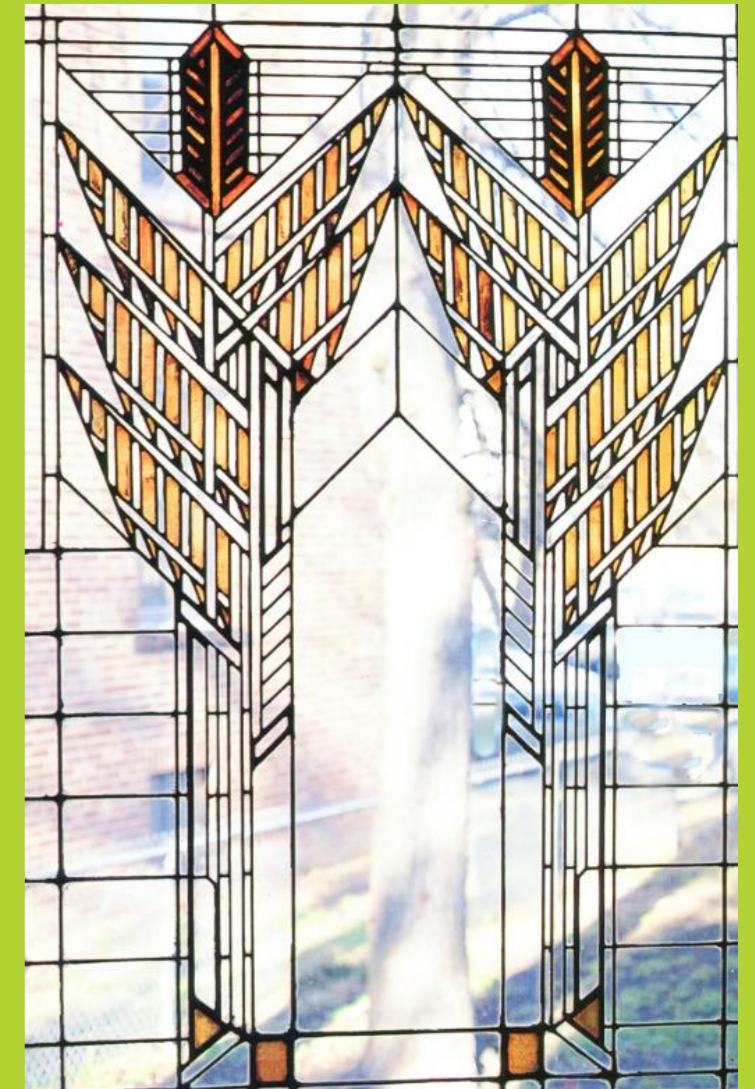
Wright's window designs, often inspired by plants, were a primary feature of his early buildings around 1900.



Credit: Polly Osborne

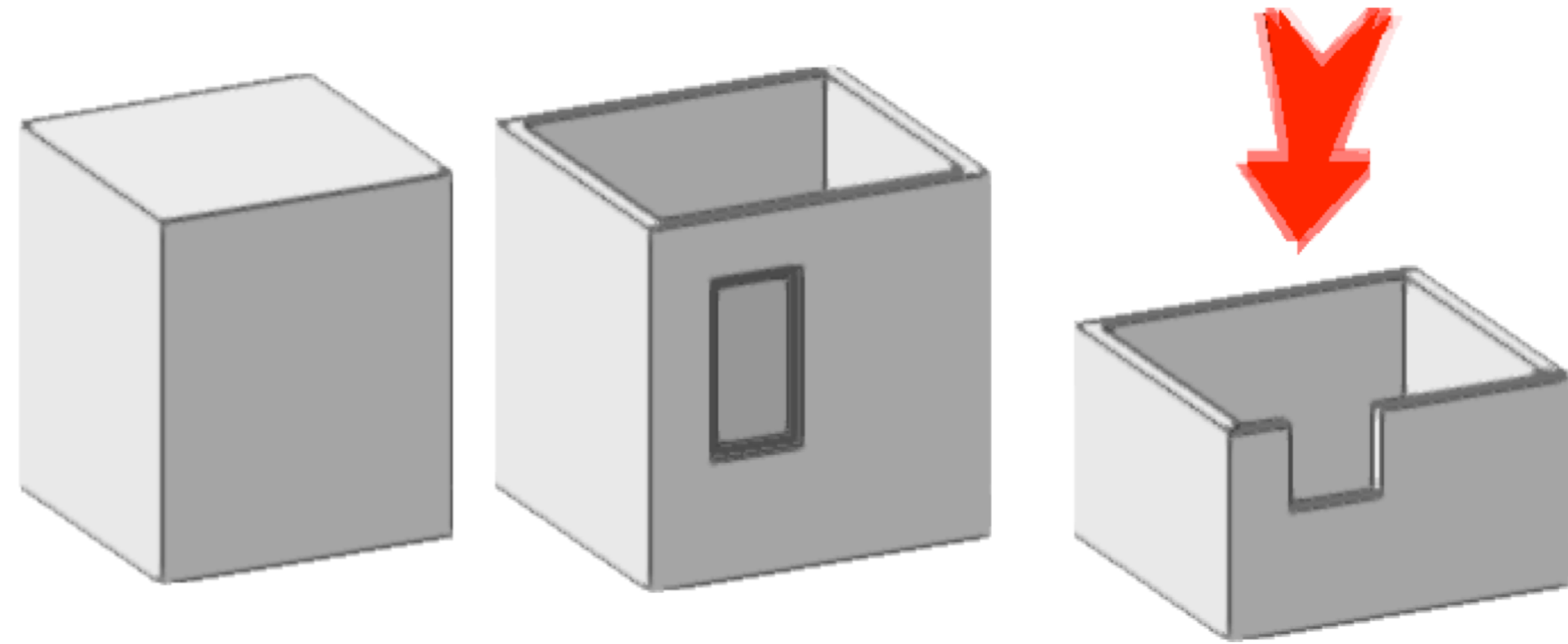


Credit: Polly Osborne

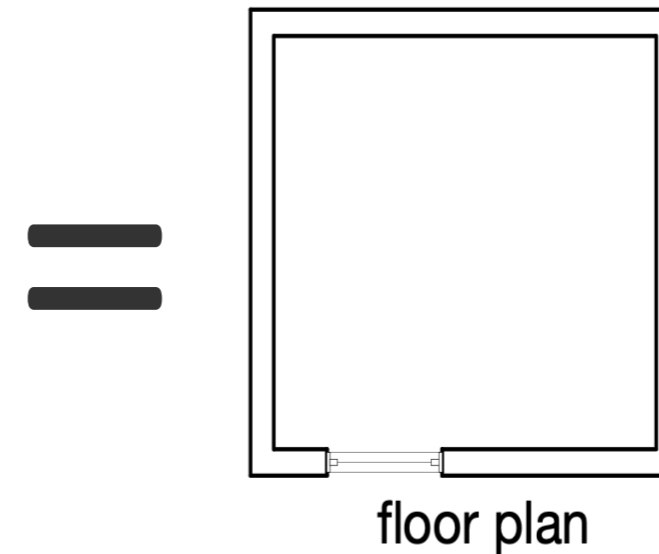


Martin Darwin House Credit: David Hoffman

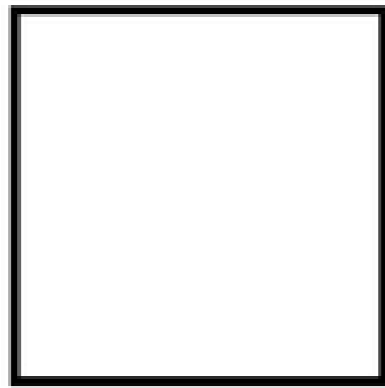
Frank Lloyd Wright would start his designs with a floor plan.



A floor plan looks straight down, like a bird's eye view, but from about 3 feet off the ground.



Frank Lloyd Wright started with geometry in his floor plan and continued it with his building volumes.



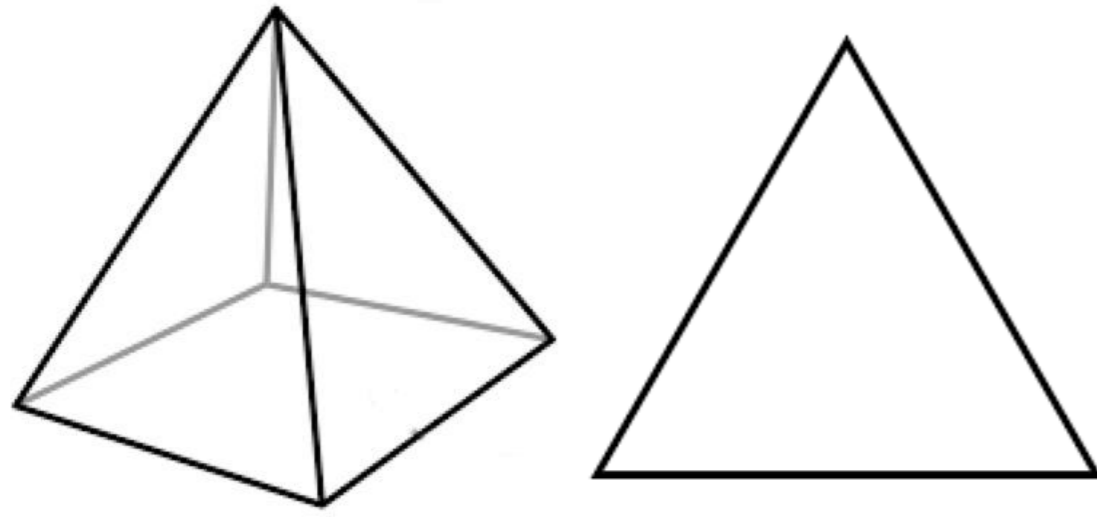
Credit: Immanuel Nicholas Iyadurai

Credit: Laura Blanchard

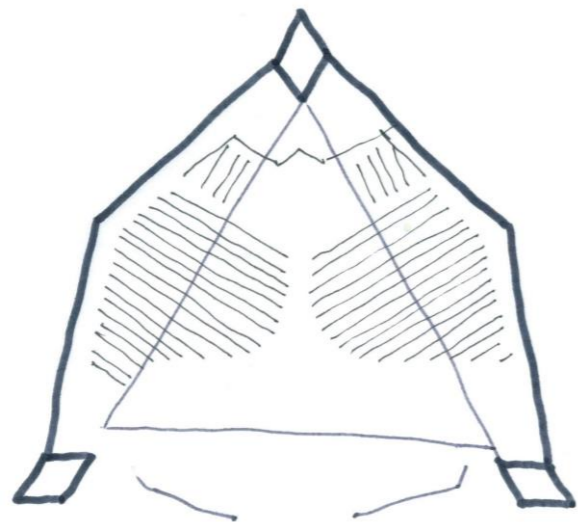
Unity Temple - 1905

Volume

Geometry



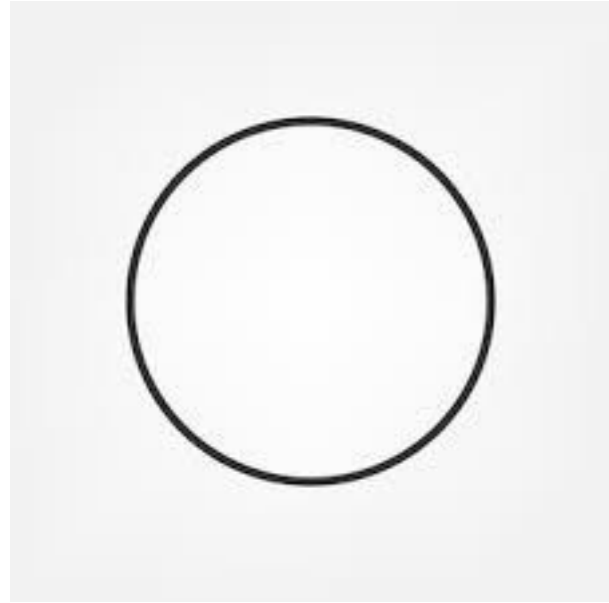
Floor Plan (Bird's eye view)



Credit: Laura Blanchard

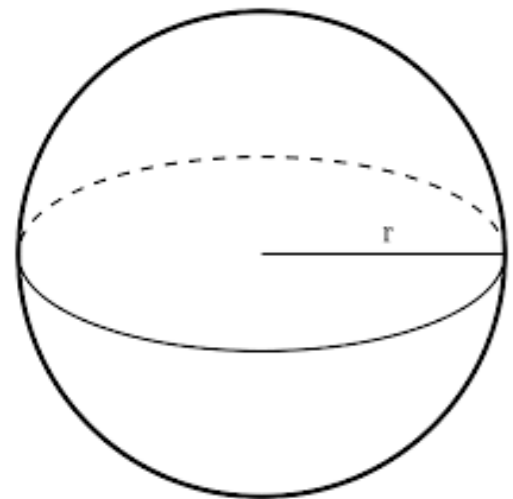
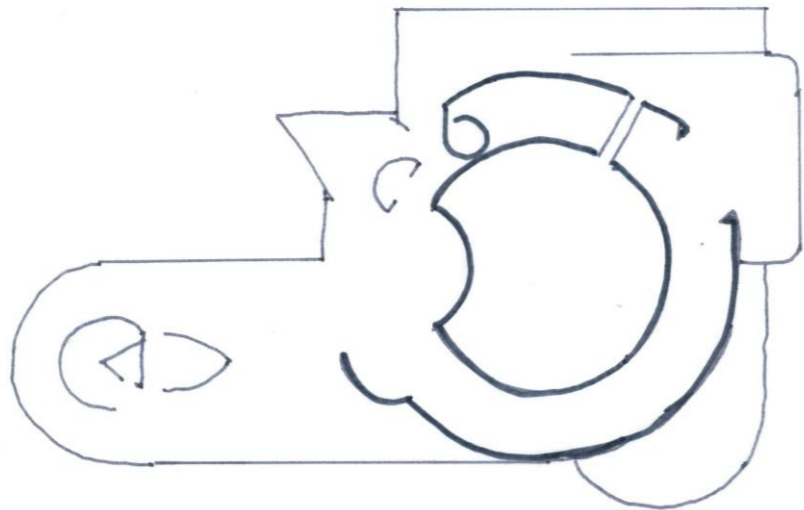
Pennsylvania Beth Shalom Synagogue - 1959

Building



Geometry

Floor Plan
(Bird's eye view)



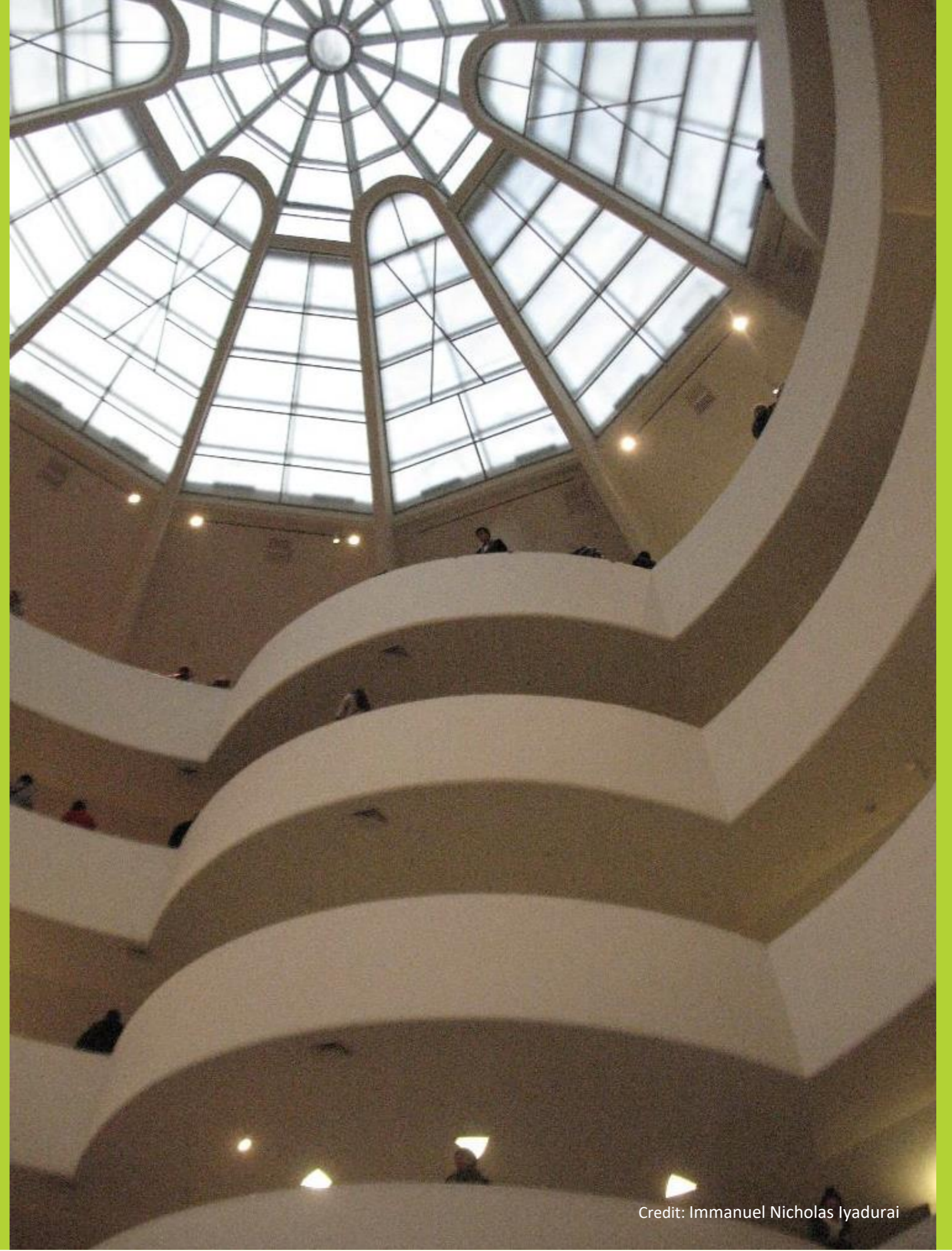
Volume



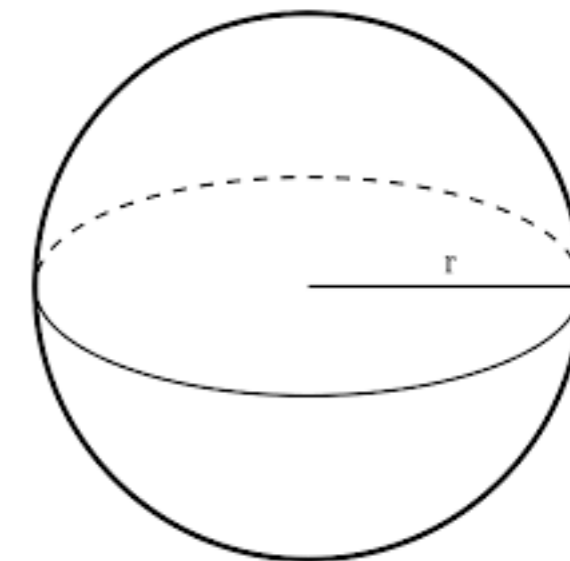
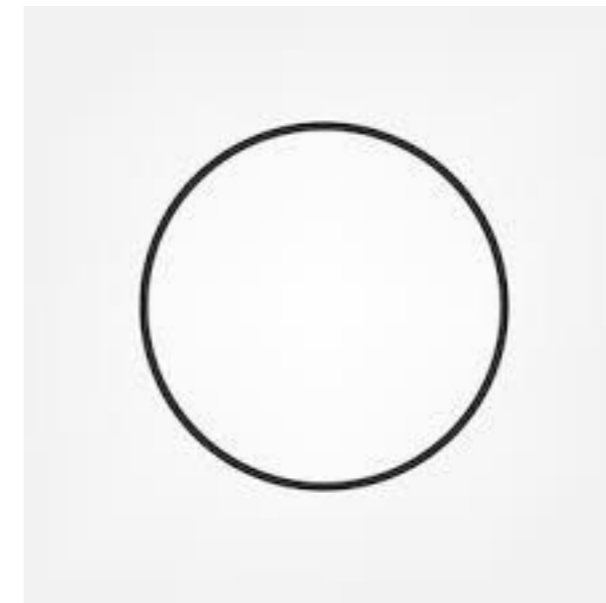
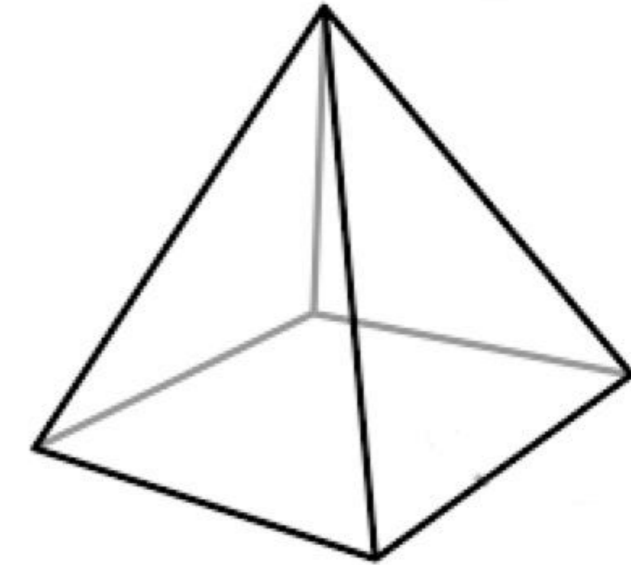
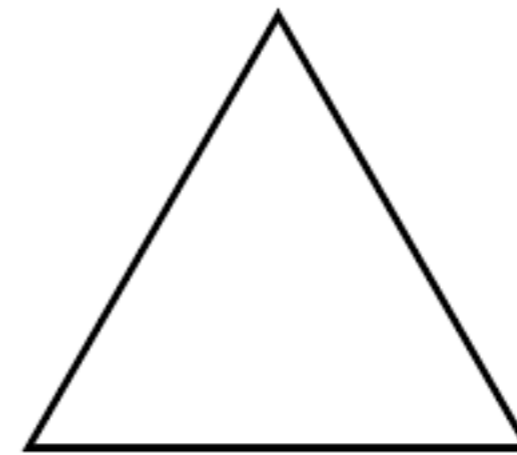
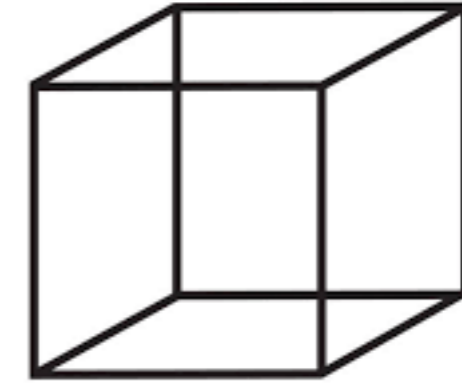
Credit: Immanuel Nicholas Iyadurai

Guggenheim Museum - 1943

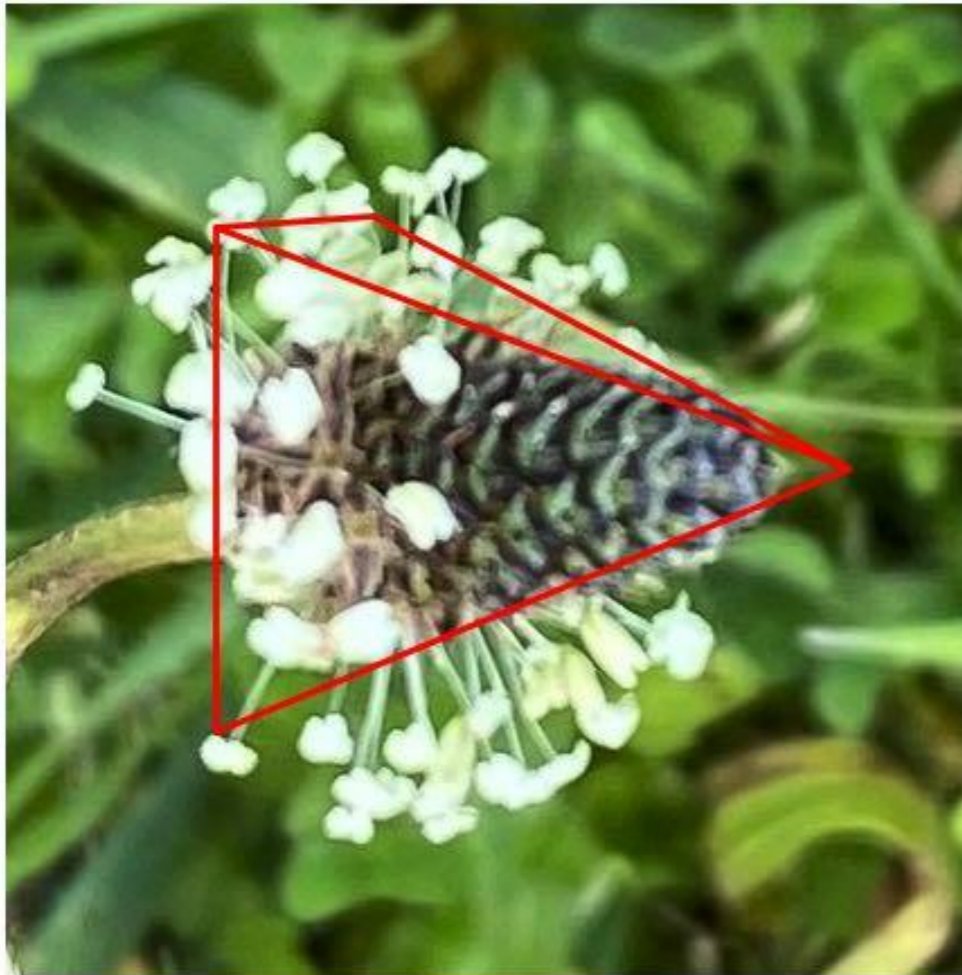
And in this round building, the Guggenheim Museum, you could start at the top and roller skate all the way to the bottom, while looking at art! (But probably the guards wouldn't like that.)



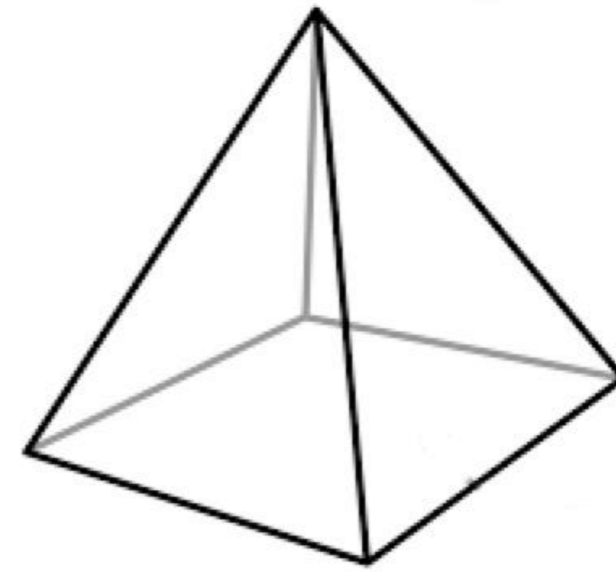
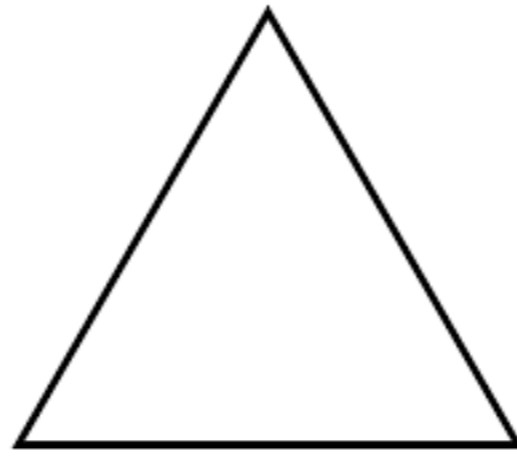
Can you see geometry in these natural objects?

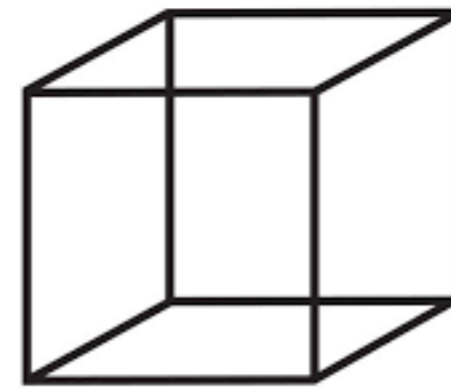
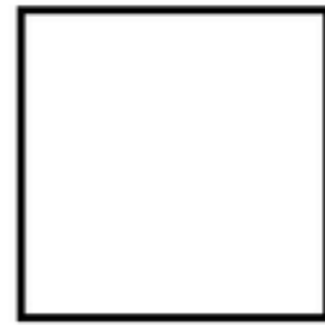
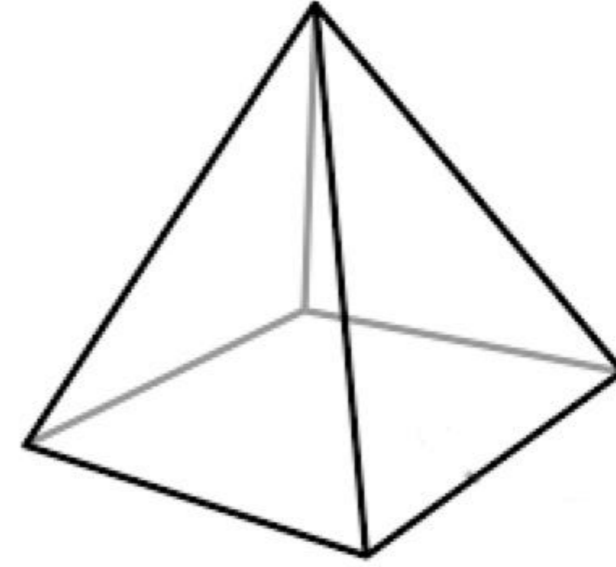
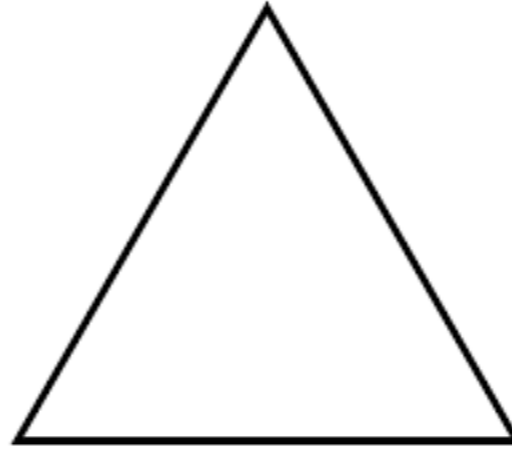
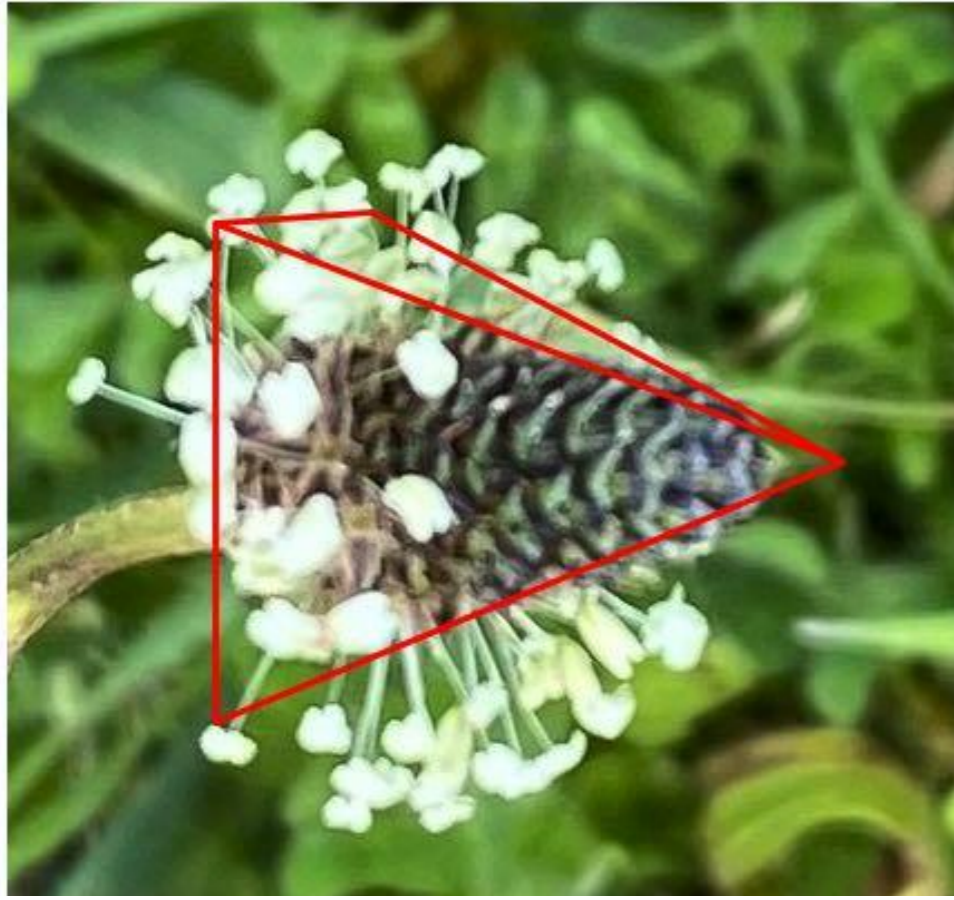


Credit: Polly Osborne

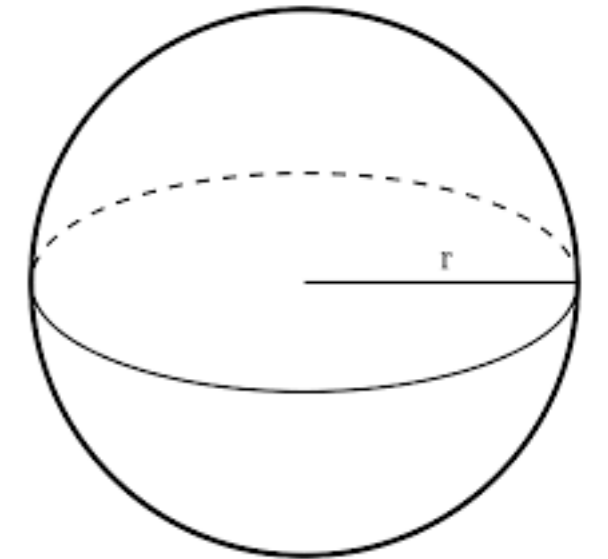
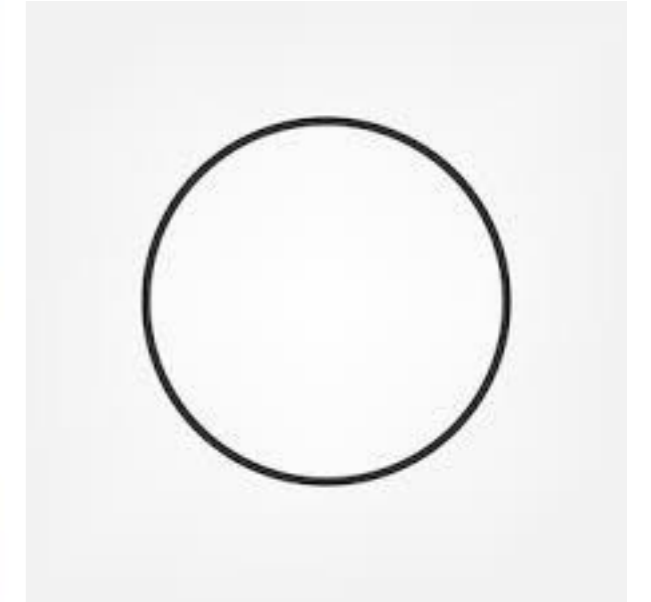
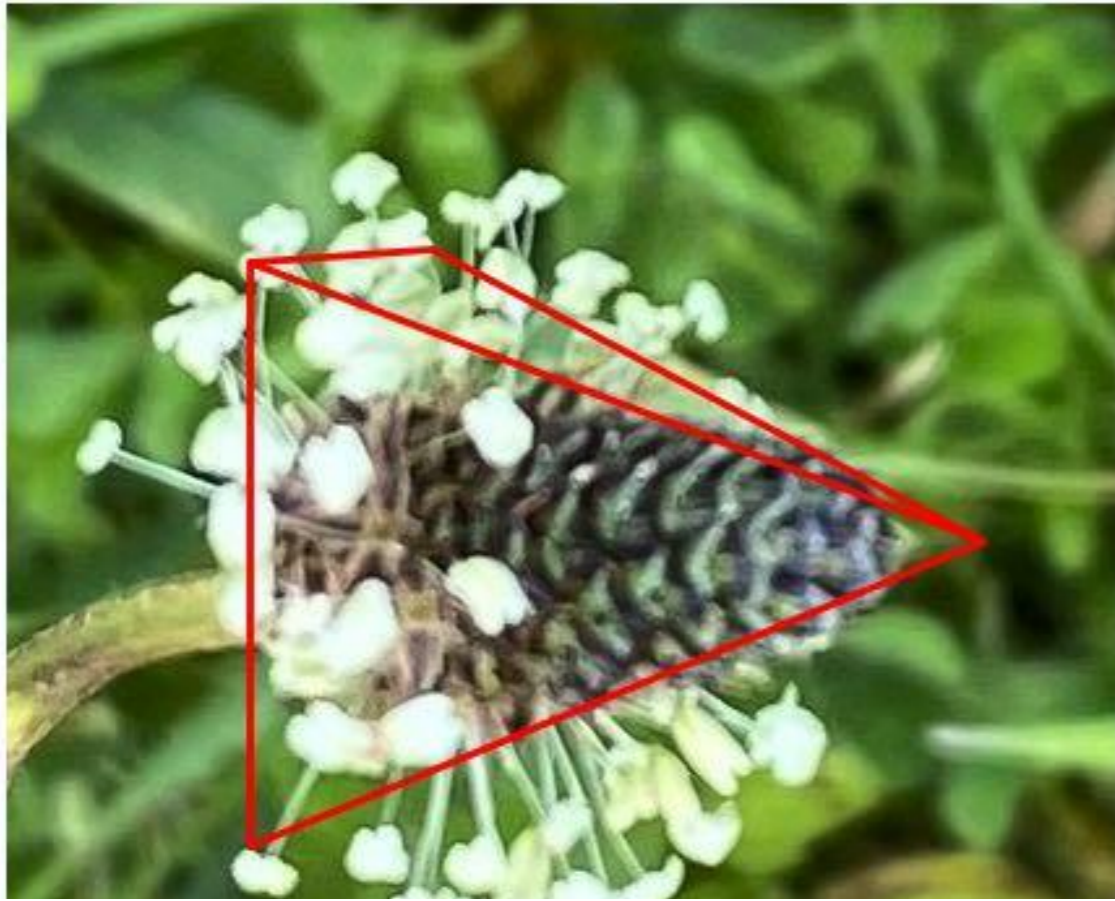


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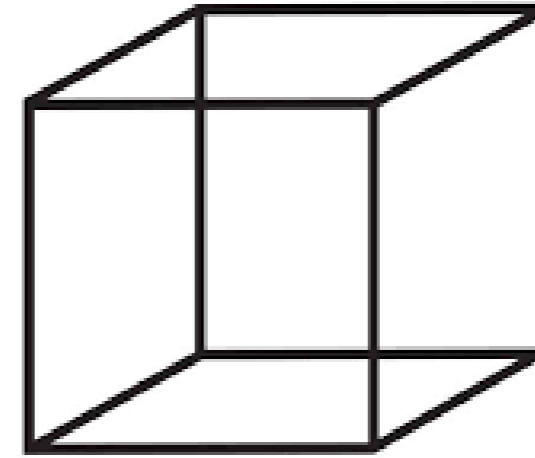
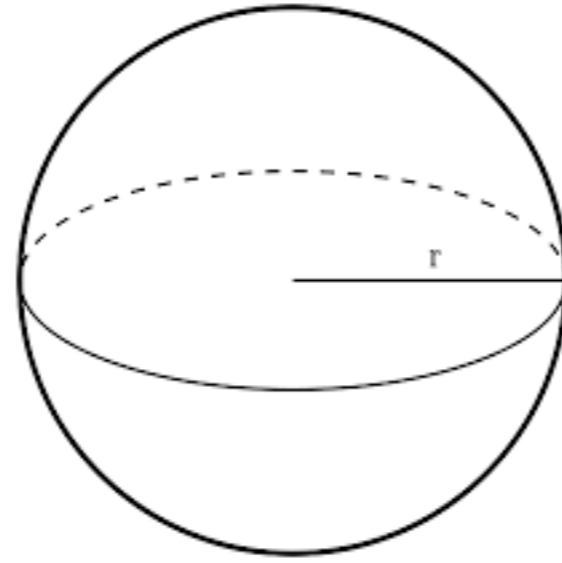
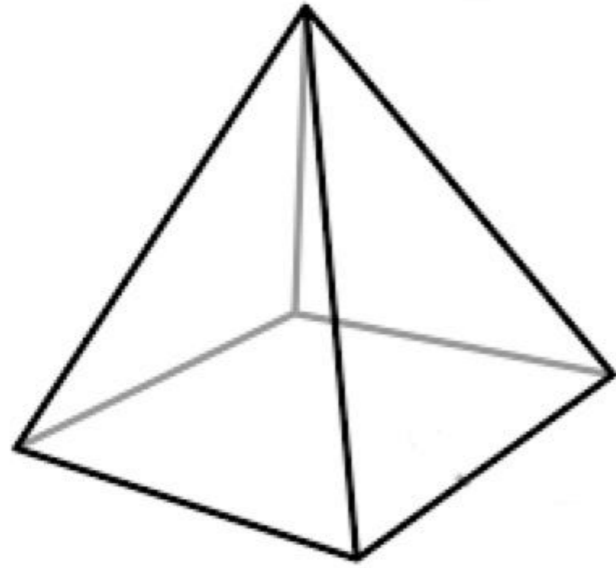




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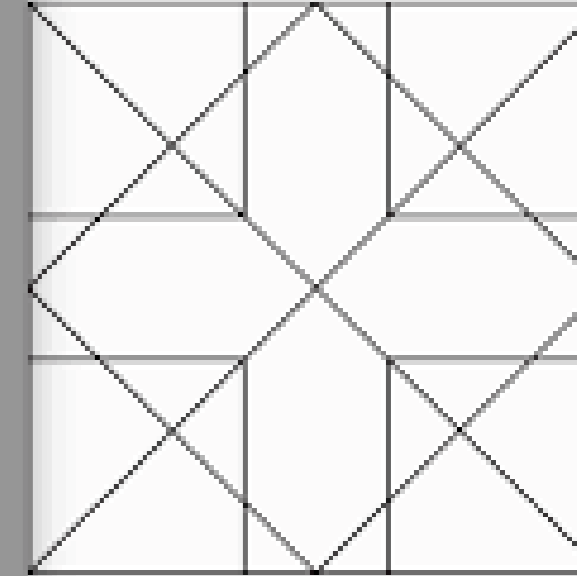
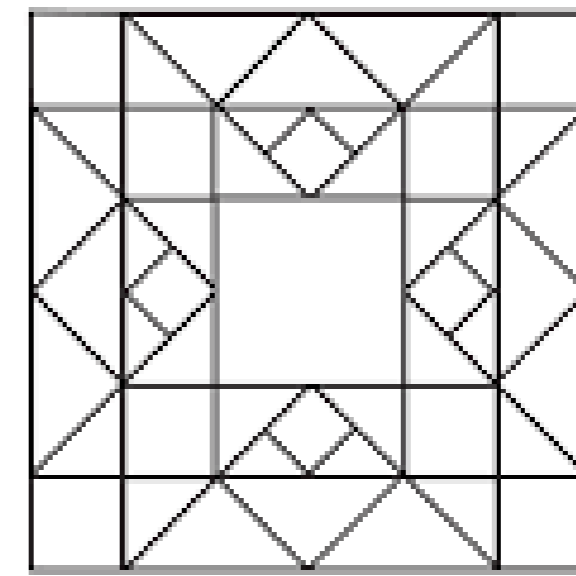
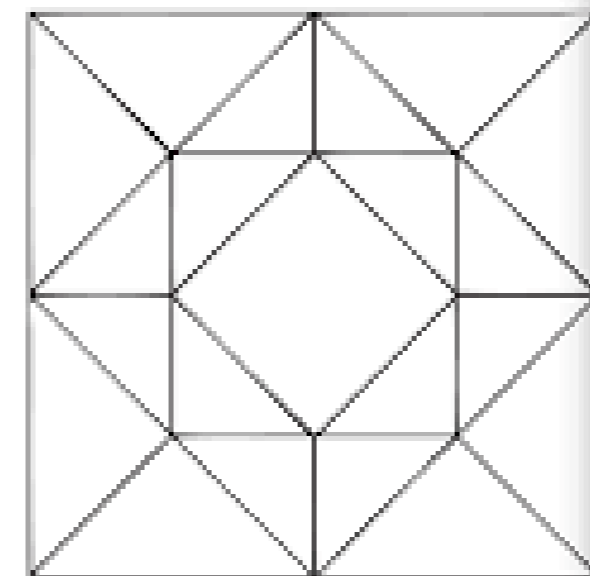
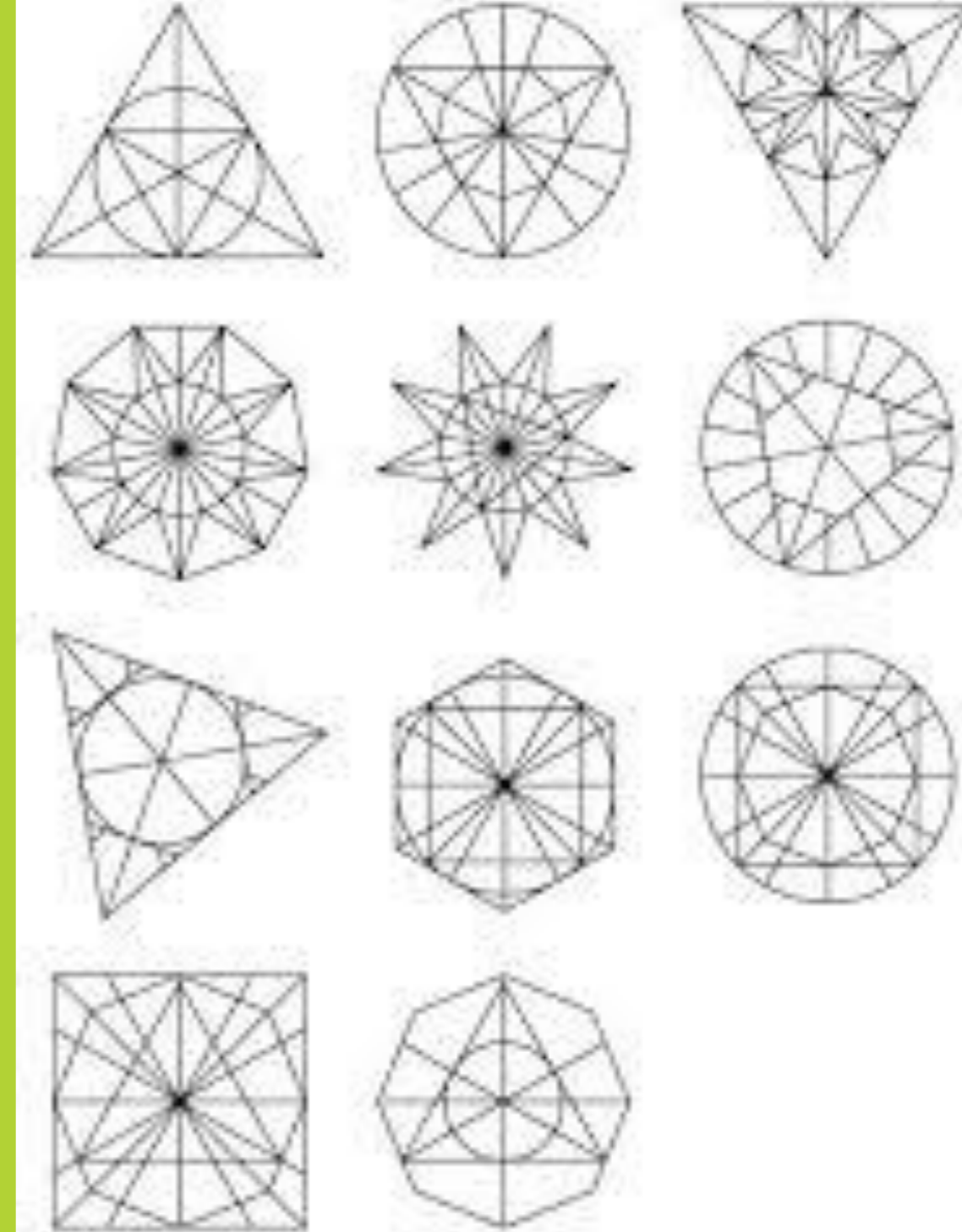
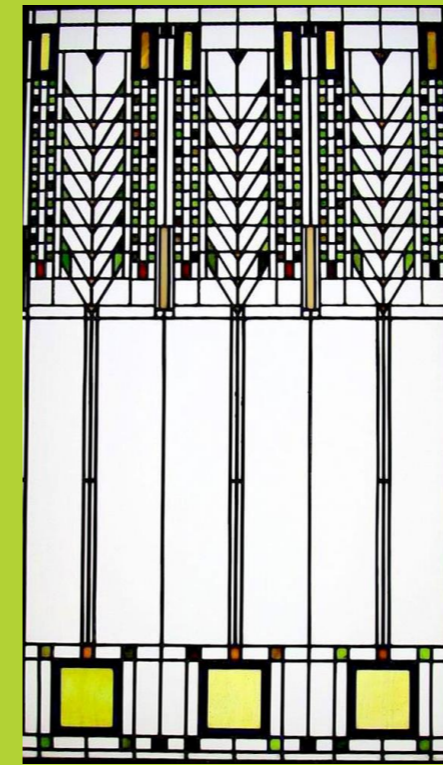
Credit: Polly Osborne



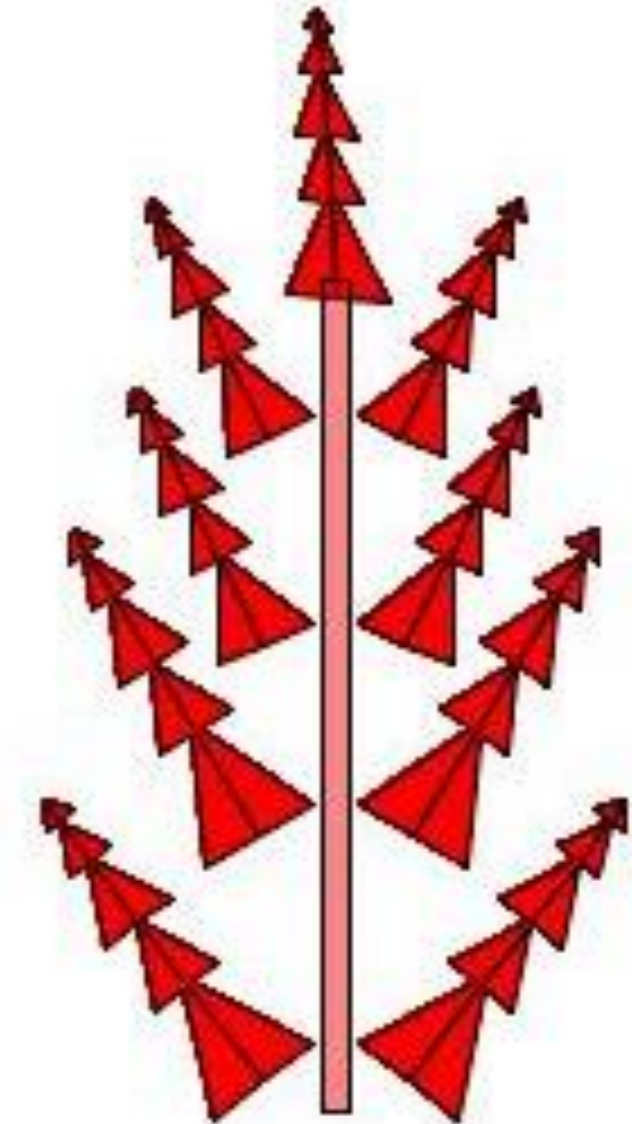
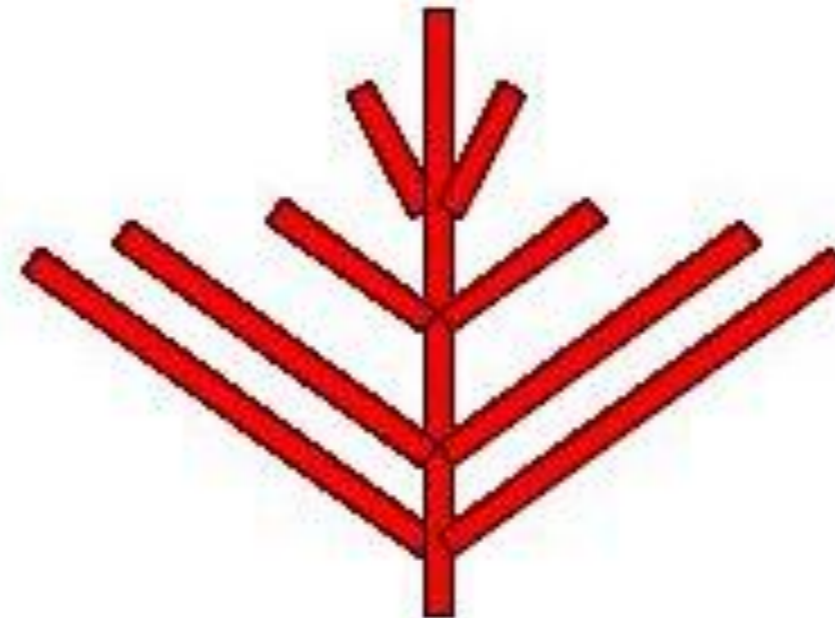
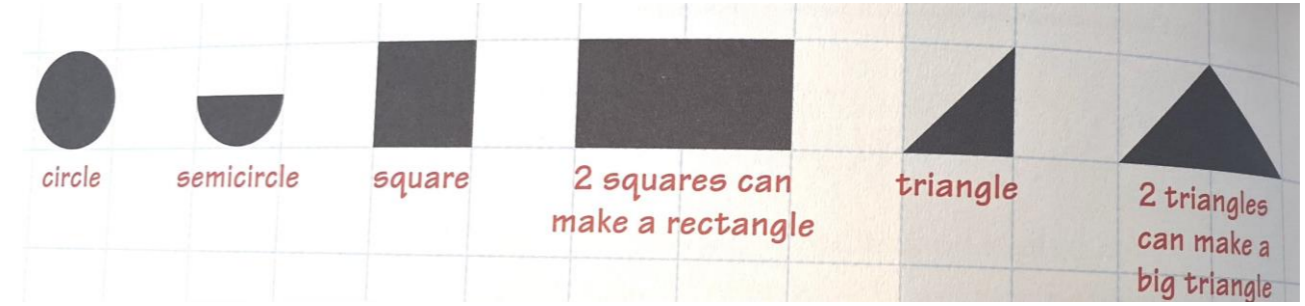
Photos by Polly Osborne

Now It's Your Turn!

Draw a geometric design using the templates provided or make up your own. Use symmetry.



Try drawing a geometric design from a natural object.



It doesn't have to look like an object.
Have Fun!



Credit: Polly Osborne



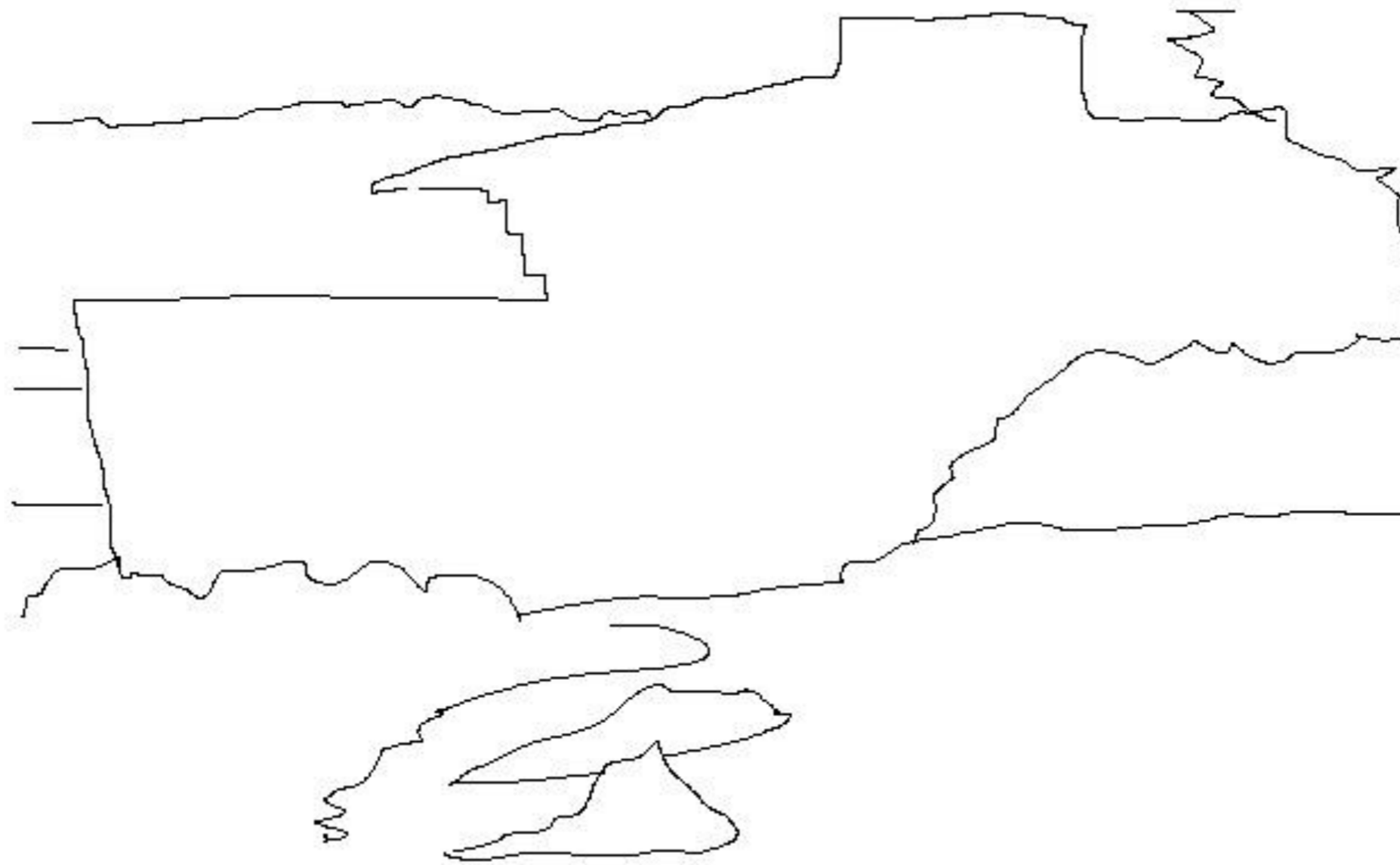
Let's draw architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Cabin on the Rocks house.

The next slides will give
some pointers about how to
draw a building in the
landscape.

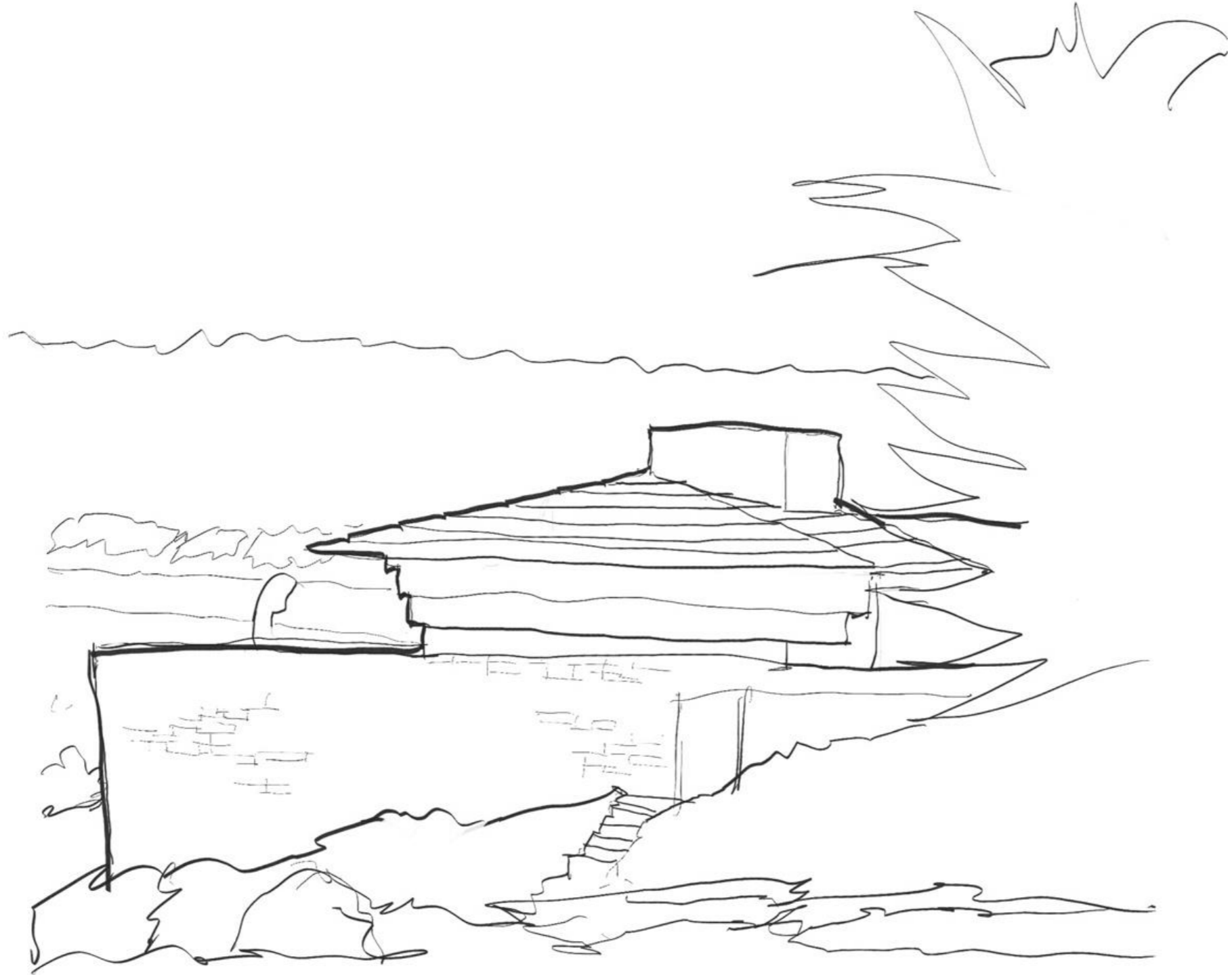


Credit: Kathryn Smith

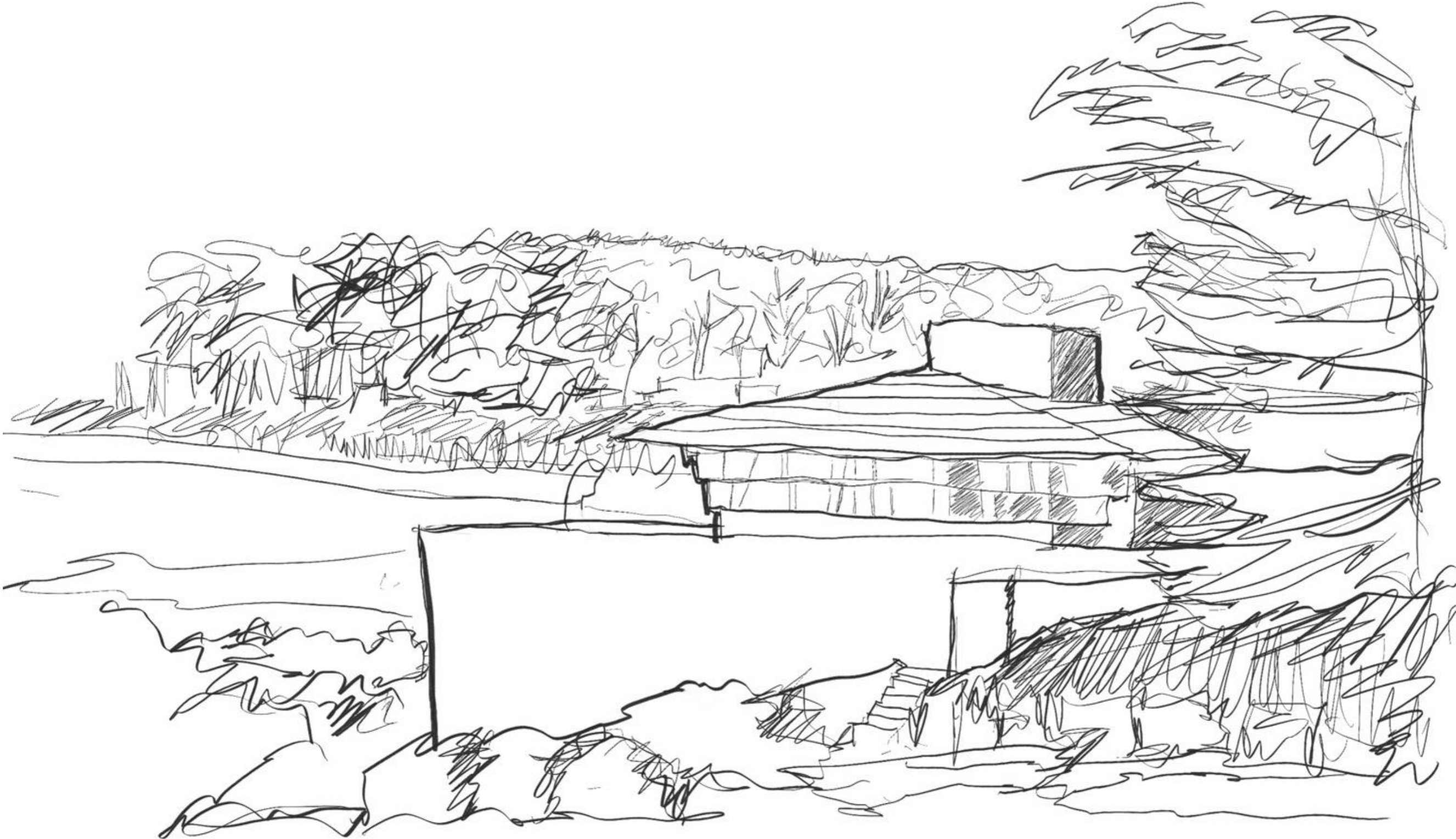
Start by holding up your paper to cover the building. Then, move the paper toward and away from your face, back and forth until you have it covering what you want to draw. Then block that out on your paper.



Next darken the lines of your building and add some context.

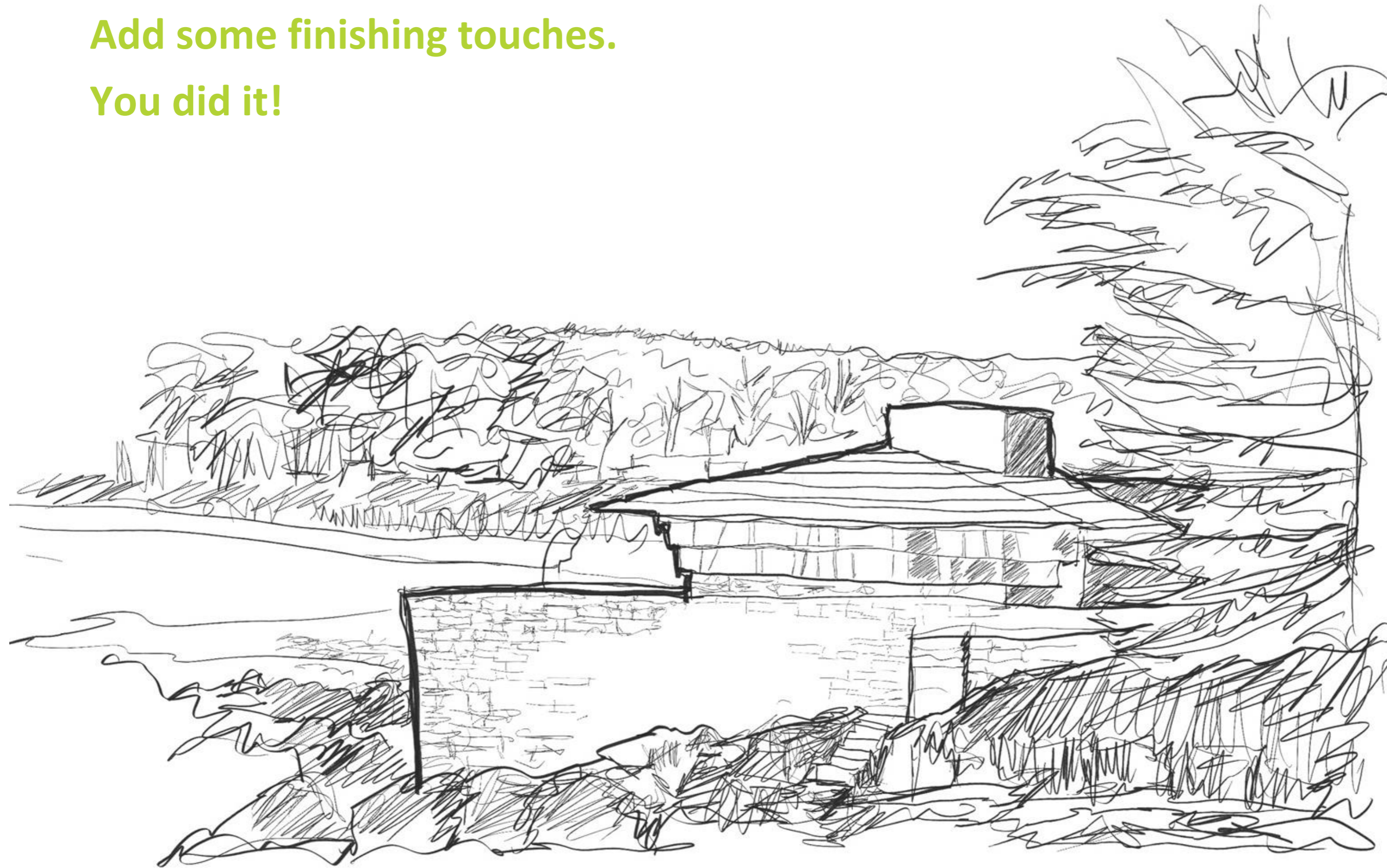


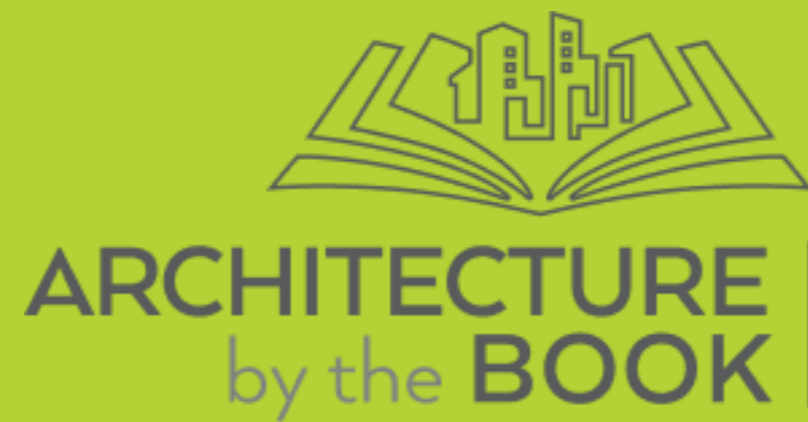
Next add shadows and details.



Add some finishing touches.

You did it!





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