

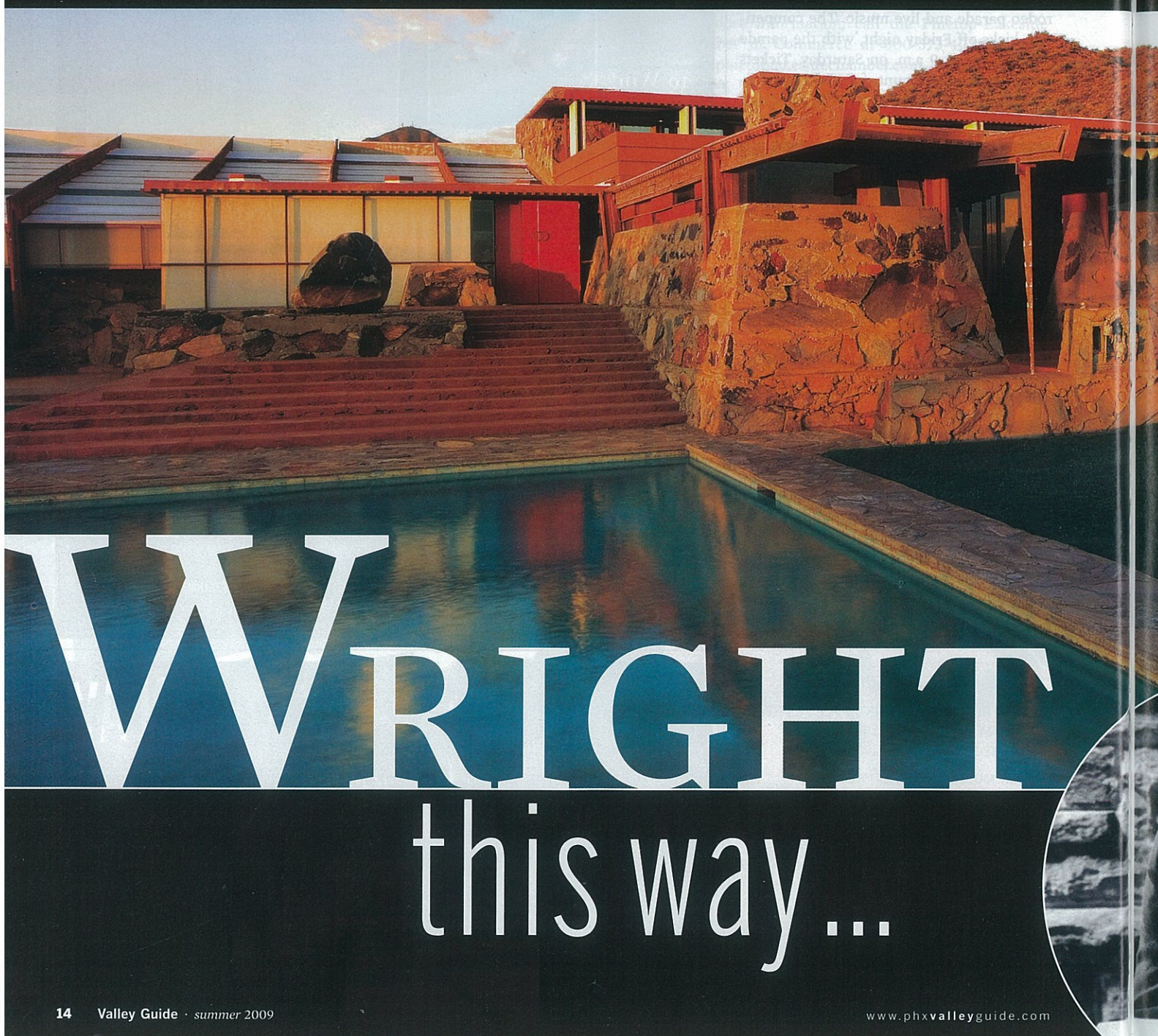
P PLAY

- ➔ The bright and airy living room at Taliesin West offers visitors mesmerizing views of the surrounding mountains.
- ➔ The setting sun bathes Taliesin West in a rainbow of colors.

DAVID H. SMITH



It was a little bit like love at first sight. Frank Lloyd Wright—recognized as one of the 20th century's greatest architects—fell for Arizona during his first visit to the state in 1928. In the rugged beauty of the terrain and the magical desert light, Wright found a dynamic new landscape where he could exhibit his revolutionary theories of architectural design.



In 1937, he purchased approximately 600 acres at the base of the McDowell Mountains in Scottsdale and soon began building Taliesin West, his home and architectural studio and school. He used the rocks and sand around him, exemplifying his theory that construction materials should suit their setting.

Including Taliesin West, 12 Wright-designed structures stand today in the Phoenix environs—eight homes as well as a church,

performance hall, and spire. There is also the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, where his influence runs deep—although historians have concluded he was a consultant, not the primary architect.

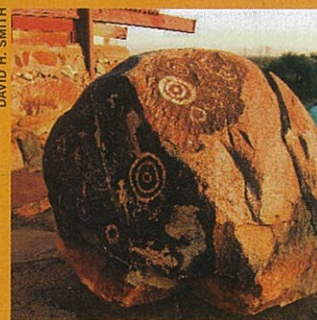
All public structures grant access to visitors, and special tours open doors to Taliesin West. While these Arizona buildings vary in form and function, they all unite with the landscape. Designs mirror shapes and patterns in nature and celebrate the natural world.

TALIESIN WEST | NORTH SCOTTSDALE

With a group of apprentices, Wright built what he called a “desert camp,” providing escape from the icy winters at his Wisconsin home and headquarters. Taliesin West draws more than 125,000 visitors each year for tours of Wright’s living quarters, two theaters, a drafting studio, an office, workshops, kitchens, dining areas, sunken gardens, fountains, and reflecting pools.

Under the direction of his third wife, Olgivanna, Wright’s “camp” became an all-encompassing learning environment for apprentices, and still serves as a living, working, and educational facility today.

Renowned as one of Wright’s masterpieces, Taliesin West represents the architect’s brilliance in integrating indoor and outdoor spaces. Texture, color, and the dramatic interplay of forms echo the geometry and beauty of the landscape.



After discovering Hohokam petroglyphs on Taliesin West’s grounds, Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated them into the designs.



A comprehensive guide to **Frank Lloyd Wright’s** private homes & public structures in Greater Phoenix



MICHAEL BAXTER/BAKTER IMAGING, LLC

ASU GAMMAGE AUDITORIUM | TEMPE

Wright originally designed this building as an opera house for Baghdad, Iraq. When the Iraqi king was assassinated and those plans were scrapped, the design ultimately found a home at Arizona State University. The auditorium opened with an inaugural concert in 1964 (five years after Wright's death) and still stands as a dramatic entry point to the college campus.

Curving copper-colored rails and glass-orb lights, in addition to 46 columns encircling the main rotunda, emphasize the structure's geometric theme. The elegant interior echoes the flowing, circular form.

Wright envisioned palm tree trunks and fronds when he designed the concrete pillars and scallops under the arches of ASU Gammage Auditorium.

JESTER-PFEIFFER RESIDENCE | SCOTTSDALE

Wright's first residential plan based on the circle motif (a theme he often revisited), the Jester-Pfeiffer residence, designed in 1938, was originally conceived for Hollywood costume designer Ralph Jester. When construction costs forced Jester to forgo building the home on the California coast, Wright attempted redesigns, but found no takers. In 1971, 12 years after Wright's death, Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer, an architect trained by Wright and director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives, erected the home on the grounds of Taliesin West. The home, however, is not part of the tours at Taliesin West

NORMAN LYKES RESIDENCE | PHOENIX

This house is Wright's last residential plan built by an original client. The home was conceived in 1959, the year of Wright's death, and built in 1966 by apprentice John Rattenbury. With a series of circular segments, the nearly 3,000-square-foot home, created of tinted concrete, seemingly emerges from its mountainside locale as a futuristic apparition.

- ➔ The atrium in the Harold Price residence features an expansive space that opens to the Arizona sky.
- The circle-and-arc design of the Norman Lykes residence allows for built-in seating that curves along the interior walls.



JANISE WITT

PEOPLE HAVE MOVED AND FOUND NEW JOBS JUST TO OWN A WRIGHT HOUSE.

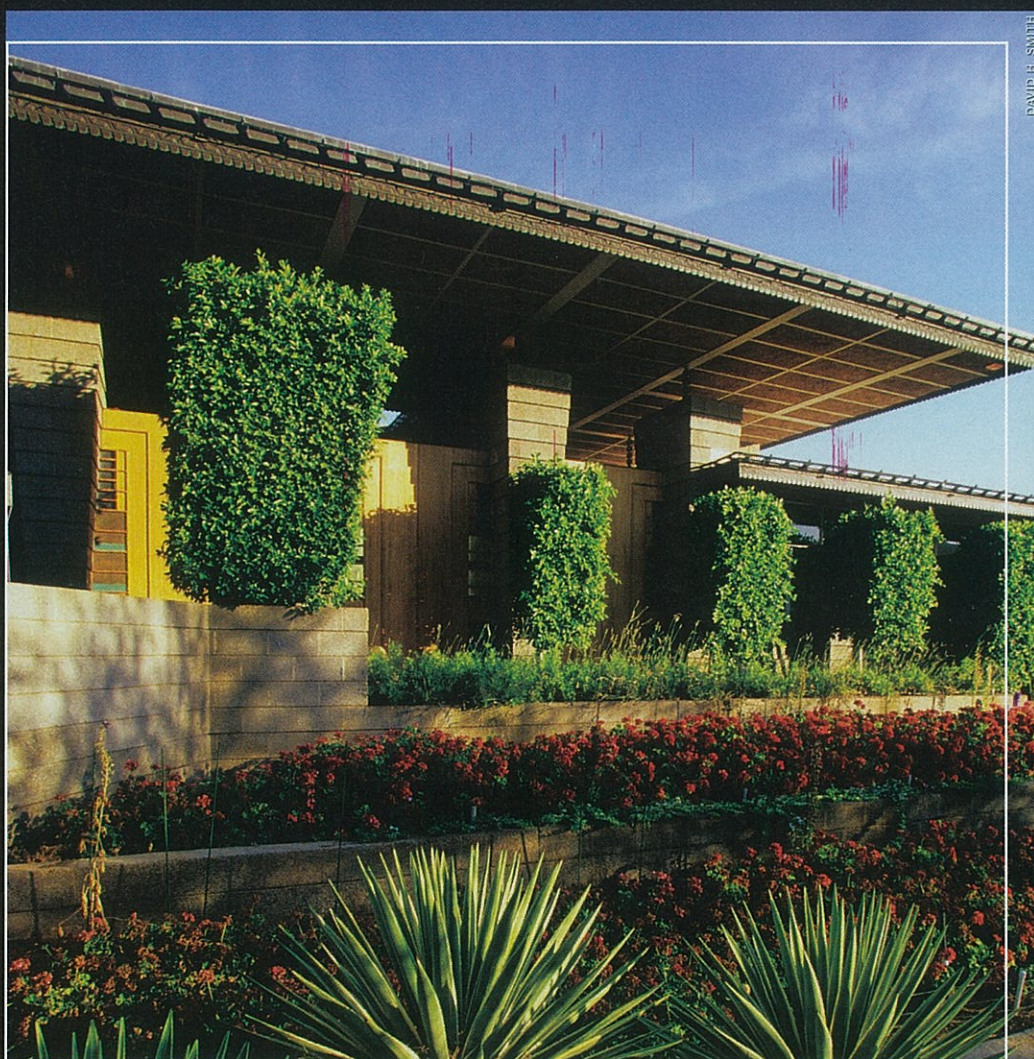
ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA | PHOENIX

Hired by his brothers to design a luxury resort hotel, Albert Chase McArthur asked Wright, his former employer, for help. After years of heated debate, most scholars have concluded that Wright was not the main architect, but that he was responsible for many of the details of the property and invented the decorative cast-concrete blocks that embellish the hotel.

Adding to the confusion, a stained-glass window, "Sahuaros," designed by Wright decades earlier, was installed during the 1973 hotel renovation. Also, reproductions of the geometric "sprite" statues, designed by sculptor Alfonzo Iannelli for Wright's 1915 Midway Gardens project in Chicago, keep watch around the hotel grounds.

RAYMOND CARLSON RESIDENCE | PHOENIX

After penning an article for *Arizona Highways* magazine in 1940, Wright befriended the periodical's editor, Raymond Carlson, and designed a home for Carlson and his wife in 1950, taking into account their limited budget. Based on a simple modular plan with inexpensive building materials, the house is low and sleek, hugging the land. A vertical tower housing the master bedroom, guest room, and penthouse study complements the horizontal orientation. To save money, the Carlsons hammered and nailed the house together themselves. As a housewarming gift, Wright sent a piano that cost more than the design itself.



DAVID H. SMITH

HAROLD PRICE RESIDENCE | PARADISE VALLEY

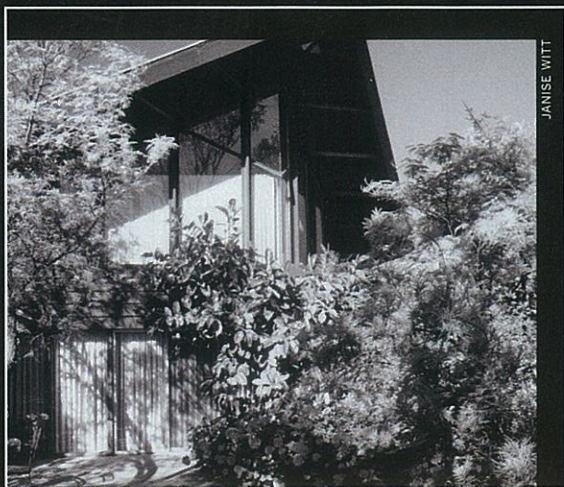
Designed in 1953, the Price house was commissioned by one of Wright's most important clients, who also commissioned the Price Tower in Oklahoma, the only fully realized skyscraper designed by Wright. The 5,500-square-foot home—the length of a football field—consists of five bedrooms and guest quarters with two additional bedrooms.

WRIGHT AT NIGHT

TALIESIN WEST offers

a range of guided tours explaining the history and evolution of the site. Visitors also enjoy the extensive book store and gift shop. In addition to daily tours, a special two-hour summer tour, Night Lights on the Desert, is held Thursday and Friday at 6:30, 7, and 7:30 p.m. At twilight, Taliesin West gleams as a jewel-like beacon, with city lights spread below. Wright's newly restored living quarters are the highlight, where visitors experience firsthand the drama of being a guest in Wright's famous home. For more information, call 480-860-2700 or visit www.franklloydwright.org.

WRIGHT NEVER ATTENDED ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL.



JANISE WITT

JORGINE BOOMER RESIDENCE | PHOENIX

➔ Wright modified a beach-house design to create the Jorgine Boomer residence—a desert cottage of stone masonry and exposed timber beams.

➔ The Benjamin Adelman residence showcases clean, simple lines and fine architectural detailing.

This two-story cottage of redwood and stone with vast windows was originally designed in 1953 for a California coastline. After a redesign, the small but spectacular home came to realization in the shadow of Phoenix's Piestewa Peak. Wright's plan, based on the shape of a diamond, includes a soaring, acutely angled roofline and a balcony that wraps around the second-floor bedroom.

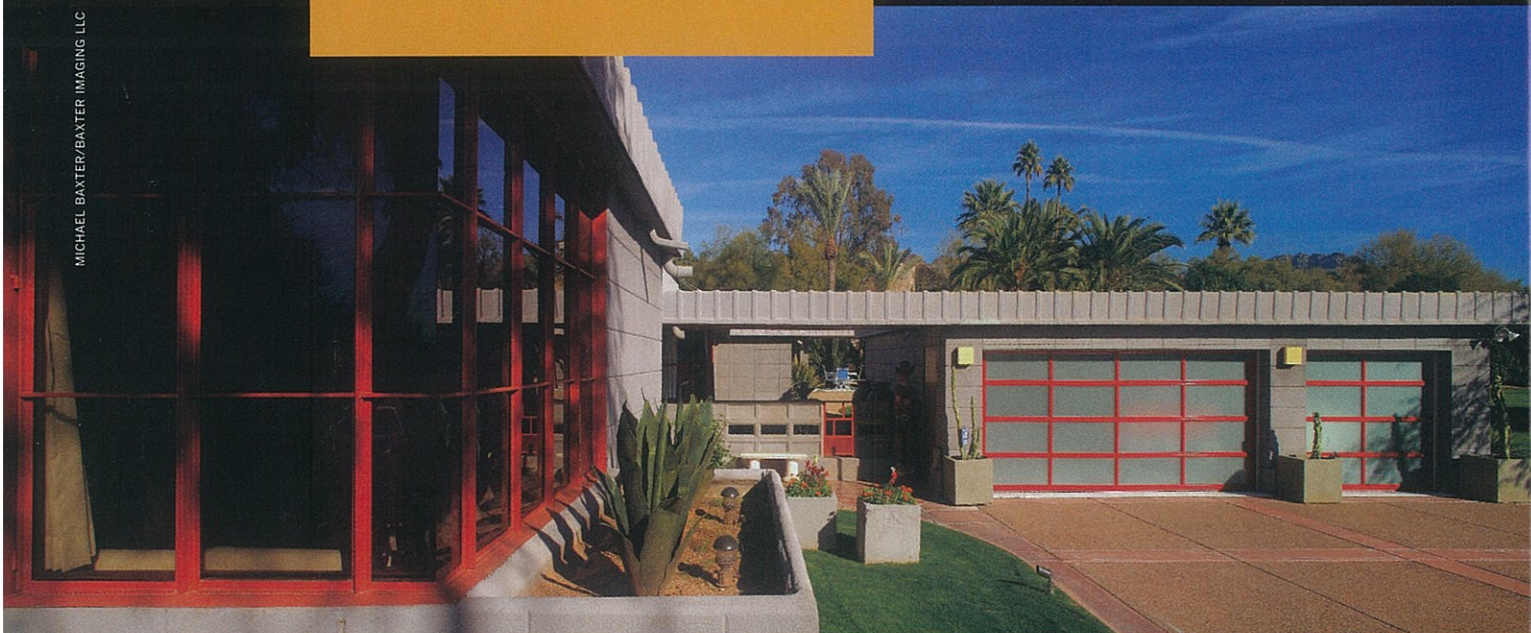
BENJAMIN ADELMAN RESIDENCE | PHOENIX

Next door to the Boomer residence and created in 1951 as a winter retreat, the Adelman residence includes two small buildings—a main house and a guest house. The home is one of Wright's several dozen Usonian houses ("Usonia" stands for "United States of North America"), a series the architect designed to create affordable homes that feature such innovations as radiant heating, prefabricated walls, open floor plans, and carports. While the Adelman residence is Wright's first "Usonian Automatic" design—made from specially crafted concrete block—it was not the first one built...that distinction belongs to the nearby Pieper house.

ARTHUR PIEPER RESIDENCE | PARADISE VALLEY

A modest endeavor at 1,400 square feet, the Pieper residence (designed in 1952), was acquired for its prestigious Paradise Valley location and incorporated into a much larger non-Wright-designed addition. Pieper, a former Taliesin West student, created a construction company that fabricated blocks for Usonian Automatic homes. He was married to Wright's daughter, Iovanna, though they later divorced.

MICHAEL BAXTER/BAXTER IMAGING LLC



VISIT THE SITES

ASU GAMMAGE AUDITORIUM

1200 S. Forest Ave.,
Tempe, 480-965-0458,
www.asugammage.com.
Tours Monday 1–4 p.m.
or by appointment
(480-965-3445).
To attend a performance,
call 480-965-3434. **R-19**

ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA

2400 E. Missouri Ave.,
Phoenix, 602-955-6600,
www.arizonabiltmore.com. Tours Tuesday,
Thursday, and Saturday
at 10 a.m. Free for guests
of the hotel; \$10 for
non-guests. **N-16**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6750 N. 7th Ave.,
Phoenix, 602-246-9206,
www.fccphx.com. Public
services Sunday at 9 and
10:30 a.m. **M-15**

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
SPIRE** at Scottsdale
Promenade, southeast
corner of Scottsdale Road
and Frank Lloyd Wright
Boulevard. **J-19**

TALIESIN WEST
12621 Frank Lloyd Wright
Blvd., Scottsdale,
480-860-2700,
www.franklloydwright.org.
Daily tours available. **K-20**

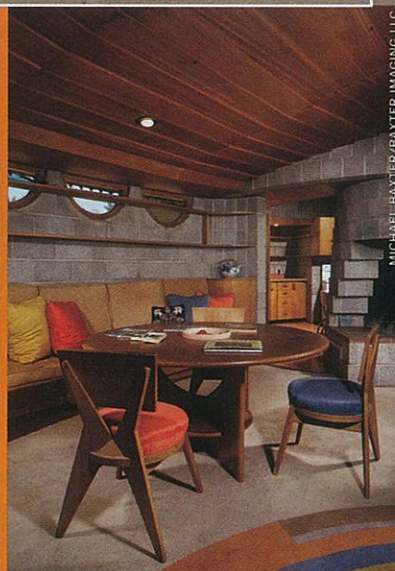
Map codes (**N-17**) correspond to
Valley Guide's "Greater Phoenix Map"
on page 20 in this issue.

MICHAEL BAXTER/BAXTER IMAGING LLC

DAVID WRIGHT RESIDENCE | PHOENIX

Built for Wright's son David, this residence (designed in 1950), features a swirling coil of concrete blocks suspended off the desert floor, allowing breezes to flow beneath. The blocks are topped by a galvanized steel roof. The home's highlight is the semicircular master bedroom, with a 180-degree mountain view and curved fireplace.

- With its multitude of indoor and outdoor spaces, it's clear why Wright labeled the designs for the David Wright residence "How to Live in the Southwest."
- Half-moon windows let daylight into the David Wright residence.



MICHAEL BAXTER/BAXTER IMAGING LLC

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH | PHOENIX

A 77-foot spire of multicolored glass and a bell tower rise from the sky-blue roof of Phoenix's First Christian Church. Wright prepared the design in 1949 as a fundraising campaign for a seminary. The angled roof rests on masonry piers (Wright saw them as desert trees), joined by large expanses of glass. Inside, the gold-tinted ceiling, ornamented by jewel-toned stained-glass windows, simulates a celestial palace. Churches were of special interest to Wright—he was the son and grandson of preachers.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SPIRE | NORTH SCOTTSDALE

This 125-foot, cool blue spindle, built in 2002, was originally the centerpiece of a proposed Arizona State Capitol building—a design ultimately rejected by the state. When illuminated from within at night, it can be seen from miles around, so a drive-by might suffice, but many visitors enjoy a closer look—gazing up at this marvel from the sculpture garden at its base. **V**

Taliesin West tops Tempe-based writer Amy Abrams' list of "what to see" picks for Greater Phoenix residents and visitors alike.