



CRAFTSMAN ARCHITECTURE

1895-1920S



CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Exposed timbers in porch and rafters
- Clapboard or shingle siding
- Asymmetrical facades
- Informal plans
- Low scale and massing
- Low-pitched gable roofs
- Large porches
- Simple detailing
- Brick, rock or stone foundations

The Craftsman style was also known as the Arts and Crafts style and it evolved from Arts and Craft movement that originated in England in the late 1800s. The Craftsman style developed as a contradiction to the ornamentation of the styles of the Victorian era that preceded it. It was the first style that emphasized natural materials and functionality. It was also one of the first styles to integrate indoor spaces and the natural environment of the outdoors.

Craftsman details were simple, in stark contrast to the gingerbread of the Victorian home. The wood was stained, instead of painted, and the homes featured built in cabinets, buffets and benches. The moldings and other trim work was simple shapes, which could create complex designs. Fireplaces were also either natural materials such as brick or rock or tiled with simple stained wood mantles, in contrast to the marble and stone fireplaces of Victorian homes.

The Craftsman style flourished in Southern California, with some of the best examples of the style in located in local neighborhoods and the craftsman variation of the bungalow is the dominant home style in Southern California's historic neighborhoods. Cities such as Pomona, Monrovia, Riverside and Pasadena have entire neighborhoods of Craftsman style homes and Craftsman Bungalows. The most famous Craftsman style architects were Charles and Henry Greene, better known as Greene and Greene Architects. The best collection of their work is in several neighborhoods in Pasadena, including the Gamble House.

MASSING AND PLAN

- Two stories
- Articulation used to break up the mass including porches, second floor sleeping porches, or second stories setback from the first.
- Rectangular in plan, although there are a few examples of L and U-shaped plans.
- Horizontal orientation.
- Window placement, roofs, porches, and trim elements used to accentuate the horizontal nature of the building.

FACADES

- Wood siding or shingles for exterior walls.
- Siding is used on most of the building and shingles are used as an accent in some cases.
- Rock foundations and bases, on occasion brick and a cut stone were also used.
- Emphasized local materials, especially in the foundation.
- Simple and large exposed attic vents on the gable.
- Simple roof and rock or brick chimneys.

PAINT COLORS

- 3 to 5 colors.
- Body color typically dark earth tones, usually browns or greens.
- Trim Colors were typically in contrast the base color.
- Darker buildings used lighter colors, earth tones such as beiges and tans.
- Lighter buildings using darker trim colors.
- Window frames and end rafters would be a third accent color, closer in shade to the base color. Exposed roof and porch beams would typically be painted dark brown.
- One alternative to the color scheme would be mixing color palettes.
- For example, a maroon base, an olive green trim and a dark brown window frame.

ROOFS

- Low pitched gable roofs, or variations of the gable roof such as a cross gable.
- Large overhangs, both at the bottom of the roof structure and at the gable ends.
- Rafters are always exposed.

TRIM AND ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

- Brackets, beams or similar elements to give the appearance of holding the roof up.
- Elements may actually be structural, but in many cases, they are purely decorative.
- Door and window trim are simple boards (usually 1x4's or 1x6's), with the horizontal trim extending beyond the vertical trim pieces.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Door were wider than normal, 36-42" minimum. 48" also fairly common.
- Simple stained doors, could include stained or beveled glass panels.
- Glass sidelights with either stained or beveled glass to match front door on larger buildings.
- Windows were typically individual casement, double or single-hung wood frame windows. Stained glass windows used as accent an interior or exterior feature.

PORCHES

- Large porches.
- River rock or brick columns
- Combination of rock columns and wood posts possible.
- Clinker brick used in combination with regular brick, or river rock.
- Wood posts would be left exposed as would any wood beams.
- Used on higher end craftsman homes, paired down for the Bungalow.

FENCES AND WALLS

- Fences defined space but joined man-made elements with natural ones.
- Wood Fences and arbors typical.
- Stone or brick columns to match building possible.

