Contents

List of Illustrations ix
Acknowledgments xv

Chapter 1
Religious and Institutional Architecture of the Lloyd Jones Family 12
All Souls Church and Unity Chapel 13
The Hillside Home School 22
The Abraham Lincoln Center in Chicago 32

Chapter 2
Unity Church in Oak Park to 1905 51
Unity Church and Earlier Unitarian Architecture 51
Unity Church and Oak Park’s Religious Architecture 59
Rev. Johannot’s Concept of a New Building 65
The Choice of a Site and Wright’s Selection as Architect 70

Chapter 3
Wright’s Design for Unity Temple 74
The Spire or the Auditorium 74
Wright’s Early Sketch for Unity Temple 80
Sources and Preliminary Plans for Unity Temple’s Auditorium 88
Unity Temple as Design in Concrete 108
Formal Integration of Unity Temple and Unity House 115
Wright’s Unit System for Unity Temple 120
Unity Church’s Acceptance of Wright’s Design 126
Renderings of Unity Temple and Wright’s Concept of Conventionalization 131
### Chapter 4

**Construction of Unity Temple**
- Creating a New Architecture of Concrete: 138
- Structure and Form in Unity House: 157
- Unity Temple’s Foyer and Auditorium: 169
- Wright’s Final Changes in the Auditorium: 178
- Unity Temple and the Larkin Building: 189
- Initial Responses to the Completed Unity Temple: 192

### Chapter 5

**Religious and Architectural Interpretations of Unity Temple**
- Rev. Johonnot’s Defense of Wright’s Design: 195
- Western Unitarian Perspectives on Emerson around 1900: 199
- Unity Temple and Non-Western Religious Architectures: 202
- Unity Temple and Temples of Antiquity: 208
- Principle in Wrightian Theory and Liberal Religion: 217
- Wright’s Response to Monroe’s Criticism of Unity Temple: 218
- Wright’s Unity Temple and Olbrich’s Secession Building: 221

**Conclusion: Unity Temple and Later Modern Architecture**
- Unity Temple and the Prairie School: 227
- Unity Temple and Dutch Responses to Wright: 230
- Wright’s View of Unity Temple from 1925: 234

**Appendix: Care and Restoration of Unity Temple from 1909**
- Notes: 251
- Selected Bibliography: 335
- Index: 349
List of Illustrations

Figure 1. Frank Lloyd Wright, Unity Temple, west front, 1906–9. 2
Figure 2. Wright, Unity Temple, west entrance terrace. 4
Figure 3. Wright, Unity Temple, entrance foyer looking southeast. 5
Figure 4. Wright, Unity House, interior looking southeast. 6
Figure 5. Wright, Unity Temple, plan of entrance floor. 7
Figure 6. Wright, Unity Temple, interior of Unity House. 8
Figure 7. Wright, Unity Temple, plan of auditorium floor. 9
Figure 8. Wright, Unity Temple, auditorium looking southeast. 10
Figure 9. Wright, Unity Temple, entrance foyer looking northeast. 11
Figure 10. Unitarian Chapel, Llwynrhydowen, Wales, 1733. 14
Figure 11. Environ of All Souls Church, Chicago, ca. 1900. 15
Figure 12. Joseph L. Silsbee, All Souls Church, design of 1885. 16
Figure 13. Silsbee, All Souls Church, exterior from northwest, 1886. 17
Figure 14. Silsbee, All Souls Church, auditorium in 1891. 18
Figure 15. Silsbee, All Souls Church, drawing by Wright. 19
Figure 16. Silsbee, All Souls Church, drawing by Silsbee. 19
Figure 17. Silsbee, Unity Chapel, drawing in Unity, 1885. 20
Figure 18. Silsbee, Unity Chapel, drawing by Wright, 1886. 21
Figure 19. All Souls Church and Unity Chapel, as depicted on letterhead of Jenkin Lloyd Jones, 1899. 22
Figure 20. Silsbee, Unity Chapel, exterior from northeast, 1886. 23
Figure 21. Congregational Church, Spring Green, Wis., in 1909. 23
Figure 22. Unity Chapel, interior looking northeast. 24
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>John Howe, map of Taliesin and environs, 1930s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Wright, Hillside Home School, from southwest, 1901–2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wright, Hillside Home School, main floor plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wright, Hillside Home School, Roberts Room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Wright, Hillside Home School, Roberts Room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>World’s Parliament of Religions, Chicago, 1893.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Wright and Dwight Heald Perkins, All Souls Building, Chicago, project of 1900.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, All Souls Building, project of 1900, plans of first and second floors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1902.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1903.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1903, first-floor plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1903, second-floor plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1903, longitudinal east–west section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Wright and Perkins, Abraham Lincoln Center, project of 1903, interior perspective of auditorium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln Center, Chicago, 1909.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln Center, view from north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Wright, Larkin Company administration building, Buffalo, N.Y., 1904–6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln Center, auditorium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Old Unity Church, Oak Park, Ill., 1872.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Old Unity Church, auditorium, after 1897.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Isaac B. Samuels, Church of the Disciples, Boston, 1868–69.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Samuels, Church of the Disciples, auditorium, in 1908.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Peter Harrison, King’s Chapel, Boston, 200th anniversary, 1886.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Essex Church, London, 100th anniversary, 1874.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>View of Oak Park and River Forest, Ill., 1873.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Edward Burling and Dankmar Adler, First Congregational Church; and Normand Patton, Scoville Institute, Oak Park. 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Burling and Adler, First Congregational Church, interior after remodeling by Patton in 1892. 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Patton, Scoville Institute. 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>William G. Williamson, First Presbyterian Church, Oak Park, 1901–2. 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>John Sutcliffe, Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Park, 1901–6. 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>Sutcliffe, Grace Episcopal Church, interior. 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>Eben E. Roberts, municipal building, Oak Park, Ill., 1903–5. 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.</td>
<td>Allen B. and Irving K. Pond, YMCA building, and post office, Oak Park, Ill., architect unknown, 1905. 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>Lake Street near Kenilworth Avenue, Oak Park, Ill., 1908. 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>McKim, Mead, and White, new Madison Square Presbyterian Church, New York City; and old church spire. 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Wright, preliminary plan (above Lake Street elevation?) for Unity Temple, before December 1905. 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>Wright, studio, Oak Park, Ill., 1898. 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>Wright, Pettit Memorial Chapel, Belvidere, Ill., 1906. 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>Wright, Unity Temple, interior; and plan of Isadore Heller House, Chicago, 1896. 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>Taiyu-in mausoleum, Nikko, Japan, main floor plan, 1653. 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>Tosho-gu mausoleum, Nikko, Japan, main floor plan, 1634. 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>Jacques Perret, project for “Un Petit Temple Quarré.” 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>Old Ship Meeting House, Hingham, Mass., interior before restoration in 1930. 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>Robert Mills, First Unitarian Church, Philadelphia, 1813. 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>Maximilien Godefroy, First Unitarian Church, Baltimore, 1817–18. 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>St. Paul’s Universalist Church, Chicago, 1887. 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Adler and Sullivan, synagogue for Kehilath Anshe Ma’ariv, Chicago, 1889–91. 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>Dankmar Adler, Isaiah Temple, Chicago, 1898–99. 97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 73. Hugh M. Garden, Third Church of Christ Scientist, Chicago, 1899–1901. 98
Figure 74. Wright, Unity Temple, “Scheme A,” floor plan of entrance level, 1906. 100
Figure 75. Wright, Unity Temple, “Scheme A,” floor plan of auditorium’s main level and lower galleries, 1906. 101
Figure 76. Wright, Unity Temple, “Scheme B,” floor plan of entrance level, 1906. 102
Figure 77. Wright, Unity Temple, “Scheme B,” floor plan of auditorium’s main level and lower galleries, 1906. 103
Figure 78. Wright, Unity Temple, “Scheme B,” north–south longitudinal section, 1906. 104
Figure 79. Wright, Unity Temple, preliminary floor plan, 1905–6. 105
Figure 80. Wright, Unity Temple, preliminary perspective of auditorium’s interior, 1905–6. 106
Figure 81. Wright, Unity Temple, rendering of west front. 107
Figure 82. Wright, Unity Temple, working plan of auditorium level, 1906. 112
Figure 83. Wright, Larkin Building, floor plans, 1904–6. 114
Figure 84. Wright, Larkin Building, steel framing plan, 1904. 115
Figure 85. Wright, Larkin Building, construction view, ca. 1904. 116
Figure 86. Wright, Unity Temple, west elevation, 1906. 117
Figure 87. Wright, Unity Temple, north elevation, n.d. 119
Figure 88. Wright, Unity Temple, drawing of north front and floor plan showing unit dimension. 122
Figure 89. Wright, Unity Temple, working plan of balcony and roof level, 1906. 123
Figure 90. Wright, Unity Temple, working plan of ground floor, 1906. 124
Figure 91. Wright, Unity Temple, working drawing of longitudinal section, 1906. 125
Figure 92. Wright, Unity Temple, working drawing of north and south elevations, 1906. 126
Figure 93. Wright, Unity Temple, working drawing of west elevation, 1906. 127
Figure 94. Wright, Unity Temple, original plaster model, 1906. 129
Figure 95. Wright, Unity Temple, west front. 133
Figure 96. Wright, Unity Temple, foundation plan, 1906. 139
Figure 97. Wright, Unity Temple, diagrams for formwork. 141
Figure 98. Wright, Unity Temple, under construction. 143
Figure 99. Wright, Unity Temple, from northeast, before September 1909.

Figure 100. Wright, Unity Temple, from southwest, before 1961.

Figure 101. Wright, Unity Temple, drawing of flower boxes.

Figure 102. Wright, Unity Temple, detail of west front.

Figure 103. Wright, Unity Temple, exterior lantern.

Figure 104. Wright, Unity Temple, preliminary drawing of exterior columns.

Figure 105. Wright, Unity Temple, final design for exterior columns.

Figure 106. Wright, Unity Temple, plan and elevation showing construction technique for exterior columns.

Figure 107. Wright, Unity Temple, views of construction of exterior columns.

Figure 108. Wright, Unity Temple, view from northeast before September 1909.

Figure 109. Wright, Unity House, sectional perspective, 1906.

Figure 110. Wright, project for “A Home in a Prairie Town.”

Figure 111. Wright, Unity Temple, working plan of ground floor, 1906.

Figure 112. Wright, Unity Temple, working plan of balcony and roof level, 1906.

Figure 113. Wright, Unity House, interior looking southeast.

Figure 114. Wright, Unity House, view of skylights.

Figure 115. Adler and Sullivan, Chicago Stock Exchange building, trading room, 1893–94.

Figure 116. Wright, Unity Temple, preliminary perspective of foyer, 1906(?)

Figure 117. Wright, Unity Temple, perspective of preliminary design for auditorium.

Figure 118. Wright, Unity Temple, east–west cross-section.

Figure 119. Wright, Unity Temple, roof space above art glass ceiling and below skylight.

Figure 120. Wright, Unity Temple, auditorium’s skylights.

Figure 121. Wright, Unity Temple, ceiling plan of auditorium.

Figure 122. Wright, Unity Temple, interior perspective of auditorium as built in 1908.

Figure 123. Wright, Unity Temple, interior of auditorium showing southeast main column.

Figure 124. Wright, Unity Temple, interior of auditorium showing juncture of ceiling and southeast column.
Figure 125. Wright, drawing of Mrs. Thomas H. Gale house, Oak Park, Ill., built 1909.

Figure 126. Wright, Mrs. Thomas H. Gale house.

Figure 127. Wright, Unity Temple, interior of auditorium, south wall showing organ screen.

Figure 128. Wright, playroom in Wright house, Oak Park, Ill., 1895.

Figure 129. Wright, Unity Temple, showing pulpit.

Figure 130. Wright, Unity Temple, showing clerestories.

Figure 131. Wright, Larkin Building, view of light court.

Figure 132. Hobart B. Upjohn, All Souls Universalist Church, Watertown, N.Y., 1907.

Figure 133. Buddhist Rokkakudo Temple, Kyoto.

Figure 134. Wright, photograph of Founder’s Hall near Hongan-ji Temple, Nagoya, 1905.

Figure 135. Wright, Unity Temple, drawing of north front.

Figure 136. Wright, Unity Temple, plan of upper galleries from booklet, *New Edifice of Unity Church*.

Figure 137. Casts of Mayan ruins, Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

Figure 138. William H. Holmes, panoramic drawing of Chichén-lItzá.

Figure 139. The “Nunnery,” Chichén-Itzá, ca. A.D. 1100.

Figure 140. Wright, exhibit, Chicago Architectural Club, 1907.

Figure 141. Joseph M. Olbrich, Secession Building, Vienna, 1898.

Figure 142. Olbrich, Secession Building, floor plans.

Figure 143. Olbrich, Secession Building, view from rear.

Figure 144. Wright, Unity Temple, view along west front.

Figure 145. William E. Drummond, First Congregational Church, Austin (now Chicago), Ill., 1908.

Figure 146. Drummond, First Congregational Church, ground and main floor plans.

Figure 147. Robert van’t Hoff, A. B. Henny villa, Huis ter Heide, Netherlands, 1916–18.

Figure 148. Wright, Unity Temple, drawing of 1929.

Figure 149. Wright, Unity Temple, perspective of preliminary design of auditorium, with later annotations.

Figure 150. Frank Lloyd Wright, ca. 1908.