Chronology

1542 The Portuguese arrive in Japan.

1635 The Shogun Iemitsu Tokugawa initiates the effective closure of Japan to the outside world.

1854 Following the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry, the Tokugawa government agrees to open some Japanese ports to foreign vessels.

1856 Felix Bracquemond comes across Katsushika Hokusai's *Manga* in Paris.

1862 Japan participates in the London Exhibition.

1867 April: Wright born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Japan takes part in the Paris Universal Exposition.

1868 The Meiji period begins with the official restoration of Emperor Mutsuhito. The seat of imperial power is transferred from Kyoto to the new capital Tokyo (formerly Edo).

1869 James Jackson Jarves's *A Glimpse at the Art of Japan* published.

1873 The Scottish engineer Henry Dyer appointed head of the new Imperial College of Engineering in Tokyo.
Japan makes its largest contribution yet to international expositions at the Vienna Universal Exposition.

1874 The Wright family moves to Weymouth, Massachusetts.

1876 The Philadelphia Centennial Exposition marks the first appearance of authentic Japanese buildings in the United States.

The English designer Christopher Dresser travels to Japan for a four-month visit.

1877 Josiah Conder engaged by the Japanese Ministry of Education to organize the first professional course in architecture at the new Imperial College of Engineering.

August: Edward Morse appointed Professor of Zoology at the newly founded Tokyo Imperial University.

1878 Sir Rutherford Alcock's *Art and Art Industries in Japan* published.

April: the Wright family returns to live in Wisconsin.

September: Ernest Fenollosa takes up the post of Professor of Philosophy and Political Economy at Tokyo Imperial University.

1882 Christopher Dresser's *Japan: Its Architecture, Art, and Art Manufactures* published.

May: Ernest Fenollosa begins his campaign to draw attention to the merits of traditional Japanese pictorial art with his speech to the Ryuchi-kai.

May: Joseph Lyman Silsbee, Ernest Fenollosa's slightly older cousin from Salem and Harvard, moves from Syracuse, New York, to establish an architectural practice in Chicago.

1883 Louis Gonse's *L'Art japonais* published in Paris.

1884 July: Ernest Fenollosa's review of Louis Gonse's chapter on painting establishes his credentials as a leading authority in the field of Japanese pictorial art.

1885 Joseph Silsbee designs Unity Chapel at Helena Valley, Wisconsin, for the Revd. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, assisted by the Revd. Jones's eighteen-year-old nephew, Frank Wright.

1886 January: Wright enters the University of Wisconsin at Madison as a special student in the Engineering Faculty.

Edward Morse's *Japanese Homes and Their Surroundings* published.

Summer: John La Farge and Henry Adams visit Japan.

October: Ernest Fenollosa, Kakuzo Okakura, and Arata Hamao, travel to America as Imperial Japanese Fine Arts Commissioners on a fact-finding tour of Western art institutions.

December: Wright leaves the University of Wisconsin, and soon after joins Joseph Silsbee's architectural office in Chicago.

1887 April: the Imperial Japanese Fine Arts Commissioners commence the European leg of their tour of Western art institutions. In October they return to Japan via America, convinced that Japan has little to gain from Western art and should therefore develop its own artistic traditions.

1888 February: after a brief stop at the practice of Beers, Clay and Dutton, and again with Joseph Silsbee, Wright enters the office of Adler and Sullivan.

October: on the basis of the Imperial Fine Arts Commission's report, an imperial order is given for the establishment of a new government art school orientated towards the development of Japan's traditional arts, the Tokyo Fine Art School.

1889 June: Wright marries Catherine Lee Tobin, the daughter of a prosperous Chicago businessman.

1890 February: Edward Morse lectures on Japanese arts and crafts at the Art Institute of Chicago.

July: Ernest Fenollosa returns from Japan to become curator of the newly established Japanese department at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

1891 January: Edward Morse lectures on Japanese pottery at the Art Institute of Chicago.

1892 As Curator of Fine Arts at the Imperial Museum and Director of the Tokyo Fine Art School, Kakuzo Okakura plays a leading role in the interior design and selection of art exhibits for the Japanese pavilion intended for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

April: Ernest Fenollosa opens his first exhibition at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, "Hokusai and His School."

Autumn: Wright involved in the planning of Louis Sullivan's Transportation Building for the World's Columbian Exposition in Jackson Park, south Chicago.

December: construction of the Japanese pavilion, the Ho-o-den, begins on the Wooded Isle at the centre of the World's Columbian Exposition site in Jackson Park.

1893 May-July: Ernest Fenollosa delivers a speech on the Japanese fine-art exhibit, as well as a talk on the role of Japanese art in American art education, at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

May-August: Edward Morse gives a series of lectures on Japanese topics and a talk at the Nippon Tea House at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Autumn: Wright leaves Adler and Sullivan after a row over 'bootlegged' private commissions.

1894 November-December: Ernest Fenollosa delivers a series of lectures on Far Eastern art at the Art Institute of Chicago, largely sponsored by Frederick Gookin.

1895 Frederick Gookin and Hiromichi Shugio become founding members of Chicago's Caxton Club.

1896 Ernest Fenollosa's first book *The Masters of Ukioye* published with a preface written by Frederick Gookin of Chicago.

November: Paul Carus publishes his translation of Lao-tzu's *Tao Te Ching* in his Chicago-based journal the *Open Court*.

1899 Arthur Dow's *Composition* published.

1900 February: Edward Morse lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago on the industrial arts of Japan.

March: Arthur Dow visits Chicago and lectures on his system of synthetic composition at Hull House and to the students of the Art Institute.

1901 March: Arthur Dow lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago after holding a month-long exhibition of his work there.

1902 Summer: Ernest Fenollosa uses Chicago as his base during an extended lecture tour of the Midwest.

1903 February: Fenollosa stays at his cousin Joseph Silsbee's home in Edgewater, just north of Chicago.

July: Kakuzo Okakura's *The Ideals of the East* published.

1904 April: Okakura takes up the post of adviser on Chinese and Japanese Art at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

May: Okakura delivers the speech "Modern Problems in Painting" at the opening of the Japanese exhibit at the St Louis Universal Exposition.

May: Ernest Fenollosa gives a speech at the dedication of Blaine Hall at the University of Chicago School of Education.

July: Fenollosa delivers a series of lectures on Far Eastern art at the University of Chicago.

October: Hiromichi Shugio addresses the Chicago Literary Club on the Japanese art exhibit at the St Louis Universal Exposition.

1905 January: Kakuzo Okakura's *The Ideals of the East* and *The Awakening of Japan* reviewed by Frederick Gookin in the Chicago literary journal the *Dial*.

February: Edward Morse lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago and at the Women's Club of Evanston.

February: Wright makes his first visit to Japan, accompanied by his wife Catherine and former clients the Willitses.

April: shortly before the end of his two-month stay in Japan Wright visits Nikko and is apparently impressed with the *gongen*-style plan forms of the Tokugawa mausolea, the Tosho-gu and Taiyu-in-byo.

May: the Wrights return to Oak Park with several hundred prints and a model of a Japanese house.

June: Oak Park's Unitarian church is destroyed by fire.

August: Wright prepares proposals for a replacement church building.

September: Wright's initial plans are approved by the church committee and he is appointed architect.

1906 January: Wright presents slides and a plaster model of the new Unity Temple to members of the church at his Oak Park studio.

February: Wright gives a talk on Japanese art to the River Forest Women's Club.

March: Wright and his wife hold a 'Japanese social' at their home in aid of the Unity Club of Unity Church and Wright exhibits his Hiroshige prints at the Art Institute of Chicago.

May: Okakura's *Book of Tea* published.

September: Okakura's *Book of Tea* enthusiastically reviewed by Frederick Gookin in the *Dial*.

1908 March: at the Art Institute of Chicago, Wright and Frederick Gookin organize the largest exhibition of *ukiyo-e* prints then to have been held in the United States.

September: Ernest Fenollosa dies of a heart attack in London.

1909 Spring: Aisaku Hayashi returns from New York to become manager of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

September: having been transported from London, apparently under Aisaku Hayashi's supervision, Ernest Fenollosa's ashes are reburied in the gardens of the temple of Mii-dera (Onjo-ji) near Lake Biwa in Shiga Prefecture.

September: Wright departs for Europe with Mamah Borthwick Cheney. In Fiesole, northern Italy, he begins preparing the drawings for the 1910 Wasmuth publication of his work.

1910 The decision is made to build a new Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

1911 Wright leaves Oak Park permanently and moves with Mamah Borthwick to the newly built Taliesin at Spring Green, Wisconsin.

October: Frederick Gookin informs Wright that Aisaku Hayashi has responded positively to his recommendation of him as architect for the proposed new Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

1912 Wright publishes *The Japanese Print: An Interpretation*.

1913 January: Wright travels to Japan with Mamah Borthwick in pursuit of the Imperial Hotel commission and prints for the Spaulding brothers of Boston.

April: Frederick Gookin contacts Wright in Tokyo, congratulating him on his success with the Spaulding prints and asking to be remembered to Aisaku Hayashi and Hiromichi Shugio.

May: Wright returns to Chicago with agreement in principle that he will be appointed architect for the Imperial, bringing with him several thousand prints for the Spauldings.

1914 August: Mamah Borthwick is killed by a crazed servant at Taliesin, which is partially destroyed by fire.

Winter: Miriam Noel, his eventual second wife, enters Wright's life.

1915 November: Frederick Gookin reminds Wright of his key role in introducing him to Aisaku Hayashi and the Imperial Hotel commission.

1916 February: Aisaku Hayashi and his wife, together with the architect Tori Yoshitake, visit Taliesin to inspect Wright's plans for the new hotel.

Summer: the Imperial Hotel Board officially appoint Wright as their architect.

December: Wright travels to Tokyo with Miriam Noel and begins supervising work on the new hotel, the first of five extended periods in Japan spread over the next six years.

1919 Autumn: construction of the new Imperial Hotel finally begins.

1922 April: the old Imperial Hotel is destroyed by fire and Aisaku Hayashi resigns as manager.

July: the new Imperial Hotel accepts its first guests and Wright leaves Japan for the last time, having spent a total of almost four years in the country.

1923 September: the Imperial officially opens and survives the Great Kanto Earthquake, vindicating its absent designer.