

## The Hollyhock House

By Karen Numme and Laura Massimo Smith



Located in Barnsdall Park, the Hollyhock House, on Hollywood Boulevard near Vermont Avenue, is arguably, the most important house in Hollywood in terms of its place in architectural history.

The house was designed and built between 1919 and 1921 for Aline Barnsdall whose family had made a fortune in oil. She envisioned an arts center with a theater, guest residences, apartments and retail shops as well as her residence—all designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Barnsdall's favorite flower was the hollyhock. A long stalky plant with an attenuated appearance, Barnsdall asked that Wright use this as his design inspiration. Evidence of this can be seen in patterns of repeated abstract, geomet-

ricized hollyhocks around the house. Mayan temple influences can be seen in the form of the house, although Wright deemed this style "California Romanza," a style particular to this area.

Barnsdall lived in the house until 1927 when she donated it to the city of Los Angeles, with the condition that it be used for the arts. Currently, it is the only house designed by Wright in Los Angeles that is open to the public. For information: [www.hollyhockhouse.net](http://www.hollyhockhouse.net)

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