



Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House FAQ

When will the house be open? The house will be open on days and hours that correspond with the Museum galleries hours.

How will the public be able to experience the house? Visitors can experience the house on their own or take a guided tour. Because of the intimate size of the house, reservations are required, while the grounds around the house are accessible without a ticket.

What additional resources will be available? A self-guided tour brochure, an audio guide, videos, interactive timeline, digital exhibition, scale-model, and architecture exhibition will be available.

What are the guidelines for the house? One of our responsibilities is to preserve the home for future generations. Therefore, when inside the house, we will not allow touching (of the structure, furniture, or fixtures) and no food, drinks, or photography.

Will there be wheelchair accessibility to, inside, and around the house? Yes, trails around the site and the tour experience, except for the bedrooms, are ADA accessible.

Why can't visitors go upstairs? The narrow stairs were not designed for hundreds of people to walk on every day. For the protection of the house, we offer visitors photos of the upstairs on our website, which can be downloaded for free.

Beyond tours, how will the house be used? We are looking at a variety of options and will gauge interest during the first few months after the opening. The goal is to provide as much access to the public as possible, while being responsible stewards of the house.

Will there be areas to view the house along the trail? Yes, the Crystal Springs and Tulip Tree Trails offer views, more so in seasons when leaves aren't on the trees.

How does the Frank Lloyd Wright house fit with Crystal Bridges' mission? Crystal Bridges has a strong architectural focus. The design of the Museum itself embodies our mission to connect visitors with the power of art and the beauty of nature, as does the Bachman-Wilson House.

Relocating the house offers an opportunity to preserve a significant architectural object providing programs, tours, and educational materials to the public, at no cost.

What is the history of the Bachman-Wilson House? The house was originally designed in 1954 and the building was complete in 1956 along the Millstone River in Millstone, New Jersey. The land on which the house rested became prone to flooding and the recent owners, architect/designer team Lawrence and Sharon Tarantino, purchased the property in 1988 and

painstakingly restored the house numerous times. Ultimately, they decided it needed to be moved in order to preserve it.

Why is it called the Bachman-Wilson House? It's named after the first owners, Abe and Gloria Wilson and her brother, Marvin Bachman, who was an apprentice to Wright.

How did the house come to the attention of Crystal Bridges? The Tarantinos determined the threat of flooding was too great and embarked on a multi-year search for a new location. They approached Museum leaders who visited the house in 2013 and agreed it would be a great enhancement to the grounds. The acquisition was finalized and announced in 2014.

How has the University of Arkansas been involved in the reconstruction? The Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design was a natural partner, as Fay Jones was Wright's apprentice turned-protégé. UA students and faculty were involved in the design, development, and fabrication of the architectural interpretation structure (known as the Welcome Pavilion) as well as creating a scale model of the house which resides in the Museum's South Lobby. The collaboration provided research and practical building experience for the next generation of local architects.

What are the materials used in the house and which ones came from the original house? The house is as close to original as possible. Materials include concrete, wood, and glass, and some materials have been recreated. For example, most of the mahogany is original while the concrete block walls and concrete floors were re-created to Wright's specifications.

What are the major differences between the newly created house and the home in its original location? The house is as close to the original as possible. Moving it gave us the opportunity to include efficiencies that further preserve the original elements of the house – for instance, there is an improved climate control system installed that will serve to better protect the Mahogany inside the house. These practices are part of our commitment to preserve the home without changing its design.

What is Usonian style? The Bachman-Wilson House represents Wright's "Usonian" period, a distinctly American and democratic style of residential architecture. The word "Usonian" was derived from an abbreviation of "United States of North America." Compared to his highly customized homes, these were simpler, lower-cost houses designed for the average middleclass American family, without sacrificing quality. Approximately 120 Usonian homes were built.

How much did the house cost? When an object is chosen for its contribution to telling the American story, similar to most museum practices, we don't discuss cost. Rather we consider the house invaluable in its enhancement to our community and the visitor experience.