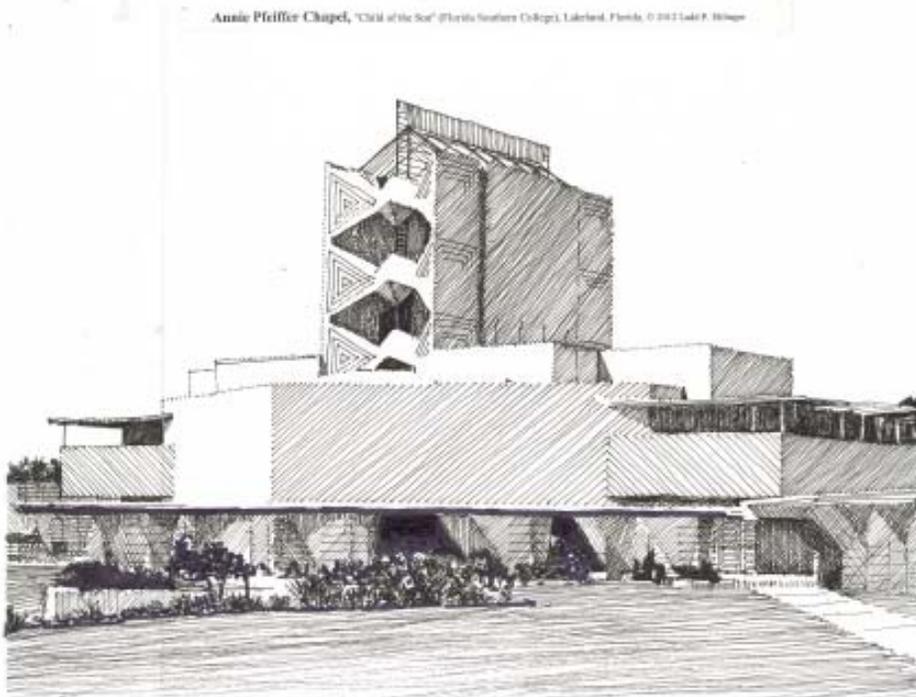




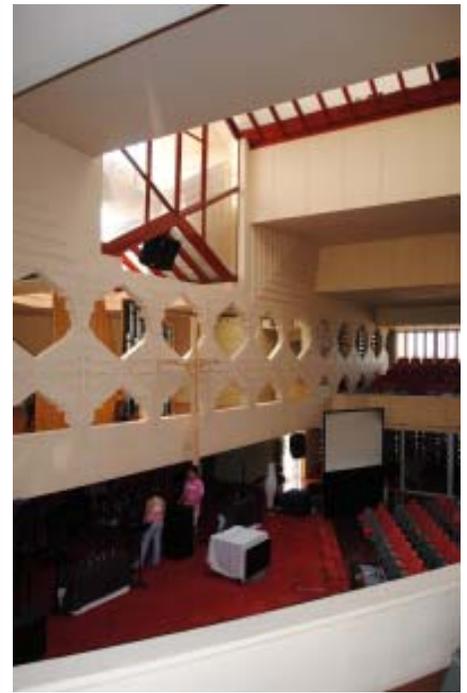
ARCHITECTURE

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FOURTH QUARTER 2012



Annie Pfeiffer Chapel, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida



Interior View

The Annie Pfeiffer Chapel at Florida Southern College was, like the majority of the buildings on the campus, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Construction was begun in 1938 and completed in 1941. The French door balconies were restored in 2007. The view of the chapel in this issue's limited edition print of a sketch by Ladd P. Ehlinger, AIA is from the main quadrangle in the center of the campus where the sanctuary stands taller than any other building on campus. This is true even though the chapel is located half way up

the sloped ground of the campus.

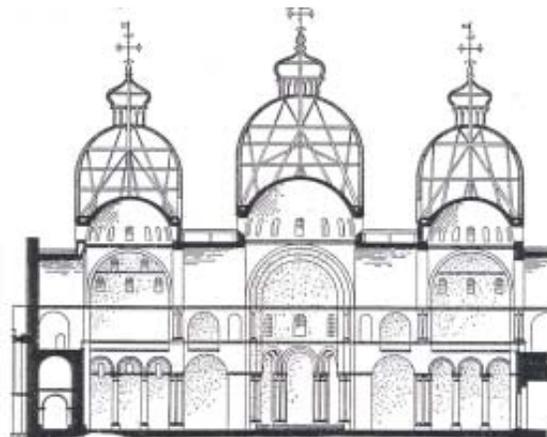
The reason for this is that the architect Wright took a lesson from history. As one can see from the interior view, the sanctuary space really isn't all that tall and in fact is a rather intimate 2.5 story tall space. A balcony overlooks the main floor and there is a skylight above the raised center area. What Wright did was extend the side walls up much higher, a whole story and a half higher, while keeping the skylight roof at the lower intimate level so as not to overwhelm the occupants and force them to crane their necks to see the ceiling. In addition, he added the "Rooster Comb" like space frame of steel tube rafters and decoration to extend the height from the exterior ever so much higher, so as to fully visually command the campus.

There are several historical buildings, usually domed structures that employed similar devices - usually an exterior dome much higher than the interior

dome, so as to be seen in perspective from afar, while not overwhelming the occupants on the interior. San Marco in Venice is a good example. In the historic buildings though, the observer is seldom aware of two domes as the upper dome is faked, whereas what Wright did is very straightforward and perceptible to the observer. He openly raised the height in a honest manner.



Ehlinger & Associates extends Seasons Greetings to all of our friends who receive the newsletter. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.



The Very Bad Luck of The Château(x) De Bellevue

It sounds very much like a tasteless joke, only tragically, this really happened. A wealthy Russian tycoon moves to France and buys an 18th century Chateau in Yvrac: the Chateau De Bellevue. He hires a Polish construction company to do the massive renovation, along with the demolition of some accessory buildings on the estate.

Instead, sometime in November, the 140,000 S.F. structure was razed to the ground, the accessory buildings, unmolesated.

Naturally, the French were furious, and there will be many investigations, but the new owner of the estate, Dmitri Stroskin, who runs a logistics operation that handles import/export trades between France, Poland, and Russia, has promised to rebuild the Château identical to the original.

(original sources: RT.com, Thomas Adamson, AP)

History of Bellevue

Unfortunately, the history of this specific Chateau De Bellevue is not readily available online, and there are a numerous number of Chateaux with the name Bellevue (meaning “Beautiful View”).

Apparently, Bellevue is as common a Chateau name as Chateau is a title for buildings which aren’t, technically, Chateaux.

Being who they are, however, the French are usually pretty good about distinguishing between their historic Chateaux (which originally were designated only to lords and nobles) and their winery Chateaux, since pretty much every winery is referred to as a Chateau, whether it operates out of a real Chateau or not.

For example, if you’re familiar with Chateau Bellevue wines, then that’s an entirely different Chateau Bellevue; it’s possibly the Chateau de Bellevue, St. Emilion, about 30 km away from the Chateau De Bellevue, Yvrac. Or it could be the Chateau Bellevue, La Forêt, near Toulouse, or Chateau Bellevue, Fronsac, or...

Okay, so there really isn’t a way to quickly distinguish. Having a wine from Chateau Bellevue is more like knowing someone from Hollywood; you have to know what state that Hollywood is in before you assume they’re a movie star. Still, a wine is a wine.



A photo of the Château De Bellevue, Yvrac, before its untimely demise. For more photos, see: <http://www.domainedebellevue.info>



Will the real Chateau Bellevue please stand up?

The Real Chateau de Bellevue

Once upon a time, however, there was a “real” Chateau named Bellevue. “Real” in that it was an estate designated to a lord or noble. Or in this case, the King’s mistress, which at the time was equivalent.

King Louis XV’s, 5th official chief mistress (Maîtresse-en-titre) was Madame de Pompadour (also known as Jeanne Antoinette Poisson). Being the king’s mistress came with certain privileges, one of them being land.

The King purchased a parcel of land in Meduin, along the Seine, and granted it to his mistress in 1749, but not before Ange-Jacques Gabriel, the Premier Architect of France, proposed the construction of a pleasure house to be named “Bellevue”, purportedly because of the splendid views of the river.

Poisson commissioned her own architect, Jean Cailleteau, for the design and construction of the Chateau Bellevue, and it was completed quickly, in 1750.

The design of Chateau Bellevue was a marked change from previous Chateaux, in that it was small and intimate (for a Chateau), reflecting the relationship between King Louis XV and Madame Pompadore, rather than the pompousness of royalty.

When Madame Pompadour fell out of favor as his official mistress in 1757, the King purchased the land back from her, enlarged it considerably to a standard Chateau size, by adding wings, and left it mostly unused until his death in 1774. It was transferred to his daughters, Marie Adélaïde, Victoire and Sophie, who fled during the French Revolution.

The Chateau Bellevue was looted during the revolution, and then shortly after, demolished. R. Perrin Ehlinger



A modest Chateau for a modest mistress.