



Romanza Rhythms

FOR AGES: 12-18

MATERIALS: Paper and a pencil.



Photos by Joshua White

“Architecture is a kind of music,” stated architect Frank Lloyd Wright, whose love of music inspired his building designs. How is the design of a building similar to the creation of music?

For Hollyhock House, Wright chose to use a musical term, “romanza” (meaning “freedom of form”) to characterize his design. What kind of music do you associate with “free form”?

Rhythm, the repeated pattern of sound in music, also appears visually in Wright’s design of Hollyhock House. Look at the photos of Hollyhock House exterior and interior details. Identify examples of repeated shapes that form visual rhythms in each image.

Create your own design for a structure inspired by your favorite music. Think about how the sounds correspond to shapes, then draw an arrangement with them to create a rhythmic composition.