

GALLERY: Looking in on ‘integrated’ interiors

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(Photo: Image courtesy of Paul Rocheleau)

“Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior,” on exhibit at the Academy Art Museum in Easton through Jan. 4, focuses on the design of Wright’s houses, especially their interiors. The exhibition consists of photographs, both recent and vintage, plus photographic reproductions of plans and drawings, including designs for furniture, carpets and other objects, such as lighting fixtures, lamps and vases.

Wright (1867-1959) was a pioneer of modern architecture and one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. He characterized his architecture as “organic,” meaning he designed his buildings to be harmoniously integrated environments. He took great care, for example, to design a house in relation to its site, even designing the landscaping. He also designed the interiors, including windows, lighting fixtures, furniture, rugs, linens and other items for daily living.

The dining area of the Edward E. Boynton House, built 1908 in Rochester, New York, is a characteristic example of Wright’s pioneering early work. A light-filled, flowing, open space, it’s linked to the outdoors by two bands of leaded art glass windows, one in the clerestory and the other in the projecting lower bay or alcove. The door at the left leads to the garden. The encased lighting fixtures in the ceiling are covered by glass panels that filter the light and cast a warm glow.

All the furniture was designed by Wright. An interesting feature of the dining room table are the four upright piers at the table’s ends, which also function as light fixtures.

The result is a serene environment in which every part, in Wright's words, is "an integrated part of the harmonious whole."

For more information, visit www.academyartmuseum.org.