



The Charnley-Norwood House

The Charnley-Norwood House (CNH), affectionately known as “Bon Silene,” is an architectural gem that heralds a turning point in residential architecture in the U.S. Designed in 1890 by Louis Sullivan, “Father of the Skyscraper,” and Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the four Masters of Modern Architecture, the CNH may be the very first modern house in the Western world. It exhibits many of the traits that would come to be associated with 20th century Modernism, such as functionality, spatial flow, natural materials, fenestration that erases inside-outside barriers and integration into the landscape. Compared to its contemporaries, it exhibits a degree of clarity and austerity not witnessed before in residential architecture. This humble cottage is the product of two great forward-thinking geni at work.



Exterior of the newly restored house



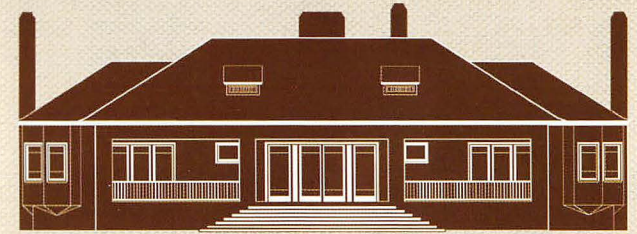
Bon Silene

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For reservations to tour the Charnley-Norwood House, please visit msgulfoasterheritage.ms.gov or by calling the MGCNHA Office at 228-523-4150



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A Louis Sullivan & Frank Lloyd Wright Design

Built in 1890

509 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS



Southwest facade of the home in 1904



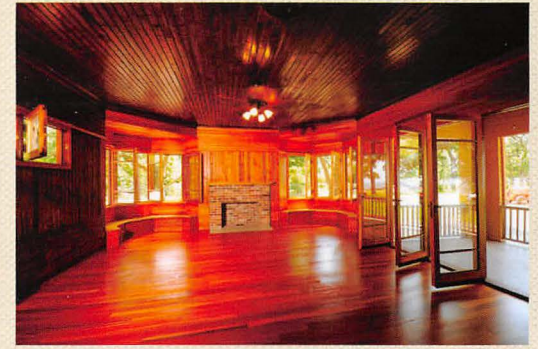
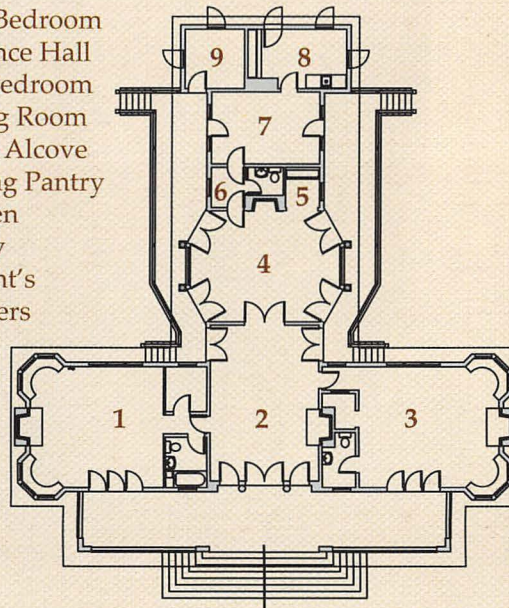
View of the home after Hurricane Katrina



Exterior view of western facade

After CNH was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation, Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and Mississippi Heritage Trust** aided the **Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH)** in halting its demolition. In 2011, the **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)** acquired the house for the State of Mississippi under the **Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area program**. MDAH procured the funding for the restoration of the house. If it were not for the concerted efforts of all these parties, this remarkable house would no longer exist.

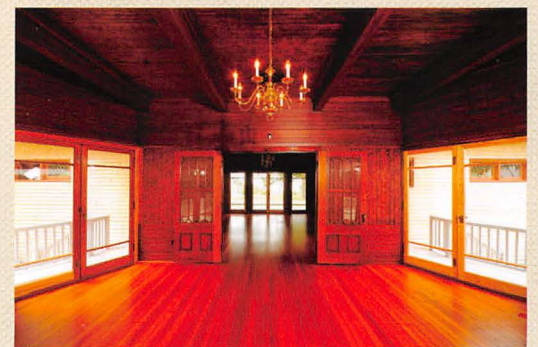
- 1 West Bedroom
- 2 Entrance Hall
- 3 East Bedroom
- 4 Dining Room
- 5 China Alcove
- 6 Serving Pantry
- 7 Kitchen
- 8 Pantry
- 9 Servant's Quarters



Interior of the east bedroom



Interior of the dining room and china alcove



Interior of the dining room