

Architecture – A reading form

Step 1: How to proceed when you are in front of a building.

- You identify the type: a church, a palace, a castle, a private house, a bridge, a stadium, etc.
- Give the name of the building and its location: in a town, in the countryside, spanning a river, etc.
- Then you look for the name of the architect/builder, and supply the date of the construction and/or the project.

Step 2: Now look more closely and find out the following points.

- What material the building is made of (wood, brick, concrete, etc.) and its dimensions (large, small, high, low.).
- If possible identify the style (Classical, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-Classical, Gothic Revival, Industrial, Modern, Art Deco, Contemporary.).
- Say if it contains important decorative elements, paintings, sculptures.

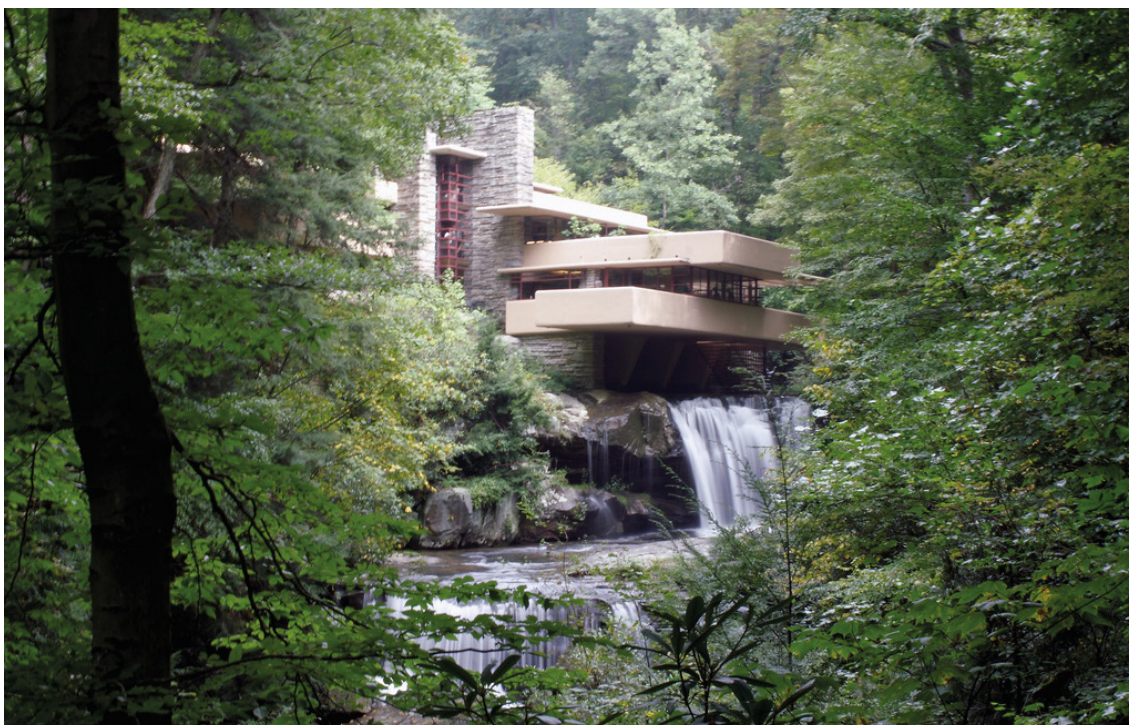
Step 3: Then fix your attention on the following points.

- The shape of the building: is it a single volumetric unit or an assemblage of more volumes arranged symmetrically, partially symmetrically, asymmetrically?
- Examine (if there is a plan/picture) the relationship between exterior and interior: is it well/poorly balanced and proportioned?
- Say how internal space is organized: how are the various areas distributed? (single space, more rooms, more floors, etc.)
- Where light comes from (windows, glass walls, dome, skylight, gables, etc.) and its intensity: is the space well-lit, poorly-lit, not uniform?
- Whether the colours are the same all over the building, different on the various surfaces, bright/dark, natural (wood, brick stone, concrete, etc.).
- Whether the rhythm of the façade/s is created by the presence of windows, columns, niches, balconies, etc.

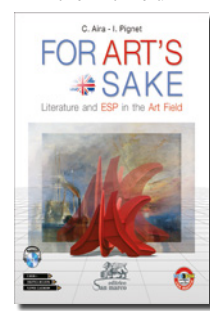
Step 4: At this point you can express your opinion about the building.

- Is the building functional to its use or does it exclusively have a symbolic meaning?
- Do you like the building as a whole? Why/why not?

Now look at the building below and search the web to collect the pieces of information necessary to complete the form.



Frank Lloyd Wright,
 Fallingwater, 1939,
 Pennsylvania, US.



Identification	
Type	
Name and location	
Architect/Builder	
Date	
Description	
Material	
Dimensions	
Style	
Decorative elements	
Observation	
Shape and arrangement	
Proportions (interior/exterior)	
Internal space (organization)	
Light (source and intensity)	
Colour	
Façade	
Your opinion	
Functional/Symbolic	
Evaluation	

