

Madison

Frank Lloyd Wright Trail

JUST in time for his 150th birthday in 2017, a new trail takes travelers on a self-guided architectural adventure through nine counties in southern Wisconsin. Plan your trip, hop on the trail and discover what you didn't know about this architect and his unique structures that all have a story of their own.

STAY at the Hilton Madison for the perfect halfway stop. Explore shopping on State Street or enjoy the diverse and nationally acclaimed restaurants downtown. After a good night's sleep, restart your trip along the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail by just walking over to the Monona Terrace, connected to the Hilton Madison via skywalk.

MONONA TERRACE

pictured

Popping out of the Madison skyline, Monona Terrace frames the lake for which it was named on the eastern side of Madison's famed isthmus. Wright envisioned that his "dream civic center" would link the shores of Lake Monona with the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Though Wright first proposed the project in the 1930s, numerous setbacks meant the terrace wasn't completed until 1997, nearly four decades after his death and 59 years after the inception of the project. Today, Monona Terrace is a popular spot for meetings and conventions, community programs and weddings, with an on-site café and gift shop full of Wright memorabilia.

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY MEETING HOUSE

Wright was a member of this congregation, and his preacher father was one of the founders. What has become one of the architect's most famous commissions was also one of the closest to his heart. It was completed in 1951, just a few years before his death, and has been hailed as one of the world's most innovative examples of church architecture, as well as a key structure defining Wright's contributions to American culture.

In addition to the original meeting house, with its pitched copper roof, deep-red concrete floor and prow of interlacing wood and glass, Taliesin Associated Architects have added two major additions, one in 1964 and one in 1990.