Frank Lloyd Wright

adapted from the Library of Congress

Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the most original American architects of the 20th century. His buildings and ideas have affected the way offices and homes are designed and organized today. Wright's willingness to look to different cultures for inspiration allowed him to develop his own style. During the early 1900s, other American architects were merely imitating European styles. Wright believed in the power that good design must make people more aware and respectful of their surroundings and of nature. Wright designed office buildings, houses, neighborhoods, public buildings, churches, and museums. He designed about 800 buildings. Of the 380 that were built, about 280 are still standing.

Many of Wright's most famous buildings are houses. He wanted to create houses that could be built cheaply using inexpensive materials. In the 1920s, he began to design a new system to build affordable homes using concrete blocks. He called these modular parts "textile blocks." They were like the idea of Lego blocks. Several of his textile block houses were built in the Los Angeles area in the early 1920s.

Wright's masterpieces get their unique look from his belief that architecture must fit into its natural surroundings. He felt that people and the buildings they occupy must exist in harmony with nature. As a Midwesterner, he was familiar with the flatlands of the Great Plains. As a result, Wright's houses are known for being long, horizontal, and usually one story tall. In other words, they are flat. They are called "prairie" houses, after the flat expanses of land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.

Drag each tile to the correct location on the chart.

Match the correct cause or effect with the statements in the chart.

Wright designed one-story "prairie" houses that were flat.

Wright designed buildings to fit nature.

Wright developed his own design style.

Wright wanted to make homes that were affordable.

Wright was one of the most original architects of the 20th century.

What happened?	Why it happened?
	Wright didn't want to imitate European styles like everyone else.
Wright designed houses made of concrete blocks.	
	Wright wanted the homes to be similar to the flatlands of the Great Plains.
	Wright believed buildings should fit into their natural surroundings.
Wright's ideas have changed the way design is done today.	

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