



Elemental Nature

FOR AGES: 12-18

MATERIALS: Paper, pencil, and marker, crayons, or colored pencils.



Photo by Joshua White

Nature inspired Frank Lloyd Wright and his “organic architecture,” a term he used to describe how a building should be in harmony with the environment. The architect made this connection in his design for the living room in Hollyhock House. For Wright, the fireplace was the “heart of the home.” What do you think he meant by that?

In designing the fireplace area, the architect incorporated the four natural elements—fire, earth, air, and water. The fireplace is made of concrete (a mixture of cement and sand), representing earth. Water was meant to flow into the basin at the base of the fireplace, which is connected to outdoor pools at the east and west ends of the house. Looking at the photograph of the fireplace area, where do you see the other two elements—air and fire?

What other household objects can represent the elements (i.e. candle = fire)?

Reimagine your bedroom, and draw a picture showing how you would bring natural elements into your room.