**CULTURE**

# The Wright Time

Architecture buffs, take note: As Frank Lloyd Wright fans celebrate his 150th birthday this year, a residential landmark by the American architect has undergone major restorations in an area replete with Wright's work.

Between 1903 and 1905, Wright designed the sprawling six-building **Darwin D. Martin Complex House** (*darwinmartin house.org*) for the family of a soap-company executive in Buffalo, New York. Widely considered one of the finest examples of the Prairie style, the main house includes a four-sided glass-mosaic fireplace, nearly 400 stained-glass windows and furniture by the architect himself. The multiyear, $50 million rehabilitation finished this past summer updated the 15,000-square-foot, 3-story building; a refresh of the surrounding gardens begins next year.

The Martin house is the centerpiece of the **All Wright All Day Tour** (*tours, from $130 a person*), an 8.5-hour trolley tour offered into the fall. This engaging day trip visits four other designs in and around Buffalo, including one other private home, the 8.5-acre **Graycliff Estate** (*graycliffestate.org*),



Above: The conservatory at the Darwin D. Martin Complex House; the main house features Wright's characteristic cantilevered roof.

listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After working on the Martin family's complex, Wright created this remarkable Lake Erie summer retreat 20 miles south.

The tour also swings by three striking structures realized after Wright's death. The copper-roofed Frank Lloyd Wright Filling Station, constructed in 2014, is housed in **The Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum** (*pierce-arrow.com*), while the **Fontana Boathouse** (*wrightboathouse.com*), assembled along the Black Rock Channel in 2007, followed blueprints drafted for the University of Wisconsin in 1905. Wright also designed **The Blue Sky Mausoleum** (*blueskymausoleum.com*), a hillside monument completed in 2004. Together, these sites showcase Wright's iconic—and still influential—style. —RENEE BRINCKS