

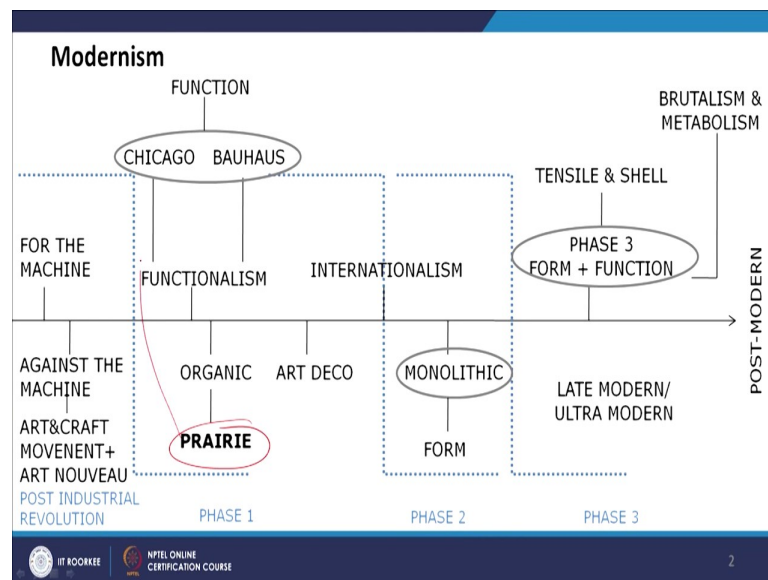
Contemporary Architecture and Design
Prof. Saptarshi kolay
Department Architecture and Planning
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Lecture – 13
Contemporary Visual Language in Design and Phases of
Modern Architecture- Prairie School

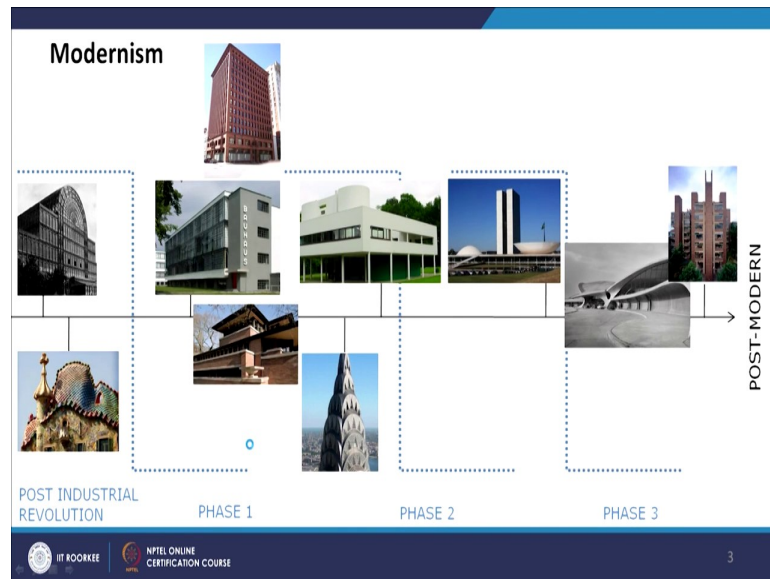
Welcome students to the online NPTEL course Contemporary Architecture and Design. In the previous class we started discussing the Prairie school of architecture style and how it evolved after this, the Chicago world fair. And because it is the style of Chicago world fair was not the style they can relate with the USA.

So, Prairie school of architecture style was evolved from the Prairie land of in USA, and inspiration of the visual style was the Prairie land. Now, if you look at they have also the Prairie school of architecture style has some connection with the Chicago school of architecture style and before that in Chicago city beautiful movement.

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So, here is Chicago style and the Chicago style and the Prairie style, there some similarities, but then there was a little bit of dissimilarities as well as. And the main precursor of the Prairie school was the... it started in the... from the this movement of world symposium of this Chicago fair which was happened in the Chicago world fair.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase 1 | Organic)

BACKGROUND

- Architectural style: Featuring 200 temporary buildings designed to create a imaginary city reflecting the Chicago school Architecture (Classical revival). Symmetrical building following Neo Classical (Classical Revival: pre industrial revolution).

* Kevin Lynch (urban planner of USA)

Temporary buildings (White City) of Chicago World's Fair

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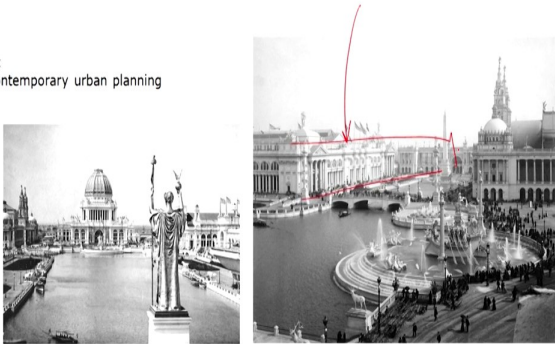
And the style of white city which we were discussing which evolve from 200 temporary buildings they have created the world city. The architectural style was classical revival and the neo classical style and USA architects they thought this kind of architecture style was not, does not represent their own stylistic feature.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

BACKGROUND

- Impact on Urban Planning:
City Beautiful Movement > contemporary urban planning



Temporary buildings (White City) of Chicago World's Fair

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So all of this architecture style if you look at this is the European neo classical style. And they wanted to find out their own inspiration and own style there was requirement to create their own style of architecture, for that they went towards their own native land, which is the Prairie land, and that is how they have created their own style.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

BACKGROUND

- impact of World's Colombian Exposition:
Over influence of European classicism had no roots in America.
Criticized as non-contextual, can not be a style America should adopt > birth of a new architectural style against the backdrop of Chicago School.
- Context of America: Going back to nature (every other architectural style was European)
Influenced from America's vast tree-less Prairie flat land.

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So, this got criticized the Colombian exposition which happened in Chicago got criticized and because of the style of Colombian exposition there was a different opposite style which they wanted. And America did not... should they thought that America should

not adopt and they require a new style of architecture style, which where the inspiration was Americas vast tree less Prairie land. So, that was an American style and which was... opposing the European the emphasis of the neo classical European style, which was there in the white city of the Colombian exposition.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

BACKGROUND

- Horizontal lines, colour palette derived from the Prairie flat-land. Started designing asymmetrical buildings.
- ORGANIC architecture

"Nature builds a tree from the inside out. That is what organic architecture is. It is building the way nature builds" - Frank Lloyd Wright

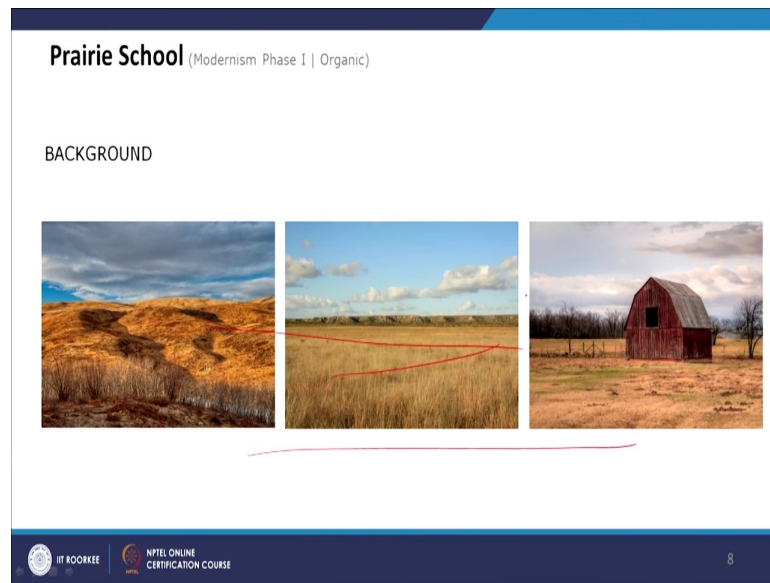
The slide includes a hand-drawn diagram of a horizontal rectangle with a vertical line extending downwards from its center, and a small red scribble to the right.

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So, here in the Prairie school of architecture style as we were discussing in the previous class there was a horizontal line was main and colour palette evolved from the Prairie flat land. We have seen the Prairie flat lands colour which is brown and then the brick was used to create the colour tone.

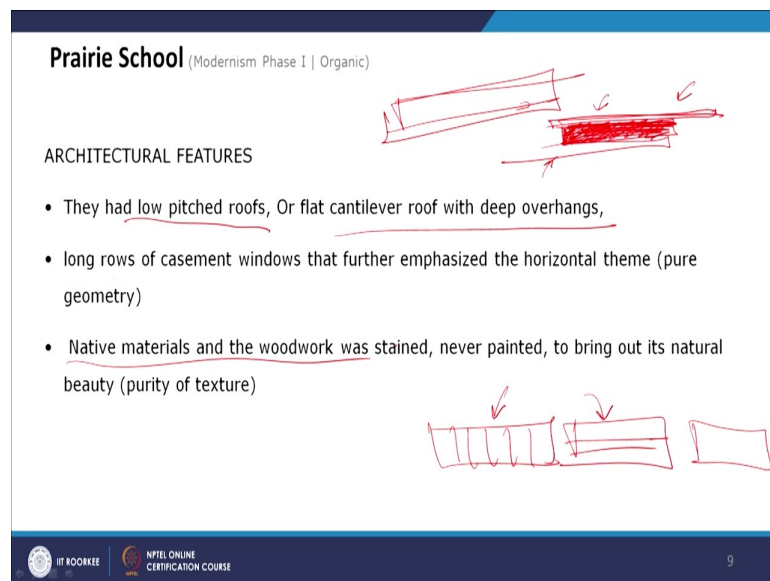
And also there was a lot of asymmetry in the building... the building's outer form was asymmetry, which was not there in the Chicago's school, but definitely Bauhaus adopted that. So, the functional attribute of the Bauhaus was also definitely there in the Prairie school of architecture style. Evolved from function, but also the form was very important for them and they have taken inspiration from the form as this kind of Prairie land.

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And this kind of horizontality and the linear features we will see.

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Now, in architectural style as we were discussing that it has a low pitched roof, which kind of connects the traditional architecture style of the traditional building which was also present in USA not only in Europe. And they have the deep overhang which is cantilever which creates the horizontality and the windows the long rows of window, which creates the void, and that is how they have... when this kind of overhang will be

juxtaposed by a very fragile glass then the horizontality will increase because there is there is a rhythm of solid and void in the horizontal lines.


So, it is creates more horizontal pattern and gives a more... the building will look more horizontal, though it is in the same kind of building if we treat, give more horizontal line and treated like this versus more vertical lines this building will look more horizontal. And this building will look least horizontal in nature and then native materials were used and the wood work we have, we will see, and then the brick work was there, but it was never painted to show the natural beauty of the texture of... and the material.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

- Influenced by the visual language of 'Art & Craft movement' of England.



William Morris Walter Griffin F.L. Wright

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And also we have seen some visual connection with the art and craft movement and how this kind of similar pitched roof was also there, and they have retained. So, this does not directly come from art and craft movement this comes from the traditional architecture style. Where pitched roof was there art and craft movement retained that style and the Prairie style also retained that style, thought they have changed the shape and form of the pitched roof in this becomes more horizontal in nature.

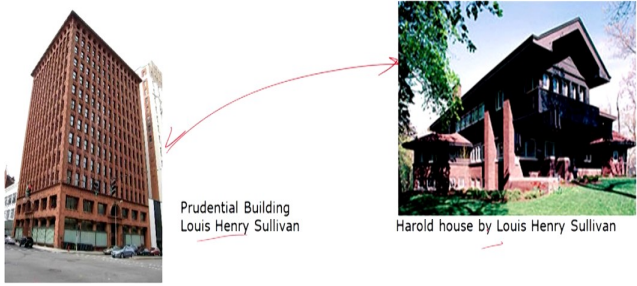
And we will see will not see the similar kind of proportion here. Where the proportion will be changed because they wanted horizontality in the visual style and also through the lines this white bead which is passing throughout the building will also create here in this case its black will create the horizontality of the building.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

- Chicago School Vs. Prairie School



Prudential Building
Louis Henry Sullivan

Harold house by Louis Henry Sullivan

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Now, also we have seen the similarities with the Chicago style because some of the architecture of Chicago style was also there in the Prairie school of architecture style.

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Prairie School (Modernism Phase I | Organic)

Examples:

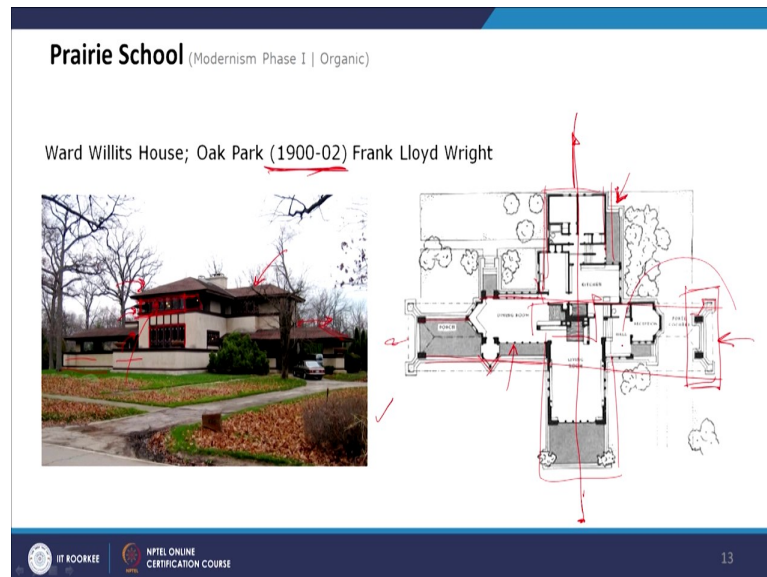
- Ward Willits House; Oak Park (1900-02) Frank Lloyd Wright
- Robie House, Hyde Park, (1908-10) Frank Lloyd Wright
- Harold House; Henry Louis Sullivan
- Frederick Carter House; Evanston, Illinois (1910) Walter Burley Griffin
- William H. Emery, Jr. House, (1903) Walter Burley Griffin
- F.L Wright's house, Oak Park (1893) Frank Lloyd Wright
- Winslow House, Illinois (1893) Frank Lloyd Wright

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Now, these are some of the examples of Prairie school of architectural style, which is the main architect was Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Sullivan there are other architects as well, but we will see lot of work of Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Sullivan. Here today we will discuss some of the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, who was also a pioneering architect of Prairie school and organic and Frank Lloyd Wright's work also percolates

into the different modernist movement he worked from his work was in different style of modernist movement, as he grew. And you work style changed and he worked in the many different styles throughout his life.

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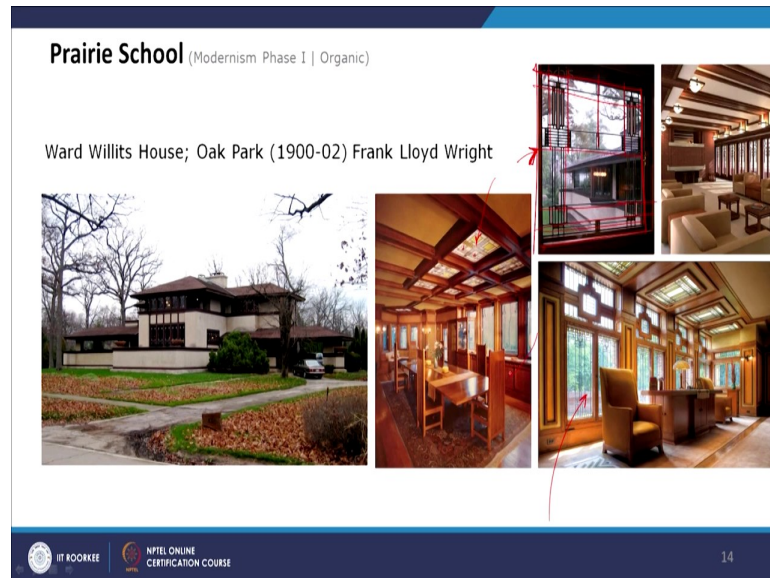
So, this is one of his building in Oak park which is Willits house, which is you can see the time frame which is in the just before modern it is almost modernist first phase started. So, here the Frank Lloyd Wrights building if you look at so this is also this is in Prairie style. So, lot of horizontal lines are there if you look the Prairie colour tone is there the traditional pitched roof is maintained, but got elongated and then in the similar kind of row of void through a... through and through windows, will be there and then the solid and void of the building will be achieved like this.

Here if you look at the plan Frank Lloyd Wright's design have some kind of visual vocabulary, which is again if you start discussing Frank Lloyd Wright it'll be long discussion because his work is highly discussed. And he was one of the pioneering architect of modernist movement, but if you just clearly from if you look at in a very from outside and very over... overall look and feel of the building.

We will see a core and then if you look at this kind of treatment which goes in the 45-degree angle, and will come and jut out from this his plan. And more or less this will have a strong horizontality, and two different access and then it will also be punctuated with the this kind of row windows which we were seeing in here in the elevation.

And if we also look at this kind of form which is again asymmetric; So, this part is different, this part is different and when they approach that is also in, but this still, has a some kind of balance some part is the here some part is here. And this is the central access, but still it creates an occult balance with the play with the solid and void and the massing.

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So, if we look at clearly, as in this course where looking at more, more towards the design element we will talk about design and visual design more and because there are many other planning aspects which is there in the Frank Lloyd Wright's design, which we will not discuss here. So, if we look at the design elements here this is a window of the Oak Park's house. And we have discussed we have shown the similar Frank Lloyd Wright's window, which has a Theo Van Doesburg's who was in De Stijl movement there is some connection. If you look at why the connection is there because again this rectangle it is broken in to rectangle... rectangles and different vertical and horizontal line.

Which is also there in De Stijl movements architects and designers have followed that even in Mondrian's painting, we see breaking the picture frame into horizontal and vertical line. And if you look at the colour used is yellow which is one of the primary colour and again you will see some part of red over here. So, here you will see the same kind of window, this is the Frank Lloyd Wright's style of window design. Frank Lloyd

Wright used to design the outside of the building as well as the inside and all the furniture's many of the furniture's even the even the interior treatments were designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright himself.

So, here there is a, that is why you can see a link from the outside treatment the window as well as the sky light, and even in the furniture everything is following a same design vocabulary. If you look at carefully, this light is if you see the plan this has a square holder and then pure circle inside which is the light. So, this is again a pure geometry, a globe and then which is confined by a square. Again it have some similarity with the Bauhaus as well, because these are the parallel movements happening in Bauhaus, Chicago, Prairie and organic all this movements are happening parallely. So, they have they have... taken inspiration from each other, but they also their own stylistic vision and own philosophy, but also some visual elements got repeated in different style.

And again if you look at the purity of material is there, but lot of solid horizontal line is there and these kind of design will be repeated in his Frank Lloyd Wright's other designs. So, this the vocabulary of Frank Lloyd Wright's window design and treatment of interior. So, if you look at if you look at this style carefully you will identity the Frank Lloyd Wrights genre of window design and the interior elements in interior design.

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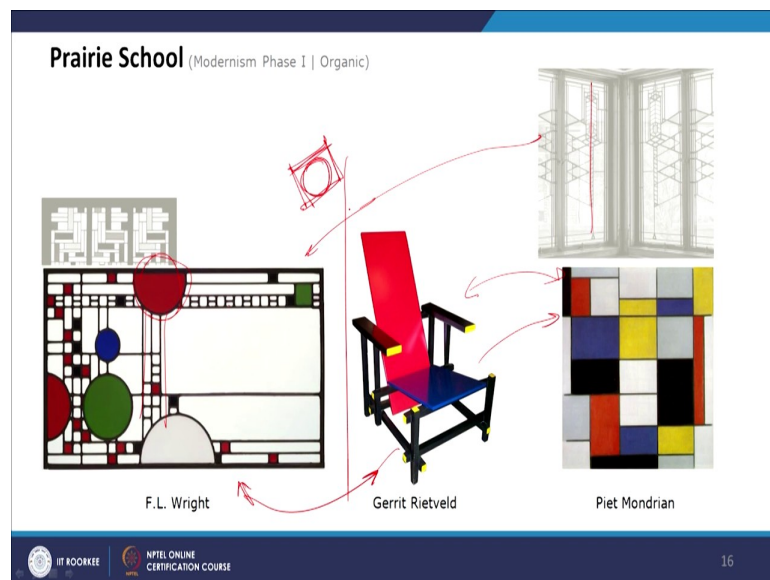


Now, has we... I was talking about Theo Van Doesburgs window design, he was a Dutch painter and comes from the this De Stijl movement. Also you will see the similar works

and again another Theo Van Doesburg's window, which we have shown earlier was broken into the triangle.

And then same kind of colour palette was used, this is Frank Lloyd Wright's building in Oak Park, but this is another building in, which is Robie house, which we will discuss, but same kind of material you will see wooden panel. And similar kind of design vocabulary you will see and this is more of a solid and cuboid. So, cuboid in isometric and then this triangles will be there and yellow colour is used within the glass frame. And similar kind of treatment you will also see on the ceiling and light which is there on the ceiling.

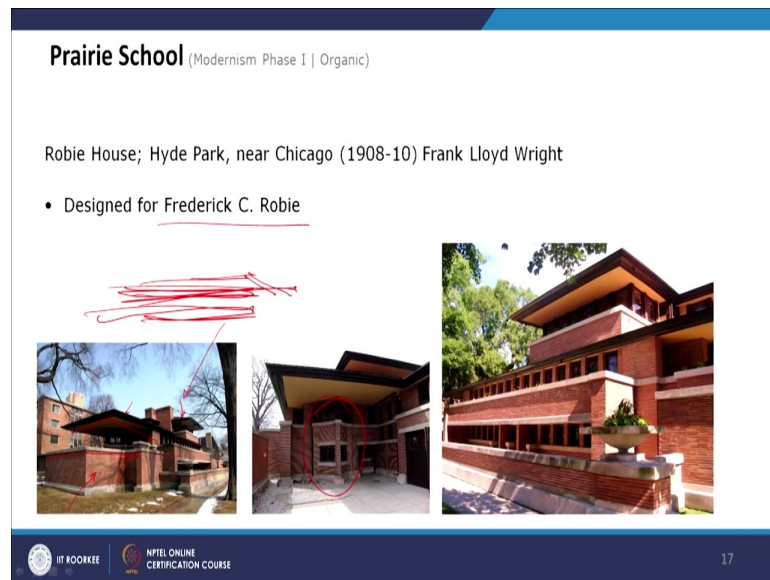
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Now, here if you look at Frank Lloyd Wright's painting and look at the other furniture design which is there, in De Stijl movement. So, we see some similarities over there though it is a very different movement and Frank Lloyd Wright's style of ornamentation was different, but Frank Lloyd Wright's painting talks about the similarity in the colour tone and similarity of circle, which and the use of circle along with line is there in his painting as well.

And when he designing his interior so, we see this circle circular globe as a light source and then squares and which got repeated here as well. So, here also we will see the this kind of lines and some visual connection with his paintings and the window design.

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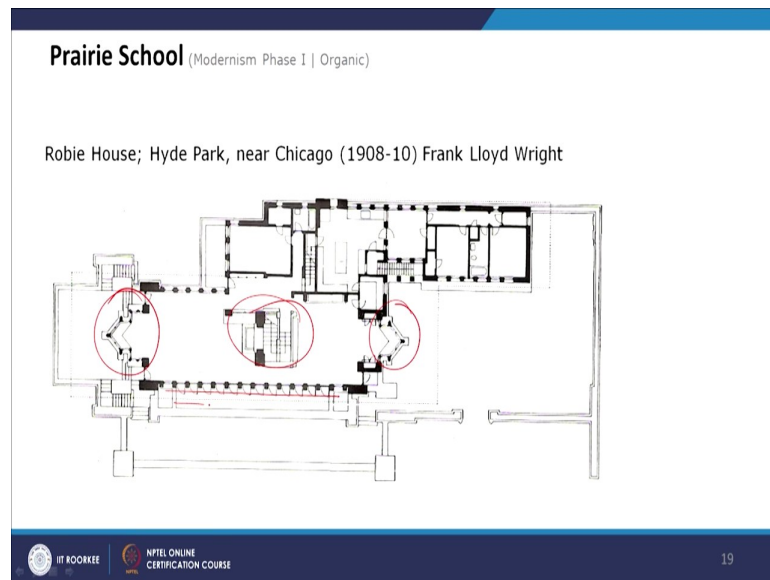


Now, this is Robie house one of the famous building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, it is designed for Frederick Robie that is what that is why it is called Robie house. Here also we see the similar kind of horizontality with the white bead and the Terracotta brick work creates a horizontal line. And also the asymmetry is there and these kind of roof which is cantilever is there. And then this roof is not this is a pitched roof this is also a pitched roof because it is stretched so much as a long huge cantilever to give the horizontal, horizontality in the design.

So, this looks like a horizontal member, but this also pitched roof which is also stylistic feature of Prairie architecture. The pitched roof got stretched in the in the horizontal direction and that... that is why; the solid and void in horizontal direction was achieved to create a lot solid... horizontality in to the design. And also from the outside this building is absolutely asymmetrical and it evolved from the form evolved from the function, as the function was arranged and the form evolved around it and that is why; the asymmetry which asymmetry will also be the followed in the later phases of architecture style.

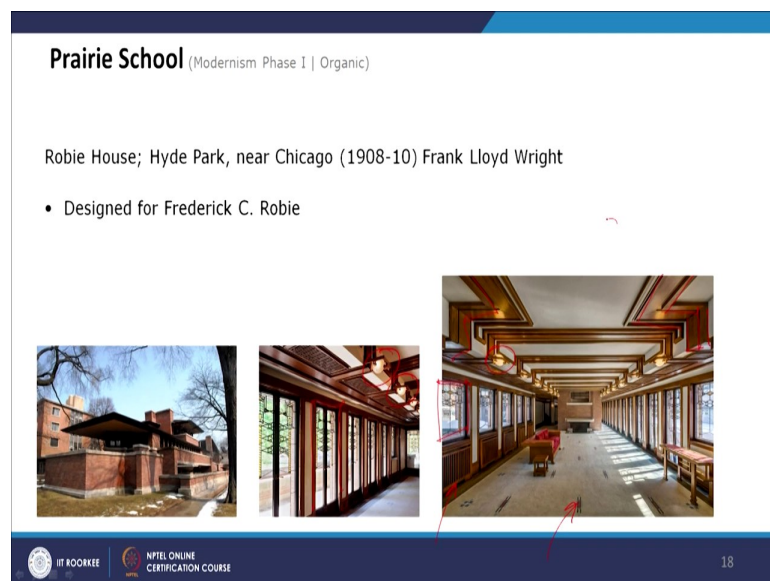
And modernism is more about the high modern style is more about asymmetry and geometric abstraction, which is which is starting in the previous stages of modern movement; through the Frank Lloyd Wrights and other peoples work in this movement. In the Prairie style so, also we will see a 45-degree triangular break in the plan.

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So, if you look at the plan this kind of same elements which were there in the previous design of Frank Lloyd Wright. And again the rows of series of window and in center this kind of core also there. If you look at the plan which is there in the earlier building you will see the same elements. If you look at this element and the elements over here and core and the series of this glass, glass work and look at the Robie house plan. You will see the similarity series of glass work and similar kind of treatment you will see in the in his plan.

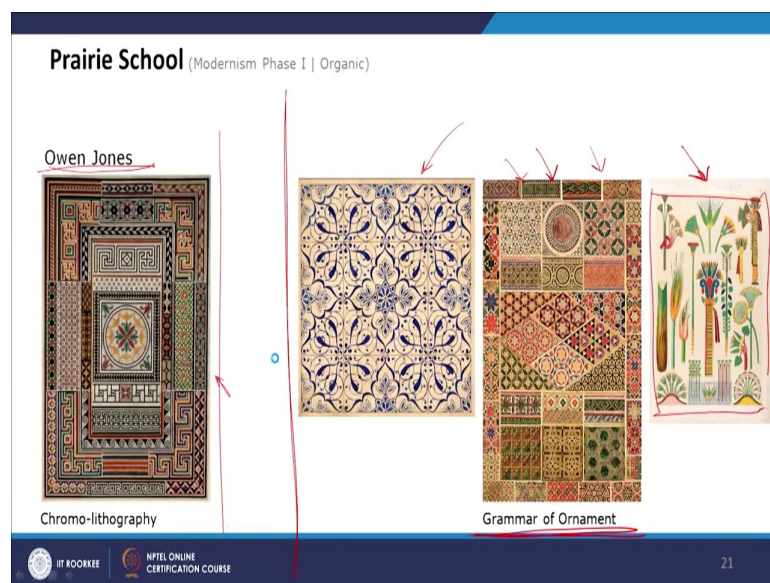
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That is how the visual vocabulary of Frank Lloyd Wright's style is coming in the form. And here also in this slide you will see the interior which is again the same style of Frank Lloyd Wright's interior which is followed, this is Robie house interiors and oak park's design was also kind of similar.

And series of straight lines which comes from the ceiling also goes in the in the wall is there, and pure wood work and similar kind of windows, and similar kind of illumination which is a combination of circle and square is there.

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Now we have discussed the plan and then if we look at this another designer, he is also an architect. But most of his work in is in graphic design Owen Jones is there. And if you look at Owen Jones' work and this is Chromo-lithography this also has this similar kind of color palette. And it is definitely more ornate, but same kind of colour tone and same kind of breaking it in the circle and square in there, but Owen Jones this is his own design, but he also have written a source book, this is his design, but this is not upon something Prairie style or some like that.

Because this is a grammar of ornament which is written by Owen Jones; He have talked about different... it is source book of grammar of ornamentation of different style throughout the world. So, he have different templates of grammar. So, this is taken from Egyptians style so Egyptian, what will be the source of Egyptian styles ornamentation, he have painted that it might be from some other style may be Saracenic style. And the

different styles were, they has this book of grammar of ornament, but Owen Jones' own work this is his own work is also have some similar kind of pattern. In the if you look at the window treatment over here this that kind of patterns are quite similar in his work as well.

So, in the next class we will discuss more with the with the examples of organic architecture, which evolved from Prairie architecture style and mostly with the examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's work.

Thank you.