

# CHARACTERISTICS OF USONIAN ARCHITECTURE

- one story, horizontal orientation
- generally small, around 1500 square feet
- no attic; no basement
- low, simple roof, using local materials of wood, stone, and glass
- radiant heating in concrete slab floor
- natural ornamentation
- efficient use of space
- blueprinted using a simple grid pattern
- open floor plan, with few interior walls
- carport
- built-in furnishings
- skylights and clerestory windows
- often in rural, wooded settings
- Usonian Automatics experimented with concrete and patterned concrete block
- designed by Frank Lloyd Wright



Hebert Jacobs House, 1937

"The expedient houses built by the millions, which journalists propagate, and government builds, do not such a thing. To me such houses are stupid makeshifts, putting on some style or other, really having no integrity. Style *is* important. A style is not. There is all the difference when we work with *with* style and not for *a* style."

**-Frank Lloyd Wright The Natural House 1959**

## Sources

- "The Usonian House I" and "The Usonian Automatic," The Natural House by Frank Lloyd Wright, Horizon, 1954, pp. 69, 70-71, 81, 198-199*
- "Frank Lloyd Wright On Architecture: Selected Writings (1894-1940)," Frederick Gutheim, ed., Grosset's Universal Library, 1941, p. 100*
- Blake, Peter. The Master Builders. Knopf, 1960, pp. 304-305, 366*
- "Frank Lloyd Wright, Master Builder" 1997, pp. 118-123*
- "Frank Lloyd Wright" 1993, pp. 26-32, pp. 88,89*
- "Frank Lloyd Wright's Houses" 2002, pp. 38-42, pp.67*



## The Hebert Jacobs House, Madison WI; 1937



The Jacobs House is located in a residential area southwest of downtown Madison. It is a modest single-story structure, its exterior finished in a combination of brick, horizontal boarding, and glass doors, the latter opening from the rear of the house. It is covered by a flat roof and rests on a concrete pad foundation. Its interior space is 1,500 square feet (140 m<sup>2</sup>), and has two bedrooms.



INTERIOR VIEW OF LIVING ROOM

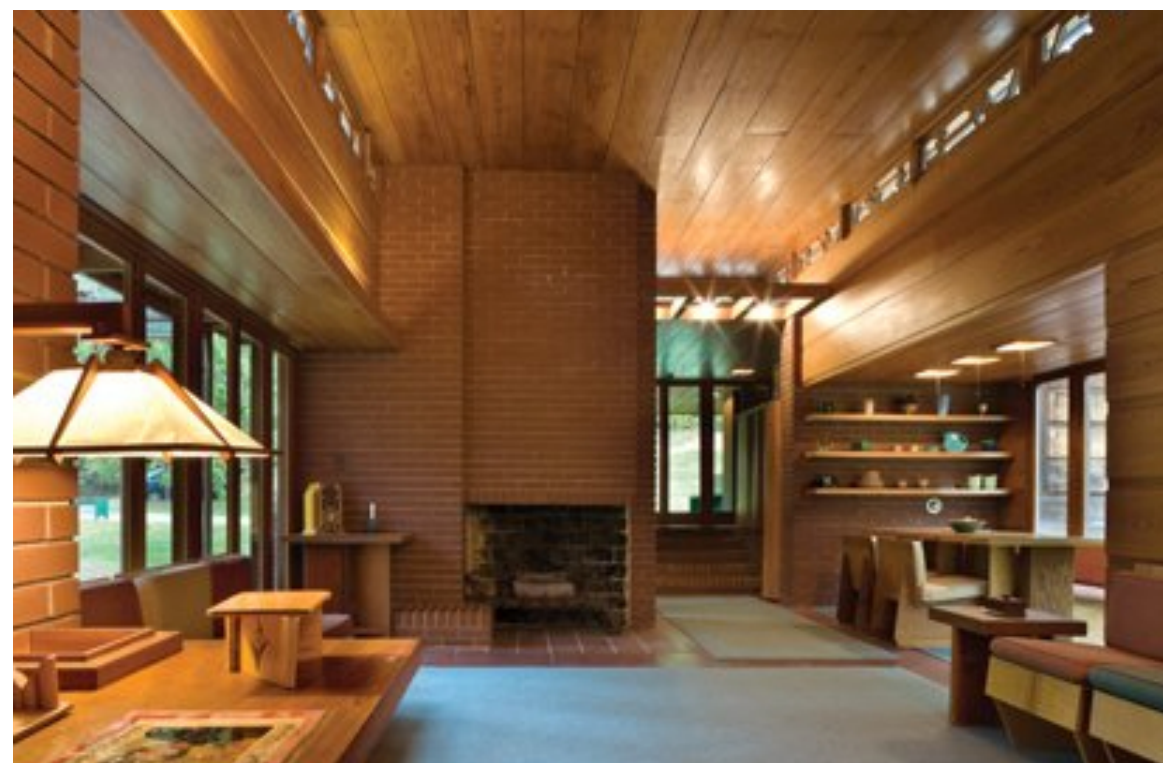




## The Pope-Leighy House, Alexandria Va; 1941

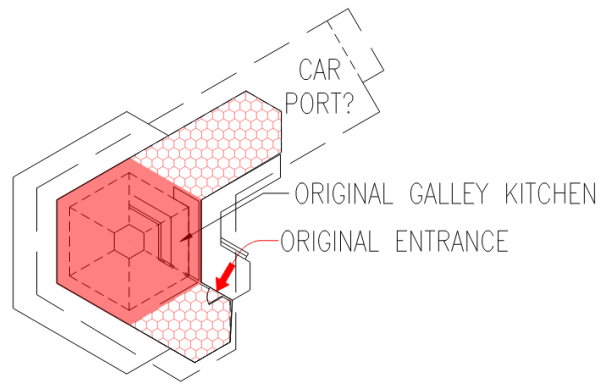


The design follows Wright's [Usonian](#) model of well-designed space for middle-income residents with a design that brings nature inside, using modest materials and a flat roof. The home's L-shaped layout features two bedrooms and a bathroom in one wing and living and dining areas in the other. At the juncture of the two wings are the home's entrance, a study, and the kitchen. The home was designed on a 2 by 4 feet (0.61 by 1.22 m) rectangular grid scored into a concrete floor painted in Wright's signature color, Cherokee Red.



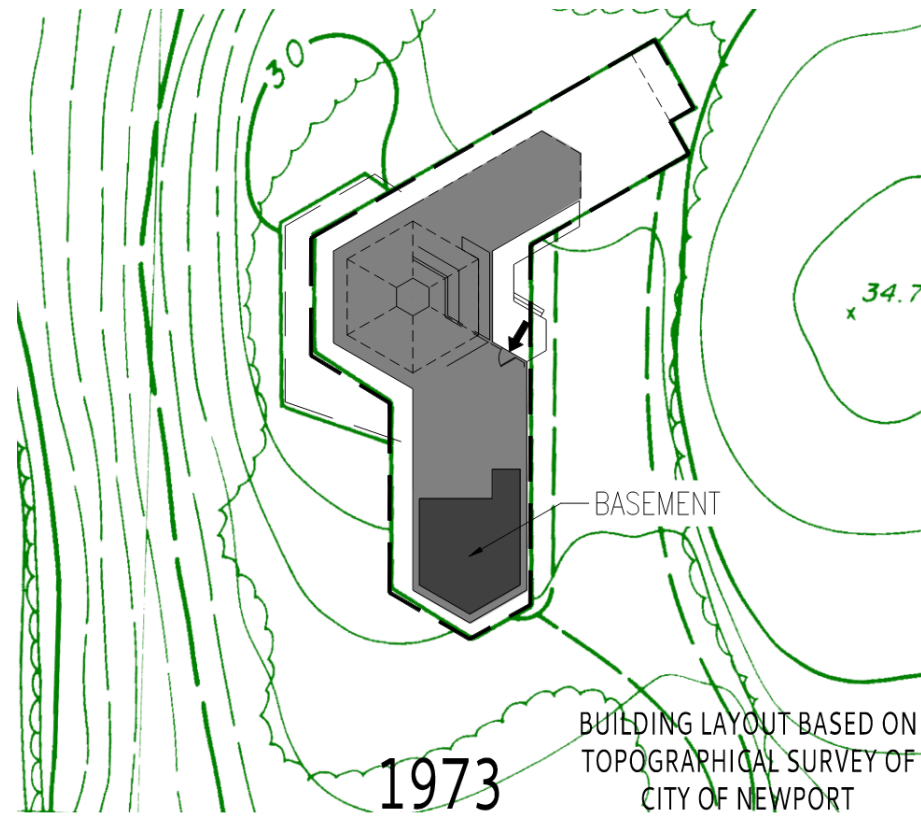
INTERIOR VIEW OF LIVING ROOM





1952(?)

Carl S Jurgens & Marion Wilson purchase farmhouse (Hazard House, 121 Ocean Ave) and build Hex House

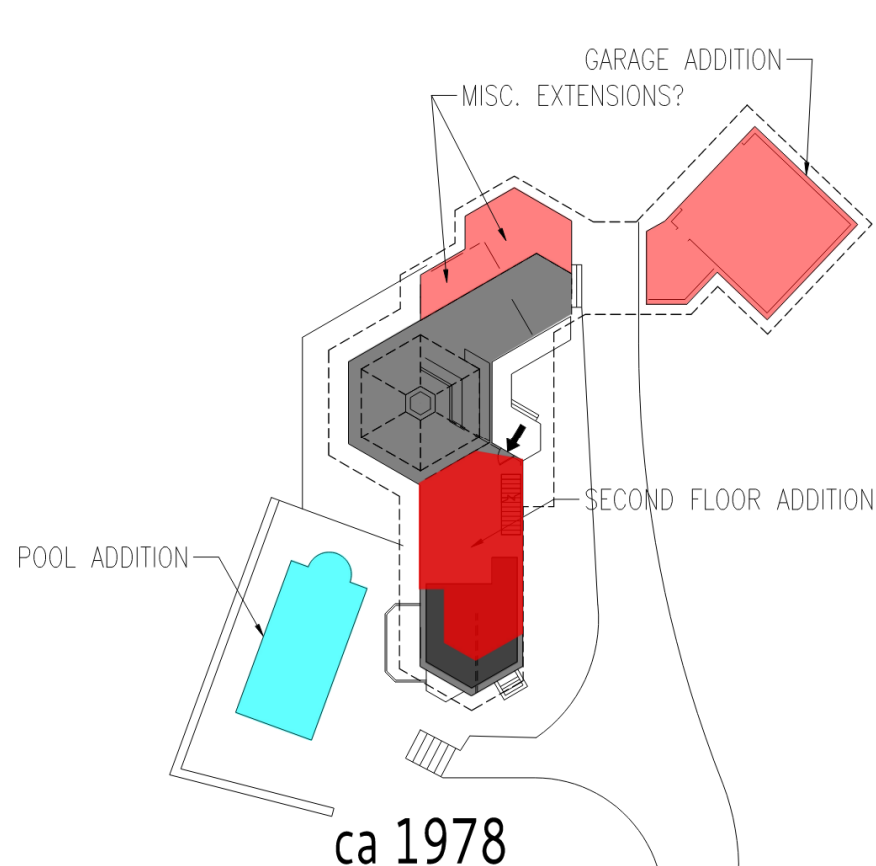


1973

Jurgens property is granted a zoning variance to be subdivided into two lots, Hex House is located on new 2 acre lot (123 Ocean Ave)

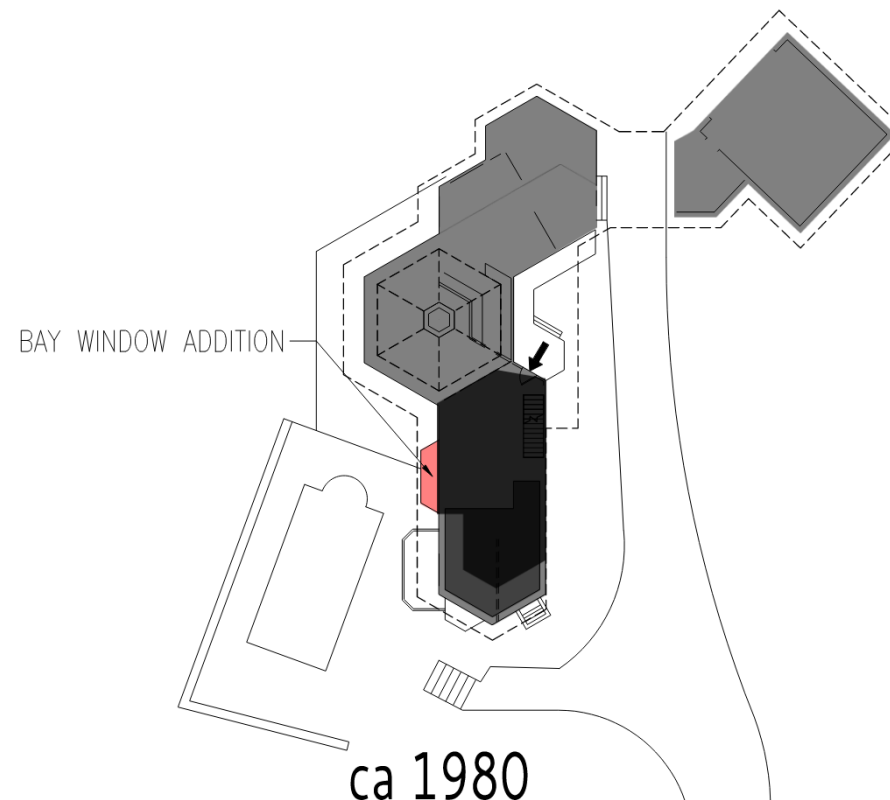
## HEX HOUSE

123 OCEAN AVE, NEWPORT RI



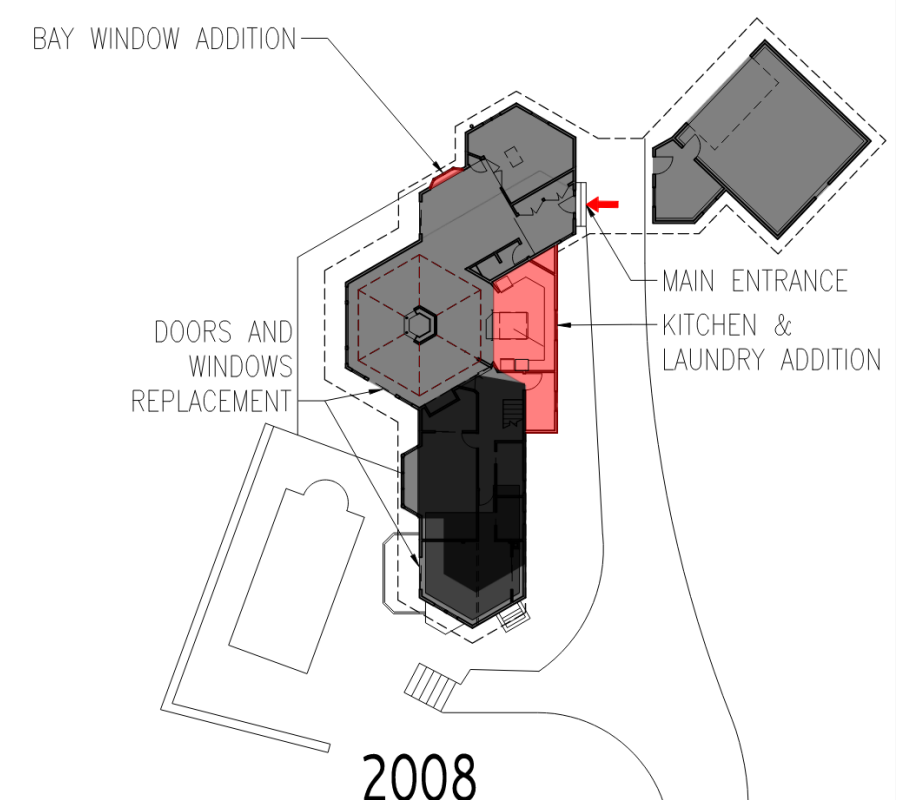
ca 1978

Frank Schaulb buys Hex House & adds second floor, misc additions and garage.



ca 1980

Robert and Emily Anderson buy Hex House and modify for wheelchair access, add bay windows and doors, add bedroom and bath in north wing



2008

Remove main entry, porch and hall to incorporate into new kitchen and laundry. All new windows and doors





VIEW EAST TOWARDS SITE ALONG OCEAN AVE (IN FRONT OF BAILEY’S BEACH)



VIEW EAST TOWARDS SITE ALONG OCEAN AVE (IN FRONT OF BAILEY’S BEACH)

HEX HOUSE

123 OCEAN AVE,  
NEWPORT RI



VIEW NORTH TOWARDS SITE ALONG OCEAN AVE AT ENTRANCE



VIEW NORTH TOWARDS SITE ALONG OCEAN AVE AT ENTRANCE





VIEW NORTH OF EXISTING HOUSE ALONG DRIVEWAY



VIEW WEST OF EXISTING HOUSE ENTRY AND GARAGE



VIEW NORTH OF EXISTING HOUSE ALONG POOL PATIO



VIEW EAST TOWARDS GARAGE





INTERIOR VIEW OF EXISTING KITCHEN



INTERIOR VIEW OF EXISTING KITCHEN, LOOKING TO LIVING ROOM



INTERIOR VIEW OF LIVING ROOM



INTERIOR VIEW OF LIVING ROOM FROM DINING ROOM