



Press Contact:

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The Emil Bach House Fact Sheet

About	This richly conceived yet intimately scaled Emil Bach House was built by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1915 for Emil Bach, president of Chicago's Bach Brothers Brick Co. The Emil Bach House is part of Stone Heritage Properties, the leading luxury hospitality arm of TAWANI Enterprises
Address	7415 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626
Location	One block from the lake in East Rogers Park, one of Chicago's most interesting and diverse neighborhoods
Website	http://www.emilbachhouse.com
Opened	2014
Management	TAWANI Enterprises Wayde Cartwright and Bruce Boyd
Design Aesthetic	The Emil Bach House looks toward future stylistic directions in Wright's work, in its contained geometry, efficient scale, and modern window designs with white, green, and orange-yellow shapes, evoking the rhythmic triangles of Midway Gardens' windows, none of which survive
Offerings	<p>Private Vacation Rental - A study and two guest rooms on the second floor, each with a full-sized hall bathroom. The first floor includes a large gathering space with an impressive fireplace, a dining and lounge area. Beautiful outdoor spaces, include the Japanese tea House and Gardens. Rates from \$495 to \$1,295 per night</p> <p>Event Rental – The Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Emil Bach House and Japanese tea house and gardens holds up to 130 guests, including 25</p>

guests inside. The cost is estimated at \$2,595 for a five-hour minimum outside with \$500 per each additional hour and \$1,495 for a five-hour-minimum interior event. The space is ideal for corporate meetings and retreats, weddings, garden parties and family celebrations

Lang House Bed and Breakfast – Built in 1919, a five-bedroom luxury bed and breakfast offering beautiful architecture, furnishings and comfortable surroundings. The Lang House is also available for special events.

Size: Approximately 1500 square feet

Milestones

- Sept. 28, 1977 – The Emil Bach House was designated as a Chicago Landmark
- Jan. 23, 1979 – The Emil Bach House entered the National Register of Historic Places

Key Facts

- The Emil Bach House is Chicago's only Frank Lloyd Wright Private Vacation Home and Venue Rental
- The cabinet door under the dining table lamp is the original millwork and cabinetry
- Thanks for the Department of Defense, the house uses Black Walnut for the trim, which is extremely difficult to find
- Emil Bach owned a brick company, but not one brick of his was used in the house
- The deep-set front windows were specifically designed for privacy from the street
- The doorway outside on the Northside leads to nowhere
- The use of trim molding makes the main floor ceiling appear lower than it is
- There is hidden shelving in some areas of the trim
- The wooden grill allows sunlight and air into staircase area
- The small balconies in each bedroom allow "outside inside" one of the themes of the Home
- The House is built almost on Northern property line to allow maximum Southern Exposure; Frank Lloyd Wright often criticized for dark interiors

Memberships

Frank Lloyd Wright Trust
Rogers Park Business Alliance

Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society
Illinois LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce
Professional Association of Innkeepers International

Social Media

Facebook - <http://bit.ly/2s1ZXKv>

Twitter - @emilbachhouse

Instagram - <http://bit.ly/2sBokM0>

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The Emil Bach House Backgrounder

The Emil Bach House construction follows Wright's 1911 return from Europe, commencing as his Midway Gardens project was completed in 1914, and before his departure to Japan in 1916 to oversee construction of the Imperial Hotel. While adopting the vocabulary of Wright's Prairie house, the Bach House looks toward future stylistic directions in Wright's work, in its contained geometry, efficient scale, and modern window designs with white, green, and orange-yellow shapes, evoking the rhythmic triangles of Midway Gardens' windows, none of which survive.

This richly conceived yet intimately scaled residence was built in 1915 for Emil Bach, president of Chicago's Bach Brick Co. The house stands near the shores of Lake Michigan on Chicago's North Side. It is often described as a summer residence, an idea refuted by Bach's wife Anna, who would later recall, "...it was never built as a summer home, ...it was planned and built for a permanent home and a thing of beauty."

While many of Wright's Prairie houses are situated on wide suburban lots, the Bach House stands on a small city lot along a busy urban thoroughfare. The plan of the house is compact. On the ground floor facing Sheridan Road, the living room projects out from the central square core of the plan, echoed at the rear by a projecting porch. On the upper floor, cantilevered room projections are positioned at each arm of the cruciform plan. The projections contribute a sense of dynamism to the building's geometric composition. A horizontal band of windows on the second level and a sequence of vertical mullions and deep-set windows on the main level articulate the façade. Dark brown trim delineates the exterior of cream-colored brick and stucco, which has a yellow cast in sunlight.

In contrast to the expansive, open Prairie houses Wright designed prior to his European sojourn, the Bach House is strongly centered and self-contained. A flat roof with cantilevered projections shelters the residence and shades the small balconies off each of the bedrooms. The main entrance to the house is at the south side, away from the busy road on which the house sits, and obscured from public view. In place of the wide expanses of leaded glass in Wright's typical Prairie houses, the casement windows on the ground level of the Bach House are recessed and framed by wide mullions of brick. An open porch spans the back of the house

and creates a dramatic horizontal projection toward Lake Michigan, originally clearly in view but now impaired by subsequently constructed residential towers.

The interior plan of the house is anchored by a central fireplace, around which the living room and dining area wrap, with a small, enclosed kitchen completing the encircling rooms. Built-in seating around the hearth, along the front windows, and a built-in dining table maximize space for circulation. Dining, seating, bookcases and storage are all efficiently integrated into one harmonious organic plan. The interior walls match the color of the home's exterior with wood moldings and furnishings of black walnut. Instead of changing the interior palette, room to room, as he did in his other Prairie style houses, Wright used only one color throughout the house, uniting his interior and exterior palette

Anna Bach wrote, "All of the wood and furniture was black walnut, left in its natural color without stain and waxed to a perfectly satin finish.... The original color of the walls was one of Mr. Wright's own choosing and mixing and he called it 'Sunshine.' We were never able to get a painter who could get it exactly right but it was simply beautiful with the rich brown satin of the wood work!"

The Emil Bach House was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1977 and placed on the U.S. Register of Historic Places in 1979. From 2012-2014, the building was meticulously restored to its original appearance.

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The Renovations of The Emil Bach House



Above is the earliest photo of the Emil Bach House showing the 1919 construction of the Newman designed mansion on the lot to the north. The house, which is located at 7415 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, was situated on the north lot line which provided the maximum distance and privacy for the Bach family from the existing home to the south.

Working in the brickyard with his four brothers, Emil Bach had breathing problems which, according to his grandson, Owen, he treated by walking out to his back porch down to the lake every day and swimming. At the time of construction, there were no structures between the house and the lake.

The Farcroft Apartments, built in 1928, tower over the Bach House and completely block the view of the lake from the terrace to the northeast. H.L. Hollister's mansion on Bryan (later Jarvis St) was demolished around the same time and two four-story courtyard apartment buildings completed the screen of the lake to the southeast.

Originally, a chimney enclosure was constructed to balance the step design of the house. Had the house been built according to the original design, the enclosure would have had the same

orientation as the interior chimney mass.

During the design presentation, Wright changed the interior chimney mass orientation to run east-west, perpendicular to the exterior chimney enclosure.

By the time the Emil Bach sold the house in 1934, the roof chimney enclosure had deteriorated to such a degree that it was removed and never rebuilt.

The house remained substantially unchanged through the next 20 years. Photographs taken in the mid-1940s by Gilman Lane show that the only significant exterior changes that were made to the structure was the enclosure of the porch off the south-facing bedroom and an addition of a shed off the rear service entrance.

James F. Blinder bought the Bach House in June 1959 and decided to undertake a full-scale "restoration" of the residence. The Historic American Building Survey (HABS) study of the house done in the spring of 1966 documents some of the exterior changes made by Blinder, include:

- Removal of the cypress wood trellis around the ground level planter at the front of the house.
- Replace of the ramp from street level to the north service entrance door with concrete stairs.
- Replacement of the concrete caps on the service entry wall and east entry garden retaining wall.
- Elimination of the planting beds under living room windows and reducing the size of the south and west planting beds, covering all courtyard ground area with concrete.
- Replacing over 60 percent of existing exterior cypress trim with redwood.
- Demolition and replacement of the upper half (wood and brick) design detail of the privacy wall in the courtyard.
- Enclosing and winterizing the first-floor porch, removing French doors between porch and entryway.
- Enclosing and adding roof to second floor sun terrace and changing window between terrace and maids room to a door
- Removal of bedroom balcony French doors and replacement with jalousie windows
- Removal of all second-floor leaded glass windows and replacement by single pane or jalousie windows
- Removal and sale/donation of all 6 original art glass windows.

The interior of the house has also undergone substantial changes through the years. Wright originally designed all the kitchen cabinetry, a massive dining table with chairs and tabourettes, bay window bench with flowerbox, hearth bench (with storage under the seat and book shelves facing the entryway), a built-in desk and bookshelves in the north bedroom, built-in clothes press and dressing table in the south bedroom, built-in closet in the maid's room, built-in linen cupboard in the second-floor landing and a built-in dresser in the west bedroom. From

correspondence between Wright and Emil Bach, mention is also made of two easy chairs, light fixtures, curtains, rugs and single beds upstairs. No photographs, drawings or detailed descriptions exist for these elements/

By the 1966 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) study, the only built-in elements remaining were the bay window bench, clothes press and linen cupboard. Additionally, the partition wall and swinging door between the kitchen and dining room area had also been demolished. The study did not detail changes made to the basement of the house, so it is not possible to know when the coal room, heater room and storage room partitions were removed and when the door to the fruit cellar was moved and the rear storage room underneath the porch excavated.

Beginning in fall 2012, TAWANI Enterprises embarked on a major renovation to return the house back to its original appearance. Some of the many changes, included:

- Six art glass windows designed by Wright that were removed about 50 years ago have been copied from an original that now hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago
- The interior walls' yellow color was imitated from intact samples that were hidden behind a built-in piece of furniture
- Stucco that was lathered across the fireplace wall is gone, revealing the elongated Roman brick Wright specified
- A planted green roof on the teahouse
- A geothermal system, which heats and cools the home using liquid that has been pumped below ground
- Rebuilding the Bach house's front sidewalk using only concrete
- Rebuilt sections of the wood banding on the interior walls
- Concrete caps on exterior walls have been matched precisely
- Built-in furnishings including a window seat in the front bay and a long, slender black walnut dining table that extends from one side of the fireplace
- Cabinetry patterned after a lone original interior cabinet door that was intact on the fireplace.
- Replacement of the interior surfaces such as wood trim and plaster

Challenges of the renovation included finding a proper match for the home's textured brick and making sure the colors in the reproduced art glass window panes were true to original.

In 2017, the front door was replaced.

Key Dates

- Sept. 28, 1977 – Designated a Chicago Landmark
- Jan. 23, 1979 – The House entered the National Register of Historic Places

The Emil Bach Homeowners

1915 – 1934 Emil & Anna Bach
1934 – 1947 Joseph & Florence Peacock
1947 – 1951 V.H. James
1951 – 1951 M.G. Speisman
1951 – 1959 Manuel Weiss
1959 – 1970 James F. Blinder
1970 – 1978 Frank L. Miller
1978 – 1999 Fedor & Sirirat Banuchi
1999 – 2005 Reza Toulabi
2005 – 2009 Private Owner
2009 - Present TAWANI Enterprises

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