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## Wright architecture marks Florida Southern

Hampton Dunn

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## WRIGHT ARCHITECTURE MARKS FLORIDA SOUTHERN

By HAMPTON DUNN

LAKELAND --- Frank Lloyd Wright had a field day at Florida Southern College, a Methodist-related institution here.

The late Dr. Ludd M. Spivey, president of the college for 32 years, "sold" the noted architect on designing "The College of Tomorrow" here and then turned him loose. So it was that the then 67 year-old creator and expounder of "organic architecture" launched a building program that was to construct 18 modern buildings. Organic architecture was Wright's phrase indicating buildings that harmonize with users and environment. Here is the largest concentration of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in the world.

The basic materials in his plan for Florida Southern: steel for strength, sand because it was Florida, and glass to bring God's outdoors into man's indoors. The campus sprawls on a hillside overlooking Lake Hollingsworth, with a citrus grove setting.

The cornerstone for the first building, the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel (shown in photo), was laid in 1938. This creation of the foremost non-conformist attracted countless people to Lakeland to see Wright's works.

One innovation of the imaginative architect was the "esplanade" which furnishes a sheltered promenade between buildings. Wright, who designed Tokyo's Imperial Hotel and other famous structures throughout the world, introduced small, colored glass squares in the block walls and in the daytime the sunshine brings colored light streaming into the buildings, a bit of God's outdoors in man's indoors.

