Frank Lloyd Wright's Approach to Color

"Color was very important in conveying Frank Lloyd Wright's aesthetic of organic architecture as a unified whole. He drew from two sources in determining his palette for a given project: the nature of the site and the nature of the building materials. In the early projects, particularly the Prairie houses that were constructed of brick and stucco, autumnal colors predominated: warm shades of red, gold, brown and yellow-green. These richly colored interiors were accentuated by a palette of neutral hues and created a harmonious, unified and serene environment for the client.

At Fallingwater, Wright employed both a limited palette of color and a limited number of materials in his desire to create an organic and integrated whole."

Lynda Waggoner
Vice President and Director of Fallingwater®

Fallingwater Inspired Colors from The Voice of Color® Collection

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, authenticated by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and drawn exclusively from Pittsburgh® Paints’ Voice of Color® Collection.

Color #6432-7
Often referred to as Cherokee red, this color was said to be Frank Lloyd Wright’s personal favorite. It is perhaps the most famous color of Fallingwater, and was used to coat most of the home’s metal and ironwork. Wright is said to have limited his use of Cherokee red at Fallingwater to metal accents because steel and iron are products of iron that are created through fire.

Color #319-5
This light ochre represents the color on the concrete walls inside and outside Fallingwater. Wright chose this color because it is reminiscent of the “sere” (or dying) leaves of the rhododendron, which are in great abundance at the Fallingwater site.

Color #554-6
This lava gray trim coat is featured on the screens covering the windows at Fallingwater.

Color #216-5
Evident throughout Fallingwater, in the kitchen—on the cabinets and countertops—and accent pillows on the cantilevered couches in the living room. This golden hue was chosen to accentuate the natural colors invading the home from the surrounding wilderness.

Color #512-7
Chosen to replicate the moss-covered tree trunks resulting from Fallingwater’s majestic setting above Bear Run.

Color #515-4, 516-3 and 525-5
Many of Fallingwater’s interior walls, floors and structural elements are built from rocks quarried near the isolated Western Pennsylvania site. These three colors represent the indistinctly colored stones seen throughout the home and property.

Color #233-7
This bright, red color is also drawn from another fabric at Fallingwater, specifically the additional accent pillows on the cantilevered couches.

Color #523-7
In the winter, Fallingwater’s fallen rhododendron leaves ripen to create the rich, chocolate-brown ground cover recalled by this color.

Color #414-4
This color was selected because it closely matches the fabric on the cantilevered couches in the living room. Plain, unpatterned furniture coverings were purposely chosen to complement window views of the Fallingwater’s natural setting.

Color #308-7
Representative of the live rhododendron leaf that is seen extensively at Fallingwater. During the spring and summer, the vast bank of windows in Fallingwater’s main living room allow this rich green color to infiltrate the living space.

Color #550-7
This warm blue shade is reminiscent of the famous, fast-rushing creek that continually crashes and flows beneath Fallingwater.

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