

Frank Lloyd Furniture by Copeland

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who was Frank Lloyd Wright?

A: America's preeminent architect, Frank Lloyd Wright's career spanned 70 years and produced 600 residential designs – including signature houses like his own Taliesin and Taliesin West, the Dana Thomas House, the Coonley House, the Robie, and Fallingwater – and over 1,000 furniture designs. He is also known for landmark commercial and public buildings like the Guggenheim Museum, Imperial Hotel (Tokyo), and the Johnson Wax Building.

Q: What were his Prairie Style designs?

A: Frank Lloyd Wright grew up in the Midwest and was profoundly influenced by the characteristics of the prairie. His Prairie Style designs for houses and furniture, created in the late 1800s and early 1900s, are artistic abstractions of that environment. Strong horizontal and vertical lines imitate the long horizon and crops and trees shooting up from the plain.

Wright's Prairie Houses often include imposing rooflines and cantilevers that extend well beyond exterior walls. Windows are often vertical, rising from floor to ceiling. He used natural materials like wood and stone abundantly in an effort to unify the house with its surroundings. Innovations like attached garages, roof overhangs that shade windows, open living space, large fireplaces, integrated place and recreation space are all attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright.

Furniture pieces were meant to enhance the house by bringing nature indoors. Wright's Prairie Style elements were all applied to his furniture pieces though he took care to tune them to the lifestyle of particular patrons. Built of natural woods, furniture pieces were artistic, functional, and lasting.

Q: How are the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright licensed and controlled?

A: The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation own and licenses all the designs, drawings, writing, and personal properties. Founded by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1940, the Foundation's first mission was to perpetuate The Taliesin Fellowship that he had created in 1932.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation continues as a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and advancing the principles of organic architecture. It presides over Frank Lloyd Wright's extensive archives.

Q: Why did the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation choose Copeland Furniture the exclusive licensee of Wright's furniture designs?

A: The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation is dedicated to ensuring the authenticity of furniture pieces that use his designs and preserve his legacy. As such they sought a manufacturer with a reputation for quality and value. Further, the Foundation was looking for a licensee that would make Frank Lloyd Wright an important part of its business – creating collections rather than individual accent pieces and offering price points that were attractive to the fine furniture market.

In Copeland they found a partner that was eager to help them in those missions. Copeland Furniture has been crafting fine furniture from solid hardwood for over 30 years. Its craftspeople and workshops were perfectly positioned to assume the responsibility of the Frank Lloyd Wright license.

Q: What pieces are included in the Copeland collection?

A: Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture by Copeland includes dining room, living room, and bedroom collections.

Dining Room: Copeland initial dining room offerings include pieces are based on original designs and measurements from the Dana Thomas House in Springfield, Illinois.

- Grand Extension Table
- Extension Table
- Large Arm Chair
- Large Side Chair
- Side Chair
- Buffet

Living Room:

- Dana Thomas Plant Stand
- Barrel chair (Taliesin)
- Robie Tabouret (Robie House)
- Boynton Hall Table (Boynton House)
- Oak Park Chair, Sofa, and Loveseat
- Coonley End Table and Coffee Table
- Occasional seating from Dana Thomas

Bedroom: All pieces are from original designs and measurements from the Meyer May and Ingalls Houses.

- Beds – in Queen, King, and California King sizes
- Nightstand
- Dresser
- Tall Chest
- Armoire

Q: Are all pieces exact replicas of originals?

A: Some pieces are exact reproductions. With others Copeland has made slight adaptations to accommodate today's lifestyles. Dana Thomas Dining Chair backs have been angled slightly to increase comfort. The original Dana Thomas Buffet was designed as a built-in piece; Copeland has made it free standing using exact measurements from the original. The May Bed, originally designed as a twin, now comes in Queen, King, and California King. The May Dresser has 6, 31" wide drawers instead of the original 3, 60" wide drawers that were meant to fit unfolded dresses.

In addition, Copeland has added new pieces based on Wrights designs and actual companion pieces. The Coonley Coffee Table uses the design and millwork of the original Coonley End Table. The Oak Park Chair sets the design standard for the Oak Park Love Seat and Sofa. And the May Armoire is based on designs for the Dresser and Tall Chest.

Q: What assurance does the customer have that they are purchasing an authentic licensed piece of Frank Lloyd Wright® Furniture?

A: Each piece is engraved with the signature of Frank Lloyd Wright, the date of manufacture and a serial number. Each serial number is entered into a permanent registry along with the details of manufacture.

Q: What is Copeland Furniture?

A: Copeland Furniture has been crafting high quality, solid hardwood furniture in its Bradford, Vermont workshops for over 30 years. In 2006, Copeland Furniture acquired the exclusive rights to produce furniture based on the designs and drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright. Copeland is FSC certified; using only wood from the Northern Forest.

Q: What techniques does Copeland use to craft Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture?

A: Each piece in the Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture by Copeland is accomplished through a combination of traditional and state-of-the-art techniques that announce and preserve the wood's natural beauty while adding strength and durability to the overall piece.

Select solid hardwoods – Each piece of the Frank Lloyd Wright furniture starts with solid hardwood (cherry and White Oak) from The Northern Forests. The White Oak is quartersawn to reveal a ray-fleck in the grain. This time-consuming process is essential to obtaining distinctive wood characteristics and adds to the lumber's stability.

Miter-Wrap construction – In Wright's day, craftsmen achieved the bold, sturdy tabletops of thick-cut hardwood with woodworking techniques that are all but forgotten. Copeland has revived miter-wrap construction for tabletops that present 2 inches or more at the edge – enabling the wood grain from the top to continue over ends and sides.

English Dovetails – Asymmetrical English dovetails form perfect, rigid fits for drawer and case pieces. Copeland makes these intricate cuts utilizing precise, computer-programmed machining.

Superior Drawer Construction – Drawers, with sides of solid ash and bottoms of birch plywood, are all fully finished. They are mounted on three ‘wood-on-wood’ slides – one on each side and at the center - and are fitted with Copeland Furniture’s drawer stops.

Durable, hand wiped finishes – Labor-intensive hand rubbing incorporates stain pigments and highlights grain definition in each piece. Copeland Furniture uses only catalyzed lacquer finishes that meet the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association’s high standards. They withstand tough stains and age beautifully.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Collection is available in Parkton Oak, Madison Oak, Parkton Cherry or Natural Cherry finishes.

Quality upholstery fabrics and leather – Copeland Furniture offers an extensive selection of fabrics and leathers or will use customer-supplied material.

Careful drying, machining, and preparation – Key to the longevity of any furniture piece is the preparation of wood pieces and science of joinery. Copeland Furniture combines perfectly planed surfaces, calibrated hydraulic pressure, and radio frequency-assisted curing to ensure consistently superior, enduring glue joints.

Q: What does it mean to be FSC Certified?

A: One of a few furniture-manufacturing companies certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Copeland Furniture uses lumber that has been harvested in accordance with the standards set by that organization. Copeland is assured by its suppliers that wood has been legally harvested from forests which have high conservation values and are not threatened, where traditional or civil rights have not been violated, that do not contain genetically modified trees.

Q: When will Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture by Copeland be available?

A: Copeland will start shipping furniture pieces to its dealers in October. The location of dealers can be found by contacting Copeland Furniture at flw@copelandfurniture.com

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: Visit www.copelandfurniture.com or contact Tim Copeland, 802 222 9282 x 105 tim@copelandfurniture.com or Dawn Fandino 802 222 9282 x 104 dawn@copelandfurniture.com