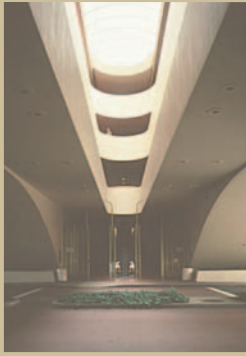


DETAILS & MATERIALS



THE BUILDING COMPLEX ABOUNDS WITH DETAIL. ELABORATE GRILLWORK, ACCENTS, AND APPLIQUÉS ALL FOLLOW THE "FLOW OF PATTERN" CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED BY WRIGHT. GLASS AND PANEL PARTITIONS SEPARATE THE WALKWAYS AROUND THE ATRIUM FROM OFFICE SPACES TO CREATE AN AIRY, SPACIOUS EFFECT. ART EXHIBITS ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FLOORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE AESTHETIC HARMONY OF THE INTERIOR. THE CENTRAL ARCHITECTURAL FOCUS FOR THE BUILDING IS THE 80-FOOT DIAMETER DOME WITH ITS 172-FOOT, SLENDER GOLD SPIRE. THE SPIRE CREATES A VISUAL PUNCTUATION MARK THAT BREAKS THE HORIZONTALITY OF THE TWO BUILDINGS. IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO SERVE AS AN EXHAUST OUTLET FOR THE FURNACE AND AS A RADIO TOWER, WHICH WAS PRECLUDED BY NEW TECHNOLOGY.



"THE ARCHES OF THE MAIN AND SECOND FLOOR BECOME CIRCLES IN THE TOP FLOOR, TWO FOR EACH ARC BELOW. THE EAVES USE HALF CIRCLES".



THE END OF THE ADMINISTRATION "ARM" AND THE BLUE ROOF DECORATED WITH CIRCULAR PATTERNS



IN 1957 WRIGHT ACCEPTED THIS COMMISSION (HIS 770TH) AT AGE NINETY. WRIGHT DIED IN 1959 AT NINETY-TWO YEARS BEFORE THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY HAD OCCURRED. HIS WORK WAS CONTINUED BY TALIESIN ARCHITECTS, PRIMARILY SENIOR ARCHITECT WILLIAM WESLEY PETERS AND AARON GREEN. LIKE MANY OF WRIGHT'S BUILDINGS, THIS CIVIC CENTER PLAN IS ADJUSTED TO THE LANDSCAPE. GREEN REPORTS WRIGHT'S SAYING "I'LL BRIDGE THESE HILLS WITH GRACEFUL ARCHES" (GREEN 21) AND QUOTES FROM WRIGHT'S SPEECH AT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMISSION: "THE BEAUTY OF MARIN COUNTY SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN OUR ARCHITECTURE. THE BUILDINGS MUST NOT HURT THE LAND. . . . THE BUILDINGS OF THE NEW CIVIC CENTER WILL EXPRESS THIS NATURAL BEAUTY; THEY WILL NOT BE A BLEMISH UPON THE LANDSCAPE" (23). OFTEN COMPARED TO AN AQUEDUCT, THE BUILDING USES REPEATED ARCHES (ECHOING THE HILLS), A BLUE ROOF (NOT WRIGHT'S FIRST CHOICE OF COLOR) ECHOING THE SKY, AND BEIGE CONCRETE ECHOING THE ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE. (AARON GREEN ADDED THE LUSH LANDSCAPE DETAILS.)