

Thank you for stopping by!

My name is Darlene Town and the design you’re seeing in the field is part of my graduate school studies.



I’m concerned with a lot of global and national issues, but more so with those related to the use of resources and energy.

It seems like just yesterday, but I’ve been on this property for 12 years. I have a lot of plans for this place, some I’ve been able to complete, some yet to be. Most of the home improvement I’ve done myself. My intention is always to increase efficiency and self-reliance. I take pride in my craft and find a lot of satisfaction in stepping back and saying, “Cool! I did that.” While I’m not yet living “off grid,” my goal is to live with more intention, leave a smaller footprint, and continue to build my skills to do all this better.

If by now you’ve written me off as “one of those tree-huggers,” I ask that you continue reading. I suspect there is much here you may agree with or connect with.

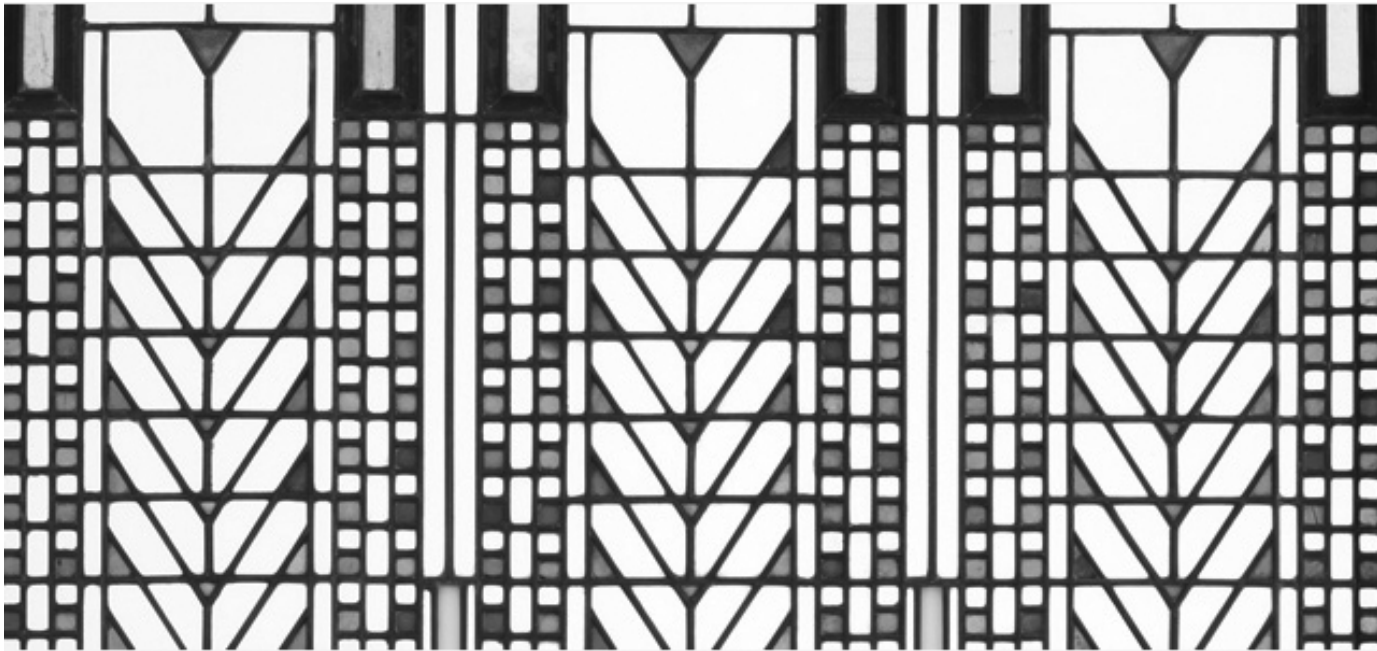
Let’s start with the elements in my field design:

- The Leaf is influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Tree of Life” stained glass design.
- **MAKE:**
 1. to bring into existence by shaping or changing material, combining parts, etc.: to make a dress; to make a channel; to make a work of art.

2. to produce; cause to exist or happen; bring about: to make trouble; to make war.
3. to cause to be or become; render: to make someone happy.
4. to appoint or name: The President made her his special envoy.
5. to put in the proper condition or state, as for use; fix; prepare: to make a bed; to make dinner.

This is a very important word to me. It’s a verb that empowers us to use our minds and hands. There is not as much making by individuals these days. It’s been handed off, in many cases, to those who don’t put their heart or mind into the process. Materials have gotten cheaper and more fragile.

We’re encouraged to dispose and replace items in much faster cycles than years past. And when we do replace, do we give much thought about where the old items go, or what the process is for making the replacement? I fear we are trapped in a system that rewards the wrong things (newness, profits, speed,...). No, I don’t want to give up my smart phone, computer, or flat screen TV, but I ask myself, “what CAN I do?” I could honor my Dad, who passed in 2005, and all that he taught me—gardening, carpentry, designing, love of nature, self-reliance. I could honor all those who came before him who struggled but relied on their own ingenuity to solve their problems. I can use less and make more from what I have, wherever possible.



Frank Lloyd Wright. *Tree of Life Window* (detail) from the Darwin D. Martin House, 1904.



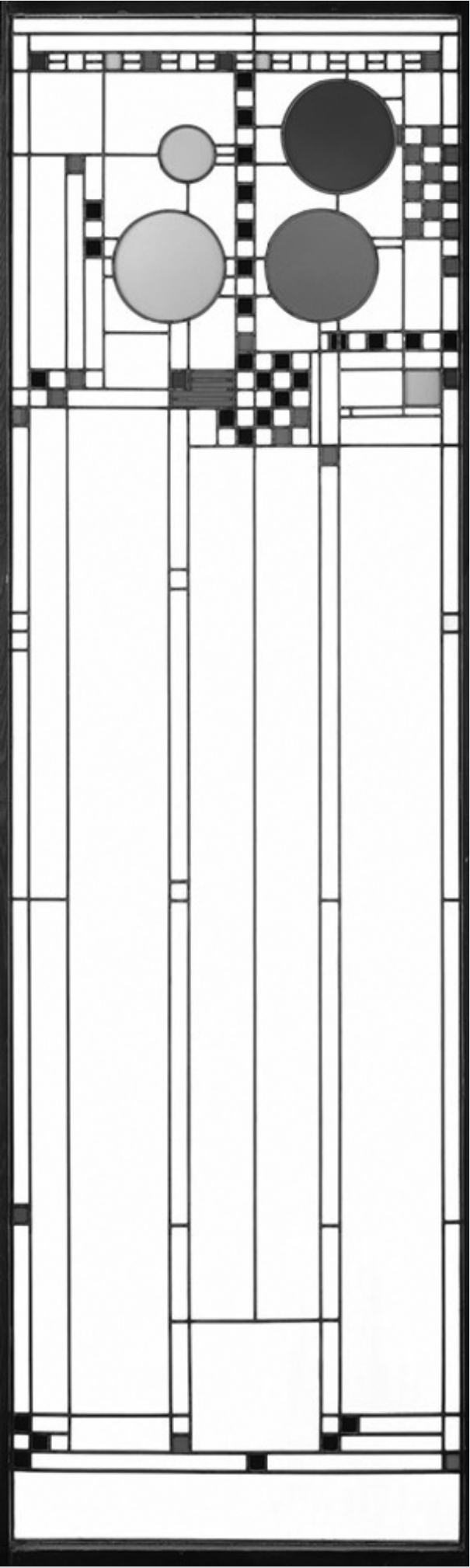
Frank Lloyd Wright (born Frank Lincoln Wright, June 8, 1867 – April 9, 1959) was an American architect, interior designer, writer and educator, who designed more than 1,000 structures and completed 532 works. Wright believed in designing structures which were in harmony with humanity and its environment, a philosophy he called *organic architecture*.

Wright’s creations took his concern with organic architecture down to the smallest details. From his largest commercial commissions to the relatively modest Usonian houses, Wright conceived virtually every detail of both the external design and the internal fixtures, including furniture, carpets, windows, doors, tables and chairs, light fittings and decorative elements. He was one of the first architects to design and supply custom-made, purpose-built furniture and fittings that functioned as integrated parts of the whole design, and he often returned to earlier commissions to redesign internal fittings.

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lloyd_Wright]



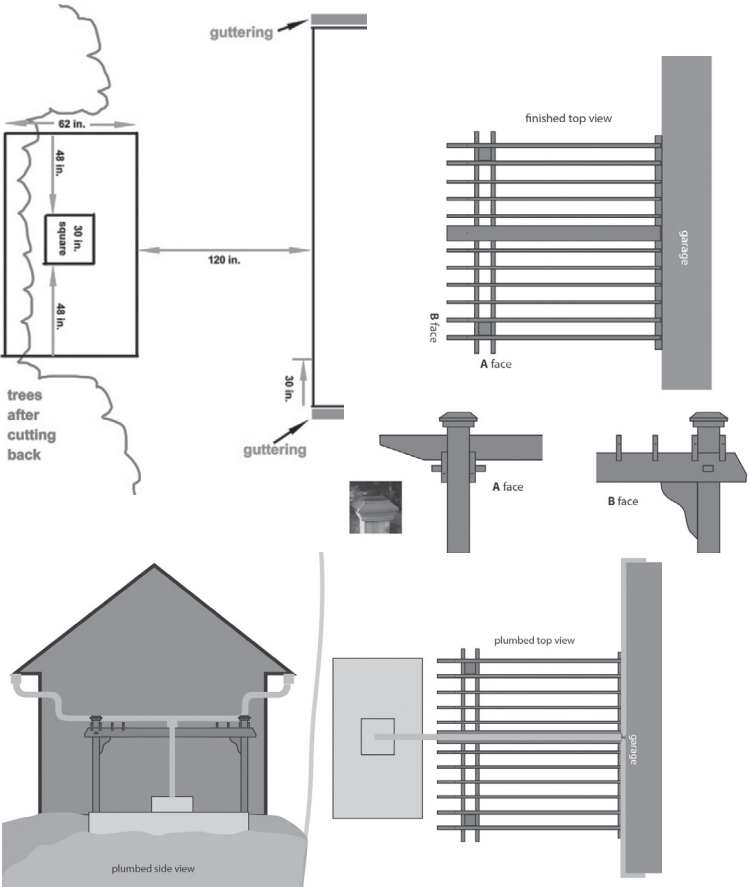
Frank Lloyd Wright stained glass window, 1912. Purchase, Edgar J. Kaufmann Foundation and Edward C. Moore Jr. Gifts, 1967. 86 1/4 x 28 x 2 in.



Sorry, my house is not for sale, but let me tell you what's going on...

Other projects I'm working on:

- 1. the next field design(s)
- 2. reviving my cistern to water the garden



I'm attending the Vermont College of Fine Arts
MFA–Graphic Design program (vcfa.edu)

You can see more of my work and studies at
www.dtimages.net

or tell me what you think at
dtown65.wordpress.com

Another big influence on my designing
overall is the

Arts and Crafts Movement

Arts and Crafts was an international design movement that flourished between 1860 and 1910, especially in the second half of that period, continuing its influence until the 1930s. It was led by the artist and writer William Morris (1834–1896) during the 1860s, and was inspired by the writings of John Ruskin (1819–1900) and Augustus Pugin (1812–1852).

It developed first and most fully in the British Isles, but spread to Europe and North America. It was largely a reaction against the impoverished state of the decorative arts at the time and the conditions in which they were produced. It stood for traditional craftsmanship using simple forms and often applied medieval, romantic or folk styles of decoration. It advocated economic and social reform and has been said to be essentially anti-industrial.

William Morris design
for “Trellis” wallpaper,
1862



The Arts and Crafts style started as a search for aesthetic design and decoration and a reaction against the styles that were developed by machine-production.

Arts and Crafts objects were simple in form, without superfluous or excessive decoration, and how they were constructed was often still visible. They tended to emphasize the qualities of the materials used (“truth to material”). They often had patterns inspired by British flora and fauna and used the vernacular, or domestic, traditions of the British countryside. Several designer-makers established workshops in rural areas and revived old techniques. They were influenced by the Gothic Revival (1830–1880) and were interested in medieval styles, using bold forms and strong colors based on medieval designs. They claimed to believe in the moral purpose of art.

Roycroft was a reformist community of craft workers and artists which formed part of the Arts and Crafts movement in the USA. Elbert Hubbard founded the community in 1895 in the village of East Aurora, Erie County, New York, near Buffalo. Participants were known as Roycrofters. The work and philosophy of the group, often referred to as the Roycroft movement, had a strong influence on the development of American architecture and design in the early 20th century.



The Arts and Crafts philosophy was influenced by Ruskin’s social criticism, which sought to relate the moral and social health of a nation to the qualities of its architecture and design. Ruskin thought machinery was to blame for many social ills and that a healthy society depended on skilled and creative workers. Like Ruskin, Arts and Crafts artists tended to oppose the division of labor and to prefer craft production, in which the whole item was made and assembled by an individual or small group. They claimed to be concerned about the decrease of rural handicrafts, which accompanied the development of industry, and they regretted the loss of traditional skills and creativity.

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lloyd_Wright]



MAKE



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