



Quotes about Fallingwater

“....there are many places where conversation, and Frank Lloyd Wright’s work, can be studied; there is nowhere else where [Fallingwater] his architecture can felt so warmly, appreciated so intuitively. That is the beginning of wisdom. . . .”
Edgar Kaufmann, jr.

Fallingwater is a great blessing - one of the great blessings to be experienced here on earth, I think nothing yet ever equalled the coordination, sympathetic expression of the great principle of repose where forest and stream and rock and all the elements of structure are combined so quietly that really you listen not to any noise whatsoever although the music of the stream is there. But you listen to Fallingwater the way you listen to the quiet of the country...

Frank Lloyd Wright
Talk to the Taliesin Fellowship,
May 1, 1955

Fallingwater is famous because the house in its setting embodies a powerful ideal-that people today can learn to live in harmony with nature. . . .As technology uses more and more natural resources, as the world’s population grows even larger, harmony with nature is necessary for the very existence of mankind.
Edgar Kaufmann, jr.

It has served well as a house, yet has always been more than that, a work of art beyond any ordinary measure of excellence. Itself an ever-flowing source of exhilaration, it is set on the waterfall of Bear Run, spouting nature’s endless energy and grace. House and site together form the very image of man’s desire to be at one with nature, equal and wedded to nature.
Edgar Kaufmann, jr.

Always all things at once, it remains as magical, as hallucinatory and as ethereal as a cascade of white water or an early morning mist.
Neil Levine, 1996.

In Fallingwater Wright captured the perfect essence of our desire to live with nature, to dwell in a forested place and be at home in the natural world.
Edgar Kaufmann, jr.

Fallingwater in its setting embodies a powerful ideal - that people today can learn to live in harmony with nature.

Edgar Kaufmann, jr., Visitor Center Exhibition text

A building should grace its environment rather than disgrace it.

Frank Lloyd Wright, Hugh Downs interview, 1952

There in a beautiful forest was a solid, high rock-ledge rising beside a waterfall, and the natural thing seemed to be to cantilever the house from that rock-bank over the falling water....Then came of course Mr. Kaufmann's love for the beautiful site. He loved the site where the house was built and liked to listen to the waterfall. So that was the prime motive in the design. I think you can hear the waterfall when you look at the design. At least it is there, and he lives intimately with the thing he loves.

Frank Lloyd Wright, Hugh Downs interview, 1952

I want you to live with the waterfall, not just to look at it, but for it to become an integral part of your lives.

Frank Lloyd Wright to the Kaufmanns, ca 1935

Edgar Kaufmann, jr., dedication ceremony, 1963:

Fallingwater's beauty remains fresh like that of the nature into which it fits.

House and site together form the very image of man's desire to be at one with nature, equal and wedded to nature.

Fallingwater was created by Frank Lloyd Wright as a declaration that in nature man finds his spiritual as well as his physical energies, that a harmonious response to nature yields the poetry and joy that nourish human living.

. . . it is a work by man for man, not by a man for a man.

The union of powerful art and powerful nature into something beyond the sum of their separate powers deserves to be kept living. I believe the [Western Pennsylvania] Conservancy will give nature, the source, full due, and art, the human response to nature, full respect.