

American Society of Botanical Artists
19th Annual Meeting and Conference
Pittsburgh, 2013

Kentuck Knob Field Trip

Saturday, September 28

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Board a luxury coach for a ride through the Pennsylvania countryside to Kentuck Knob, approximately 1½ hours from Pittsburgh.

Kentuck Knob was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1953-1956 as a primary residence. At the age of 86 Wright was hard at work on the Guggenheim Museum in New York when he accepted the commission for this home, which would be one of the last completed by Wright.



A team of local builders, led by then seventy-three year old Herman Keys, could not have known the masterpiece they were about to build when they began construction in the early 50's. Designed on a hexagonal module, Kentuck Knob is a small one story Usonian house. Usonian, meaning affordable for the common people, was a signature design of Wright. Both dramatic and serene, the house, situated just below the crest of the hills, appears almost part of the mountain itself and stands two thousand fifty feet above sea level.

Kentuck Knob's construction materials of native sandstone and tidewater red cypress blend naturally with the surroundings. The truly functional kitchen is the architectural core of the home. Its walls of stone not only anchor the two wings of the house but they also rise to penetrate the horizontal line of the copper roof. An open floor plan, cantilevered overhangs and great expanses of glass effortlessly integrate the inside with the outside. Stretching to the east, just beyond the back terrace, is a breathtaking panorama of the Youghiogheny River Gorge and the beautiful Laurel Highlands mountains that surround it.

The tour of Kentuck Knob is further enhanced by sculptures in the garden, the woods, and the meadow. Works by contemporary artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Claes Oldenburg, Sir Anthony Caro, and Ray Smith, as well as many others are represented in the collection.