

Charlotte

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Gallery Crawl:
A tour of local exhibitions

Inside the home of artist Stephen Wilson

THE *WRIGHT* WAY

Frank Lloyd Wright's legend lives on as his reinterpreted work takes center stage in a local designer's home.

By Ashley Hotham Cox
Photography by Francesco Lagnese

Prolific American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, whose most notable works include the Guggenheim and Fallingwater, was more than just an architect – he was a pioneering visionary who seamlessly fused architecture, design, art, and nature into a whole in an unabridged fashion.

Although Mr. Wright has long been departed, we continue to celebrate his genius by finding ways to revive, restore, and reignite the legendary man's vision and craft. Most recently, Charlotte-based interior designer Barrie Benson teamed with textile titan Schumacher on a new project for an unlikely client: herself.

When your line of work is to create beautiful interiors for other people, revamping your own space usually takes last place. Benson, whose penchant for blending traditional silhouettes with modern applications and vice versa, and her architect husband, Matt, had been planning to makeover their master bedroom in their mid-century modern ranch for quite some time. So when Benson and Dara Caponigro, Schumacher's creative director, ran into each other, they got to talking, and a brilliant plan came to fruition.

Together, they would redesign the room using new patterns from Schumacher's Applied Architecture – a collection inspired by the original line Mr. Wright and his team designed for the fabric and wallcovering company back in 1955. The collection, which launched in partnership with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation last May, includes some of Mr. Wright's iconic prints as well as designs derived from a range of his personal sketches and drawings. Benson's bedroom could not have been a more fitting backdrop to showcase Mr. Wright's reimagined work. From the wallcoverings and bed linens to upholstery and lamp shades, the room was almost entirely draped in designs from the aptly named line.

"I love how these strong, vintage designs are reinvigorated by fresh-of-the-moment hues and the range of fabrics – from toothier wovens to more delicate prints – provides endless options," Benson says.

Available in upholstery, fabric, sheers, and decorative trims and in various color stories, Applied Architecture is a testament to the mastermind of Frank Lloyd Wright. From one architect and designer to a designer and an architect, the creative genius lives on. ♦

