



Frank Lloyd Wright: The Guggenheim Correspondence

By Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer

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A narrative in correspondence from the “Guggenheim Letters,” a remarkable archive that, in its entirety, would make a stack equal in height to the model of the Guggenheim Frank Lloyd Wright made in 1946. Here is a very personal and detailed account of the creative struggle required to build the extraordinary Guggenheim Museum.

It is a seventeen-year saga which saw the firing of the first curator, the death of the donor, and the creation of six complete sets of plans and 749 drawings. Ironically, Wright died six months before its completion.

From its opening in October 1959, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum has been recognized as Frank Lloyd Wright’s crowning achievement. Pfeiffer demonstrates that the story of its construction is arresting drama as well. The Guggenheim, while periodically modified and adapted to meet its changing needs, continues to give expression to Wright’s artistic vision and is a testament to the spirit of both Wright and Guggenheim.

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Editorial Review

Review

“These letters, which required endless time and effort to write, are also testimony to [Wright’s] genius. If ‘ecstasy’ always has a companion, these letters underscore the ‘agony.’”—*Architecture*

About the Author

Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer is Director of Archives of The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation.

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