PRAIRIE STYLE 1916 - 1921

Frank Lloyd Wright is credited with invention of the Prairie style by designing houses with low horizontal lines and open interior spaces. Wright's style of housing was coined the *prairie style*, or *prairie school*, and was designed to blend in with the flat, prairie landscape. The Prairie style is a juxtaposition of broad boxes, each capped by a very low-pitched tar and gravel roof. The eaves overhang to the point of real or suggested cantilever. The first Prairie houses were usually plaster and concrete block. Although the Prairie School style was created to meld with the Midwest Landscape, its attributes are remarkably consistent with the features of the Craftsman tradition.

CHARACTERISTICS

Structural Form

Horizontal emphasis or massing One to two stories in height Square, rectangle and L-shaped Square, symmetrical shape

Roof

Low-pitched tar and gravel roofs Overhanging eaves Cantilevered porch projections A banded horizontal eave that ran parallel to the facade creating a strong perimeter of the flat roof

Windows and Doors

Casement windows grouped in bands Windows with transoms Windows often had projecting sills Doors often inset with large plate glass

Materials

Exterior smooth stucco Poured in place concrete steps, piers, and landings

Additional Features

Central chimney
Open floor plan
One-story projections
Open decks and sun porches



