



Iconic architect Frank Lloyd Wright

and the timeless interpretation of style

As any designer will tell you, style takes time. It takes dedication and innovation – a nod to what has come before so that it can be interpreted in an entirely different way. Few succeed. But those that do leave a timeless legacy for a new generation to build upon.

Frank Lloyd Wright understood the principles of style. Born from an intense love of nature, he designed architecture that we recognise today as organic. Buildings that enhance nature, settling roots deep within the human need to live close to the land – creating architecture that complements living.

He called it the 'Prairie' style. Designed at the turn of the previous century, and depicted in such famous architectural icons as the Frederick C. Robie House in Chicago and heavily influencing his design for the Guggenheim Museum in New York, it is a style depicted by strong horizontal and vertical lines on the outside and open, uninterrupted space on the inside.

Even though Wright was American, his style found a following after WWI with the young, up-and-coming European architects, who dubbed it the 'Cornerstone of Modernism'. In South Africa, Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy is evident in various private homes, making use of the free-flowing space and organic nature of the design to set itself apart from the surrounding architectural landscape.

One of the best examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's interpretation of style and the application of it in today's world can be found in Lombardy Estate near Pretoria. Covering almost 100 hectares of indigenous landscaping, the developers of Lombardy wanted an approach to complement their vision – something that will comfortably live a hundred years from now without losing any of the prestige or style.

Contracting three leading architectural firms in WATG International, award-winning architects Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen and lifestyle designers QTS Architects, the blend of international experience and local knowledge yielded some of the most iconic architecture in this or any landscape.

With boutique homes up to 364m² still available, each individual house pays homage to the old master. Using wide open spaces inviting the outside in, the new interpretation of style befits a legacy of luxury – of simply living. Had Frank Lloyd Wright been alive today, he would have been proud.

Prominent business couple Pieter and Anneliesa Grobler invested in Lombardy because of the unique architecture not found anywhere else in Pretoria. 'The organic blend of modern architecture and country living really appealed to us,' said Pieter. 'In fact, we loved it so much we bought two properties!'

Designed around the principles of a community, Lombardy Estate is a living testament to the functional interpretation of style. Featuring a 5-star boutique hotel and conference centre, state-of-the-art security system, extensive green spaces and a health spa to be completed in 2011 and operated by *Spas of Distinction*, it is an inspiration in the making.

The vision is now becoming reality. More and more young professionals and families are drawn to the unique lifestyle on offer in Lombardy, encapsulated by the iconic style of Frank Lloyd Wright – a man who understood that architecture and design should serve as an upliftment of the spirit and an essential part of everyday life.

For more information on the lifestyle offered at Lombardy Estate, please phone Colette Schönborn on 082 457 5818, Christo Steyn on 082 453 4304 or email info@lombardyestate.co.za

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