

# Welcome to Frank Lloyd Wright's



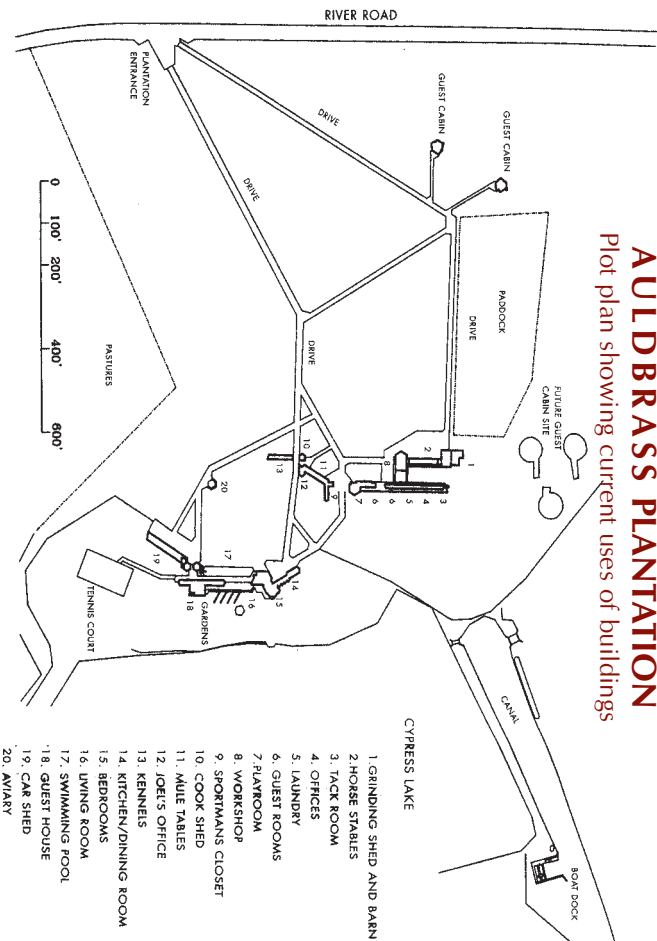
## AULDBRASS



Although Frank Lloyd Wright designed over 1000 projects during his long and prolific career, Auldbrass, in Yemassee, South Carolina, is the only plantation among them. It is also one of the largest and most complex projects he ever undertook. Wright had an unusually intense commitment to Auldbrass, and worked on it, off and on, for over twenty years, from 1938 until his death in 1959. Because Auldbrass was private and fell into disrepair in the 1960's after the original owners' death, it was rarely photographed or published, and as a consequence, little has been known about this major work. In 1986, film producer Joel Silver bought Auldbrass, and with the help of Eric Lloyd Wright, the grandson of Frank Lloyd Wright, he meticulously restored this stunning architectural gem.

Now, with the completed restoration of existing buildings and plans being realized for new structures, we have the opportunity to see one of Wright's greatest works as the master himself originally envisioned it.

### AULDBRASS PLANTATION Plot plan showing current uses of buildings



1. GRINDING SHED AND BARN
2. HORSE STABLES
3. TACK ROOM
4. OFFICES
5. LAUNDRY
6. GUEST ROOMS
7. PLAYROOM
8. WORKSHOP
9. SPORTSMAN'S CLOSET
10. COOK SHED
11. MULE TABLES
12. JOE'S OFFICE
13. KENNELS
14. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
15. BEDROOMS
16. LIVING ROOM
17. SWIMMING POOL
18. GUEST HOUSE
19. CAR SHED
20. AVIARY

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*Open today are the Main House, Playroom or Caretaker's House, Pool, Stables and one of the Guest Cabins. Please look around the grounds and in the windows of the other closed buildings on site. Please note that photography is prohibited inside any building.*

## **A Few Points of Interest about Auldbrass**

### **Roadways**

Essential to Wright's vision were the linear, angled roadways that joined his vast complex into a single composition. They had been partly realized before the restoration, but white gravel had been used rather than the red he specified. With difficulty, Mr. Silver managed to find suitable ruby red granite gravel, but to transport it to the site would have added enormous cost. Instead, Mr. Silver and Eric Lloyd Wright settled for the same color in crushed brick, obtainable from a much closer source in North Carolina.

### **Downspouts on Main House**

Wright designed these stunning downspouts to represent the ever-present Spanish Moss hanging from the resident oak trees. However, copper was difficult to obtain when the house was built, so conventional drainpipes were installed. They had the unfortunate impression of structural columns, ruining the sweep of low, cantilevered overhangs. In 1951, Wright designed ornamental wood pendants to be suspended at each corner, between the working downspouts. Both downspouts and pendants were painted turquoise, presumably in emulation of patinated copper.

When these finely detailed and working copper downspouts were installed as part of Mr. Silver's restoration, one can begin to see the house as Wright had depicted in his drawings.

### **Furniture**

The ever-present built-in and hexagonal furniture was designed by Mr. Wright and custom built for their particular use and location. Early on, Wright specified the need for all these custom pieces. He was even deeply involved in fabric selections for carpet, draperies and bedspreads, favoring yellows, ivories and greens.

### **Pool**

Built to Wright's specifications, this long, hexagonal pool has outward sloping walls that amplify a visual effect of great depth.

### **Stables and Kennels**

The concrete flooring slabs are rectangular here, not hexagonal as they are in the main house and other outbuildings. Mr. Wright's grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright, believes that this was purposeful as the rectangles are better suited in these places.

Exotic hippos and zebras now live in the surrounding well-manicured pastures.

### **Aviary**

The aviary now stands as Wright envisioned - an open, screened enclosure housing exotic birds.

### **Sculpture**

Silver selected pieces from his collection to ornament the grounds, including reproductions of three sprites and two planters from Wright's Midway Gardens (Chicago 1913-1914) and reproductions of two cubic planters from Wright's Storer house.

### **Joel Silver**

The successful Hollywood producer of the "Predator," "Die Hard," "Lethal Weapon" and "Matrix" movies, Mr. Silver has spent several million dollars restoring Auldbrass. Like Wright and Stevens before him, the project has become an unending quest. "Auldbrass will never be finished in my lifetime," he stated. And, surely, with the current construction of three new guest cabins and plans to build Wright's design for a guest house and floating dining barge, Mr. Silver is on track to bring Auldbrass closer to completion.

**Special thanks to Mr. Silver  
for opening Auldbrass for us today.**

*Notes taken by permission from Joel Silver and from the book "Auldbrass: Frank Lloyd Wright's Southern Plantation" by David G. DeLong. This book is available for sale at Auldbrass today.*