

The Reticker House is, in fact, indirectly related to a design by Frank Lloyd Wright. Frank Lloyd Wright was commissioned by the Curtis Publishing Company in 1907 to design a small house for publication as part of a series then appearing in the Ladies Home Journal Magazine. Wright's design for a cube-shaped "Fire-proof House for \$5,000" was to have been constructed of reinforced concrete. Wright himself built two wood-frame-and-stucco variations of the Ladies Home Journal house, but it was also copied by many people who were influenced by his work and by his own former assistants. Walter Burley Griffin, who had worked with Wright until 1906 and who later won an international competition for the design of the new capital of Australia at Canberra, designed a house for Harry Gunn in Chicago about 1911. The house for Harry Gunn, with massive cornerpieces characteristic of Griffin's architectural work, was published the following year and was the direct ancestor of the Reticker House.

The plan of the Reticker House is similar to the plans of both the designs by Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin. The living room, no longer a 'parlor,' occupies one half of the first floor; the dining room occupies the third quarter of the first floor and the kitchen and service spaces occupy the remaining fourth quarter of the floor. The living room and dining room are actually one large space subdivided by the massive chimney around which the space moves. The fireplace, with its Roman brick face and hearth and cube-shaped limestone edge pieces, exactly duplicates fireplaces designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. However, the beamed ceiling and the built-in bookshelves in the corner of the living room and the buffet in the corner of the dining room recall the design by Walter Burley Griffin. The sun porch, originally finished with a dark red tile floor, is an effective extension of both the living and dining rooms. The entry, located in a corner pier, is the only major deviation from the designs by Wright and Griffin, where the entrance was part of one of the groups of windows on one of the four sides of the house.

The woodwork throughout the house is oak, which the present owner of the house polishes annually. Architectural details to note include the use of wood strips to tie together the tops of all window and door openings to give a sense of scale and the handsome geometric stair rail and newel post.

The Reticker House is furnished with a suite of rosewood Victorian parlor furniture, including a settee, a gentleman's chair, two ladies' chairs and three side chairs, as well as many other fine pieces. A small end table in the living room was made in Burma. The stone-topped tables were made by the owner of the house, who also refinished much of the furniture.