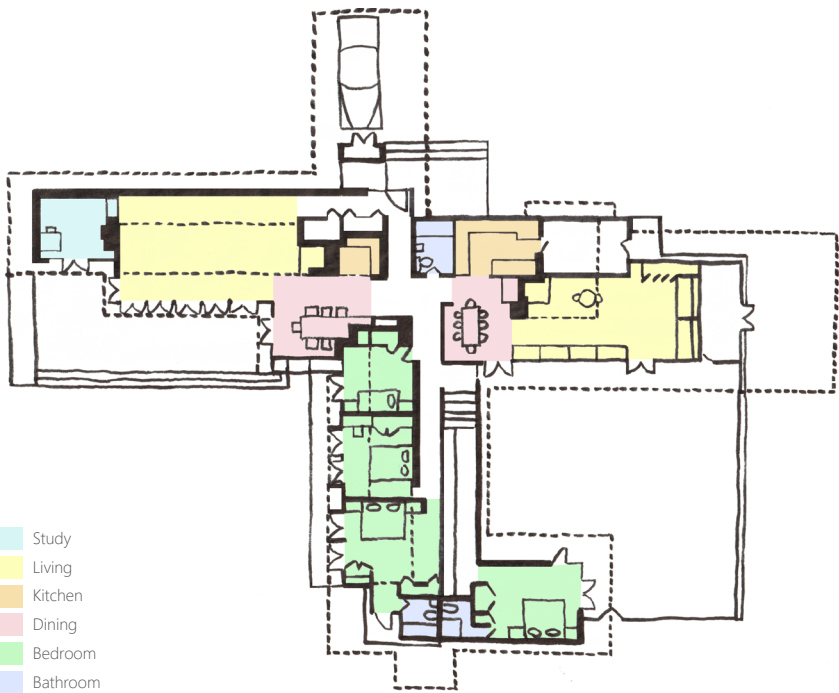


Rosenbaum House, Alabama

counterbalance



No. Bedrooms:	4 Bedroom
Net GIA Area:	243m2
No. Floors	1



Rosenbaum House - Frank Lloyd Wright

The Rosenbaum House is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most celebrated Usonian designs — an elegant expression of affordable, modern American living. Designed for the Rosenbaum family and built in 1940, with an addition added in 1948, it reflects Wright's ideals of simplicity, functionality, and harmony with the natural world.

The house is a single-story L-shaped 4 bedroom building, modest in size, featuring open-plan interiors, built-in furniture, and extensive use of natural materials including cypress and simple red brick. Large

windows and sheltered terraces dissolve the boundary between inside and out, inviting the landscape into daily life. Multi-level, low-rising steel-cantilevered roofs hover over the living spaces and adjoining carports, giving the house its distinctive horizontal sweep.

Every detail is carefully considered — from the furniture to the lighting — creating a unified aesthetic in which no part feels separate from the whole. As one of the few Wright-designed homes in the southeastern United States, the Rosenbaum House stands as a rare regional example of his belief that architecture can be both profoundly functional and quietly inspiring.

counterbalance



Its first phase cost \$14,000 to build (about \$310,000 in 2025), making it, even by today's standards, remarkably affordable for a custom-designed work of architecture. The Rosenbaum family donated the house to the City of Florence in 1999, after which a \$600,000 restoration returned it to its original condition. It opened to the public as a museum in 2002.

I visited the house in April 2025 with my wife, during our honeymoon, a fitting moment to encounter a place built so thoughtfully around the rhythms of home and life.

My Feelings

Visiting the Rosenbaum House, I was struck by the quiet power of Wright's design. At first glance, it appears modest, even humble, yet every detail — from the flowing, open-plan interior to the warmth of natural materials — feels deliberate, thoughtfully considered.

At the heart of the house lies the service core, centred around a large stone hearth, a subtle anchor for the home's life. The rooms stretch outward, embracing the surrounding landscape, with terraces and expansive windows in every space inviting the outdoors in. Living here feels like a continual conversation with nature, where architecture and environment meet in gentle dialogue.

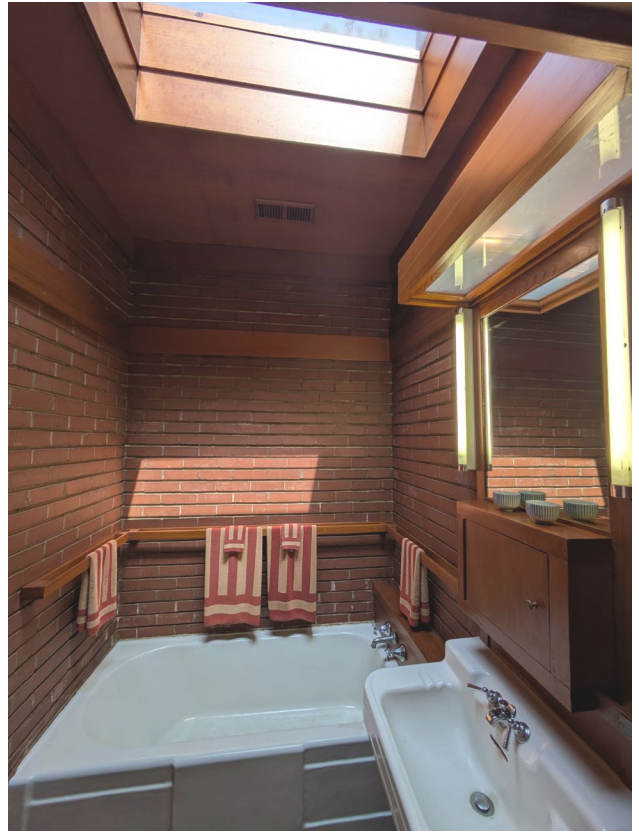






One of my favourite spaces is the study — a room that quietly celebrates learning, reflection, and focus, while remaining connected to the rest of the home through carefully considered sightlines, subtly set apart by a gentle change in level. The built-in bookshelves flow into the study through the living area, connecting the spaces informally. The shelves seem to grow organically from the walls, seamlessly integrating with the furniture and the carefully scaled proportions of the room. Together with the windows above them, they create a sense of calm purpose: a space where thought and daily life coexist effortlessly.

Another key feature of the design were the large cantilevered roofs creating the two carports, an evidence of the growing use of cars by the working and middle class. Visually striking and with no visible supports, they further enhance the concept of a house design tailor-made to respond to its inhabitants needs whilst remaining practical and functional.













Overall the house feels very much designed for a newlywed couple – a reflection on both their interests and appreciation for the arts and culture. While the living room is the central space to entertain guests and come together as a family, the study and the weaving room reflect the more secluded and private spaces where each can reflect and indulge in their hobbies – whether it is composing poems or experimenting with textiles.

Wright's view of organic architecture 'out of the ground and into the light' utilises long and narrow corridors that not only provide additional built-in storage spaces but help separate the living spaces from the bedrooms. With the Rosenbaum's extension, the corridor becomes key to a seamless integration of the additional bedroom and demonstrates the potential for the house to expand as the family inhabiting it grew.

Built as a Usonian home, it embodies Wright's vision of functional, beautiful, and human-scaled architecture for everyday life. What makes it special is not grand gestures, but the way every element — the furniture, the lighting, the proportions — comes together to create a sense of harmony. Walking through it, I felt how architecture can teach: showing that good design isn't just about aesthetics, but about creating a space that truly enhances how we live.

