

## HOUSING ACTIVITY

On your pictures, answer the following:

- 1) Title of house type.
- 2) Label at least three major features.
- 3) Identify the hearth or the core of this housing style
- 4) Where did it diffuse to?

For all housing styles:

- 5) Explain how the following types of diffusion relate to architecture style:
  - hierarchical
  - relocation
  - stimulus
- 6) How is architecture an example of
  - mentifacts
  - sociofacts
  - artifacts

## **History of the Cape Cod House**

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

The first Cape Cod style homes were built by English colonists who came to America in the late 17th century. They modeled their homes after the half-timbered houses of England, but adapted the style to the stormy New England weather. Over the course of a few generations, a modest, one- to one-and-a-half-story house with wooden shutters emerged. Reverend Timothy Dwight, a president of Yale University, is credited with recognizing these houses as a class and coining the term "Cape Cod."

Much later, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, a renewed interest in America's past inspired a variety of Colonial Revival styles. Colonial Revival Cape Cod houses became especially popular during the 1930s. These small, economical houses were mass-produced in suburban developments across the United States.

Twentieth century Cape Cod houses often have dormers. The chimney is usually placed at one end instead of at the center. The shutters on modern Cape Cod houses are strictly decorative; they can't be closed during a storm.

## History of Victorian Houses (Queen Anne Style)

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

The origin of Victorian architecture dates back to the Victorian era, the time when Queen Victoria ruled England. The contemporary period from 1837 to 1901 witnessed a rapid growth in industrialization leading to a better and prosperous society. People started building innovative houses which were associated with the wealth and position in the society. The resulting structures which had a typical majestic style of construction were referred to as Victorian architecture. The style grew quickly in popularity and is still a trademark development in the history of architecture. Natural settings, geometrical patterns, historical feel and elements of personal touch are characteristic features of a Victorian house.

Classic ornamentation and a rich use of colors are a regular feature of a Victorian house. There are certain influences which are an integral part of a Victorian design. Arches, pointed set of windows replicating castles and churches of the medieval period are a Gothic influence. In the United States, the advanced form of this style became more popular, which comprised of the classical structures influenced by Italian architecture. The showy and bracketed style of houses includes wide porches with decorative hangings, low roofs and a place filled with furniture. The furniture, essentially wood work, is generally heavy with a huge display of armories, big set of chairs, large and plump cushions and sofa sets. The underlying point is that there is a huge and prominent look to the furniture in this style.

Queen Anne became an architectural fashion in the 1880s and 1890s, when the industrial revolution brought new technologies. Builders began to use mass-produced pre-cut architectural trim to create fanciful and sometimes flamboyant houses.

Not all Queen Anne houses are lavishly decorated, however. Some builders showed restraint in their use of embellishments. Still, the flashy "painted ladies" of San Francisco and the refined brownstones of Brooklyn share many of the same features.

## About the Colonial Revival Style

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

Colonial Revival became a popular American house style after it appeared at the 1876 the US Centennial Exposition. Reflecting American patriotism and a desire for simplicity, the Colonial Revival house style remained popular until the mid-1950's. Between World War I and II, Colonial Revival was the most popular historic revival house style in the United States. The boom of this style began in the Virginia, Maryland, and other southeast states. It later spread to New England and across the Midwest.

Some architectural historians say that Colonial Revival is a Victorian style; others believe that the Colonial Revival style marked the end of the Victorian period in architecture. The Colonial Revival style is based loosely on Federal and Georgian house styles, and a clear reaction against excessively elaborate Victorian Queen Anne architecture. Eventually, the simple, symmetrical Colonial Revival style became incorporated into the Foursquare and Bungalow house styles of the early 20th century.

## **Mock Tudor Origins**

*From the "Design Center Sourcebook"*

The Tudor Revival architecture of the 20th century (also called Mock Tudor or Tudorbethan), first manifested itself in domestic architecture beginning in the United Kingdom in the mid to late 19th century based on a revival of aspects of Tudor style. It later became an influence in some other countries, especially the British colonies. For example, in New Zealand, the architect Francis Petre adapted the style for the local climate. Elsewhere in Singapore, then a British colony, architects such as R. A. J. Bidwell pioneered what became known as the Black and White House. The earliest examples of the style originate with the works of such eminent architects as Norman Shaw and George Devey, in what at the time was thought of as a neo-Tudor design. The term "Tudorbethan" is modelled on John Betjeman's 1933 coinage of the "Jacobethan" style, which he used to describe the grand mixed revival style of *ca* 1835–1885 that had been called things like "Free English Renaissance". "Tudorbethan" took it a step further, eliminated the hexagonal or many-faceted towers and mock battlements of Jacobethan, and applied the more domestic styles of "Merrie England", which were cosier and quaint.

## **Arts and Crafts Origin**

*From Wikipedia entry "arts and crafts style"*

The American Craftsman Style, or the American Arts and Crafts Movement, is an American domestic architectural, interior design, and decorative arts style popular from the last years of the 19th century through the early years of the 20th century. As a design movement, its popularity remained strong until the 1930s, although in the decorative arts it continues to experience numerous revivals until the present day.

The American Craftsman style has its origins in the earlier British Arts and Crafts movement which dates back to the 1860s. The British movement, which spawned a wide variety of related but conceptually very distinct design movements throughout Europe, was a reaction to the degradation of the dignity of human labor resulting from the Industrial Revolution. In many ways it was a reaction against the over-decorated aesthetic and disregard for the worker of the Victorian era. Seeking to ennoble the craftsman once again, the movement emphasized the hand-made over the mass-produced philosophy.

While the British movement was a Victorian-era phenomenon, its translation to the American setting took place precisely at the moment when that era was coming to a close. It can be said that the American movement was also a design reform movement that encouraged originality, simplicity of form, local natural materials, and the visibility of handicraft, and was concerned with ennobling the more modest home of the rapidly expanding American middle class.

## **Bungalow Origin**

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

The Bungalow is an all American housing type, but it has its roots in India. In the province of Bengal, single-family homes were called *bangla* or *bangala*. British colonists adapted these one-story thatch-roofed huts to use as summer homes. The space-efficient floor plan of bungalow houses may have also been inspired by army tents and rural English cottages. The idea was to cluster the kitchen, dining area, bedrooms, and bathroom around a central living area.

The first American house to be called a bungalow was designed in 1879 by William Gibbons Preston. Built at Monument Beach on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the two-story house had the informal air of resort architecture. However, this house was much larger and more elaborate than the homes we think of when we use the term *Bungalow*.

Two California architects, Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene, are often credited with inspiring America to build Bungalows.

Bungalow houses may reflect many different architectural styles, and the word *Bungalow* is often used for any small 20th century home that uses space efficiently. In their book *American Bungalow Style*, authors Robert Winter and Alexander Vertikoff identify dozens of variations on the Bungalow form.

## **Spanish and Mediterranean Revival**

From *Mediterranean Domestic Architecture in the United States*

The Spanish Colonial Revival was a United States architectural movement that came about in the early 20th century, starting in California and Florida as a regional expression related to both history and environment. The Spanish Colonial Revival Style was also influenced by the opening of the Panama Canal and the overwhelming success of the novel *Ramona*. Based on the Spanish Colonial architecture that dominated in the early Spanish colonies of both North and South America, Spanish Colonial Revival updated these forms for a new century.

Early champions of the Spanish Colonial Revival include Orlando, Florida architect Frederick H. Trimble whose Farmer's Bank in Vero Beach predates the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 in San Diego. The San Diego Fair has been credited with drawing national attention to the aesthetic potential of this style.

The movement enjoyed its greatest popularity between 1915 and 1931 and was most often exhibited in single-level detached houses.



**Ranch House Style History**  
*from "A Field Guide to American Houses"*

Ranch-style houses (also American ranch, California ranch, Rambler or rancher), is a uniquely American domestic architectural style. First built in the 1920s, the ranch style was extremely popular in the United States during the 1940s to 1970s, as new suburbs were built for the Greatest Generation. The style was exported to other nations and so is found in other countries.

The style is often associated with tract housing built during this period, particularly in the western United States, which experienced a population explosion during this period, with a corresponding demand for housing.

The ranch house is noted for its long, close-to-the-ground profile, and minimal use of exterior and interior decoration. The houses fuse modernist ideas and styles with notions of the American Western period working ranches to create a very informal and casual living style. Their popularity waned in the late 20th century as neo-eclectic house styles, a return to using historical and traditional decoration, became popular. However, in recent years, interest in ranch house designs has been increasing.



