

ITEMS FILED - Architecture

# Lubbe House

1241 Park Place • Transitional to Prairie • 1906 • Ernest Wood, architect

The residence at 1241 Park Place reflects the melding of several styles leading into what was to become known as the "Prairie Style". Most of the early houses in this form were of two stories although a few were three. Emphasis during this time was on the horizontal and even the chimneys were presented as oblong masses. Windows in wooden casements continued the horizontal theme and as the style progressed these were usually treated with dark trim.

Designed by the famous Quincy architect Ernest Wood and built for the Lubbe family in 1906, the gracious structure on Park Place is the work of his early period of transition. The street, with its wide park down the center, is one of the few boulevards remaining in Quincy. The other notable example in the layout of the city is Aldo Boulevard, developed somewhat later.

Although the Lubbe House exhibits both in its exterior as well as interior detail elements which are reminiscent of Wood's "classical revival" period, one sees here very clearly the movement from the classical to the "Prairie" school. This latter style was to occupy Wood on through his final years. A notable monument of the progression to its peak can be seen in the building at 126 North Eighth St. which Wood designed as his own studio. Even though the dormer of the Lubbe House (an element never used in pure Prairie style) reminds the viewer of an earlier time, the fenestration, wide overhanging eaves and the square columned porch across the entire front is certainly a strong indication that Ernest Wood was evolving into a devotee of the uniquely midwestern style inspired by the teaching and architectural designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Upon entering the house, the visitor is greeted by an entry hall from which a simple but elegant staircase leads to the upper stories. On the immediate right one enters the living room, the fireplace of which is flanked by built-in bookcases, a feature original to the house. Directly behind the living room is the dining room. The plate rail in this room, as well as all the woodwork on this floor, is solid oak, the only exception being the kitchen, which is in cypress. The present owners of the Lubbe House have stripped and finished all of this woodwork, which had been previously painted.

The brickwork of the exterior is also typical of the Prairie Style, although as the period advanced, plaster over a wooden frame was the type of construction in which the fullest range of Prairie house motifs is seen. The Beachey House at Oak Park, Ill., also built in 1906, by Frank Lloyd Wright, is exceptional among this style in its combination of brickwork and plaster.

It is a generally-held belief that the Prairie style houses were largely the works of architects who had direct links with Chicago. However, many of the early twentieth-century builders used designs that can only have been suggested by illustrations in the Inland Architect or other magazines. The Lubbe House could very well have been a product of this influence.

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