



**Designer:** Elizabeth Wright Ingraham  
**Birth/Death Dates:** 1922 –2013  
**Practice Dates:** 1947 - 2007  
**Firms:** Ingraham and Ingraham, Wright-Ingraham Institution



Research compiled by Eli Fresquez, UCD student, 2022.

### Biographical Information

Colorado architect Elizabeth Wright Ingraham was born in 1922 in Oak Park, Illinois. She was the daughter of John Lloyd Wright, an architect, and the creator of Lincoln Logs. Her grandfather was the famous American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Her career can be traced back to the age of 14, when Ingraham declared her intention to become an architect to her mother. She started studying under her grandfather as a 15-year-old at his Taliesin studio. She went on to study architecture at the Armour Institute of Chicago under Ludwig Meis van der Roche. She also took class at the University of California Berkeley. She would go on to work for the United States Navy as a draftsman during World War II.

In 1948, Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and her husband Gordon Wright Ingraham, moved to Colorado Springs with their architecture firm Ingraham & Ingraham. The two stuck to the Usonian and Prairie styles of her grandfather. The firm built over 90 homes in Colorado Springs during the 1950s and 60s. They also designed one home in North Dakota (the George and Beth Anderson House, entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 2017), and two homes in Minnesota. The two would eventually get a divorce in 1974

Ingraham started her own firm in 1970 called Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and Associates to branch out and separate herself from her grandfather. It was on her own that she designed another 150 homes in Colorado Springs. The same year she founded her architectural practice, Wright Ingraham established the non-profit Wright-Ingraham Institute for the study of land use and natural resources. Wright Ingraham directed the institute for its first 20 years; it is now governed by a board that includes two of her daughters. Wright Ingraham also founded Crossroads, an international exchange program affiliated with Colorado College, and was a cofounder of the Women's Forum of Colorado. She also engaged in community activism, at one point participating in a peace march in Colorado Springs.

Wright Ingraham was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and served as president of its Colorado chapter in 2002. She was a member of the State Board of Examiners of Architects (1980–1990) and the advisory board of the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy, among other advisory boards and task forces. Wright Ingraham received an honorary doctorate from the University of Colorado in 1999. She was posthumously inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2014. After residing in Colorado Springs for 65 years, Wright Ingraham moved to her son's home in San Antonio, Texas, in January 2013. She died of congestive heart failure on September 15, 2013, aged 91.

### Credited Planting Designs (selected works)

Design Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Beadles House	115 W Columbia St, Colorado Springs		1951	
Kathleen Fox Collins House	2720 Chelton Road, Colorado Springs			
Vradenburg Private House	Colorado Springs		1950s	



Design Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Wood-Peterson House	Colorado Springs		1950s	
Tilley House	Colorado Springs		1950s	
All Souls Unitarian Church expansion	730 N Tejon St, Colorado Springs, CO		1960s	
La Casa	Colorado Springs		1960s	
Kaleidoscope	Colorado Springs		1960s	
Solaz House	Manitou Springs		1975	
Vista Grande Community Church	5460 N Union Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO		1987	
Expansion of the Fountain Branch of the El Paso County Libraries	Fountain		2006	

\*Completion date is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor date is shown if completion date is unknown.

### Information Sources

Elizabeth Wright Ingraham, FAIA, n.d., accessed October 25, 2022, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rnV\\_zFYcZU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rnV_zFYcZU).

“Elizabeth Wright Ingraham.” Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame. Accessed October 28, 2022. <https://www.cogreatwomen.org/project/elizabeth-wright-ingraham/>.

“From Lincoln Logs to Blueprints | History Colorado.” Accessed October 25, 2022. <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/collections-library/2015/10/23/lincoln-logs-blueprints>.

Freed, Elaine., Wit, Wim De, and Ingraham Ingraham. *Modern at Mid-century: The Early Fifties Houses of Ingraham and Ingraham / Elaine Freed ; Foreword by Wim De Wit*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: Hulbert Center for Southwestern Studies, Colorado College, 2003.

Admin, CSBJ Web. “Fountain Library.” Colorado Springs Business Journal. Accessed October 28, 2022. [https://www.csbj.com/archives/fountain-library/article\\_c27977c8-0752-52a2-b887-e53b6a81699b.html](https://www.csbj.com/archives/fountain-library/article_c27977c8-0752-52a2-b887-e53b6a81699b.html).

Revised: 2/2023