

American Architecture Study Guide

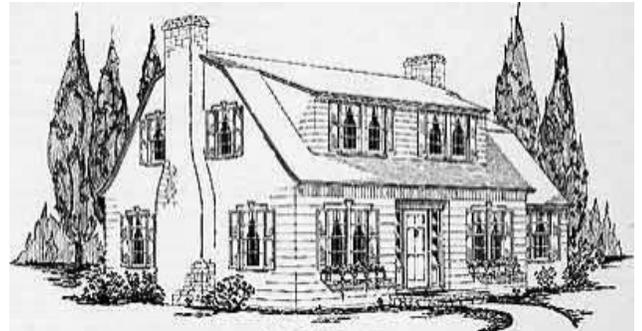
GREEK REVIVAL

The heart and soul of the Greek Revival style belong to the South. This style reached the height of its popularity in the years just before the Civil War, a time when Americans romanticized the past, particularly the ancient classical world. Greek Revival homes are usually white with a pedimented portico, often two stories tall. There are often sidelights and a transom (flat bar of windows) atop the door. The home is usually symmetric in structure.



DUTCH COLONIAL

This style originated in homes built by German, or “Deutsch” settlers in Upper New York & Pennsylvania in the late 1600’s through early 1700’s. A hallmark of the style is a broad gambrel roof with flaring eaves creating a barn-like effect. Early homes were a single room, and additions were added to each end, creating a distinctive linear floor plan. End walls are generally of stone, and the chimney is usually located on one or both ends. Double-hung sash windows, dormers with shed-like overhangs, and a central Dutch double doorway are also common.



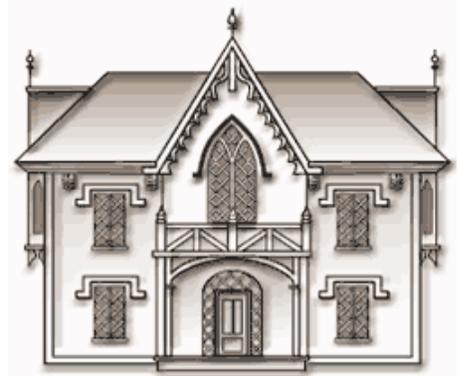
QUEEN ANNE

These homes sprang up like mushrooms in small towns and cities across America from 1880 to 1900. The style was popularized through magazines and mail order house plans. Queen Anne homes have wrap around porches, and most often a tower. The exterior is usually various styles of wood and there is a considerable amount of decorative trim.



GOTHIC

The relatively simple gothic revival style was the first departure from the rectangular footprints of the 18th century. Its irregular shape, arched windows and steeply pitched roof, elaborate vergeboard trim along roof edges, high dormers, the use of lancet windows and other Gothic details.



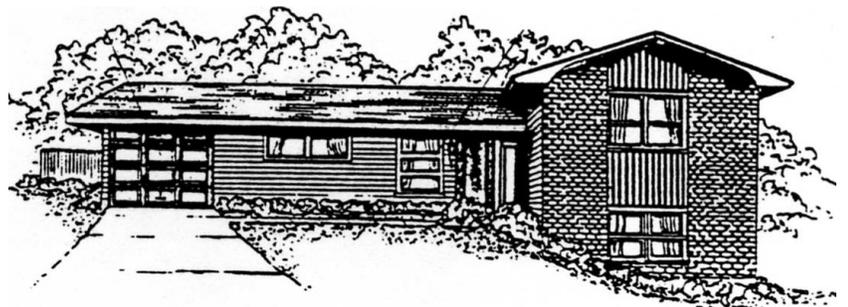
RANCH

This style originated in California in the 1930's. The Ranch is one of the most common American house styles. It reached the height of its popularity during the Eisenhower presidency and was still peaking in the 1970's. This style is usually long and low and constructed of brick or clapboard. There is an attached garage or carport and a back patio.



SPLIT LEVEL

The Split Level is an innovative spin off of the Ranch Style. The exterior is similar to the Ranch except that it has a two story wing. It is usually constructed of brick or brick and wood combination. On the interior space is split into three levels: On the lowest level it the utility room and den; in the middle are the kitchen and living room; and the bedrooms are upstairs.



FARMHOUSE

This style is an informal, rambling, two story home with a one story front porch. Gable roofs and dormer windows are common. Colonial and Victorian features are often mixed. As the rural farm family became a vanishing way of life, suburban homes in the late 20th century sought to recreate the homey feel of the country farmhouse.



BUNGALOW

The Craftsman Movement in America developed as a reaction against the machine-made ornamental excess of the Victorian era. This was a back-to-nature movement when craftsmen worked with their hands and took pride in detail. The bungalow has its roots in California and spread across the country to become one of the most common middle-class house designs from 1910 through the 1930's. There are many styles of Bungalow homes, but most have a fairly deep porch and wide overhangs. They are made mostly of wood and stone.



PRAIRIE

Prairie style houses are very much a product of the vision of Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright's philosophy was that a building should grow naturally from its site and harmonize with its surroundings. It was popular from about 1900 through the 1920's. This style commonly has a hipped roof, French doors, wide eaves and Craftsman windows and columns.



MEDITERRANEAN

This style has its roots in Florida and California, where Spanish colonists built stucco houses with tile roofs and arched openings. This style was very popular from the 1920's through the 1940's. It was widely used in Hollywood during this period. The roof is made of barrel tile. The exterior is stucco and there is often wrought iron work. Traditional homes would include an arcade.



TUDOR

The half-timbering in this style is designed to look like a distinctive construction technique that came to characterize the Tudor period (1485-1605). This "Olde English" style has been enduring, and has enjoyed a revival since the 1970's. Today's homes have strips of wood nailed onto stucco surfaces. The home may also have brick and or stone on the exterior. The windows panes are typically small and diamond shaped.

