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PHOTO: M. SCHMERTZ



F. LL. W. AT TALIESIN WEST, 1958

Photographs by Mildred F. Schmertz, AIA Senior Editor *Architectural Record*



The concept of total design set forth in the architectural theory of Frank Lloyd Wright found practical application in the approach to his Western encampment in Scottsdale, Arizona, begun in 1938. From the first signpost (above, left), the visitor's way along a winding desert road is directed by Wright-designed pylons (above, right) that reflect the shapes of the cacti that punctuate the horizon. Arriving at the gatehouse (opposite, above), made from stone found in the surrounding desert, the spatial climax comes in the dramatic forecourt to the Taliesin West complex (below).



Regardless of the plan of Taliesin West, its true focal point during Wright's lifetime was always in the presence of the Master himself (right). Seated on his sheepskin under the watchful eye of his long-time associate, the late John Howe, F.L.L.W. works in the drafting room, facing into the bright sunlight of a February afternoon.





Surrounded by young members of the Taliesin Fellowship, Wright puts his finishing touches on a presentation drawing of a project for a motor hotel. Along with seven others, this project was included in *Frank Lloyd Wright: A Selection of Current Work* in the May 1958 issue of *Architectural Record*. *Record* Associate (now Senior) Editor Mildred F. Schmertz visited Taliesin West in February 1958 to gather material for that article, the last portfolio of Wright's new work to be published in his lifetime. Her photographs of F.L.W., taken fourteen months before his death at 89, are a unique record of the Master at work near the end of a career that spanned nearly seventy years.