

6.0 Architectural Styles

6.1 ARCHITECTUAL STYLES HISTORY

19th CENTURY STYLES (1860 - 1910)

Eastlake/Stick
Folk Victorian
Italianate
Queen Anne

The 19th century architectural styles popular in Los Angeles included the Italianate, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, and Eastlake/Stick styles. Most of these styles were transmitted to Los Angeles by means of pattern books or the experience of builders from the eastern United States, who brought these styles to Los Angeles. The prominent architects in Los Angeles in this period included Ezra Kysar, Morgan & Walls, Bradbeer & Ferris, Frederick Roehrig and Carroll Brown.

These 19th century styles were built most prolifically in the boom years of the 1880s, with consistent building continuing through the turn of the last century. These styles were concentrated in areas near today's downtown Los Angeles. Many examples of 19th century architectural styles have been lost through redevelopment or urban renewal projects. Surviving examples of 19th Century architectural styles are most commonly found in Los Angeles in the Angelino Heights, University Park, Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights, and Highland Park areas. Surviving examples of the pure Italianate styles are rare in Los Angeles, although Italianate detail is often found mixed with the Eastlake or Queen Anne styles.

TURN OF THE CENTURY STYLES (1890 - 1920)

Beaux Arts
Colonial Revival
Craftsman
Craftsman Bungalow
Foursquare
Hipped Roof Cottage
Mission Revival
Neoclassical Revival
Prairie
Spanish Colonial
Revival
Shingle

Architectural styles popular in Los Angeles from the late 1890s through the 1910s included the Shingle style, early Colonial and Neoclassical Revival styles, the Transitional Arts and Crafts style, the early Craftsman and Craftsman/Ultimate Bungalow styles, the Foursquare and Hipped Roof Cottage styles, very early Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival styles, the Prairie Style, and the Beaux Arts style. In this period, Los Angeles was beginning to develop a broad base of prominent architects. Prominent architects in Los Angeles during this period included Henry and Charles Greene, the Heineman Brothers, Frank Tyler, Sumner Hunt, Frederick Roehrig, Milwaukee Building Co., Morgan & Walls, J. Martyn Haenke, Hunt & Burns, Charles Plummer, Theodore Eisen, Elmer Grey, Hudson & Munsell, Dennis & Farwell, Charles Whittlesby, and Thornton Fitzhugh.

These styles were concentrated in areas spreading from downtown Los Angeles into some of the area's first streetcar suburbs. Although many examples of these styles have been lost through

redevelopment, fire, and deterioration, many fine examples of these styles still exist in Los Angeles. These styles can be commonly found in the West Adams area (Pico-Union, University Park, Kinney Heights, Harvard Heights, Western Heights, West Adams-Normandie, Jefferson Park), in Angelino Heights, and in Highland Park. Some early examples of the Craftsman and Beaux Arts styles can be found in the Hancock Park area. Only one surviving example of the work of architects Charles and Henry Greene survives in Los Angeles, in the Harvard Heights HPOZ.

THE ECLECTIC REVIVAL STYLES (1920-1940)

- Chateauesque
- Colonial Revival
- Craftsman
- Craftsman Bungalow
- Dutch Colonial Revival
- Egyptian Revival
- English and Tudor Revival
- French Eclectic
- Foursquare
- Hipped Roof Cottage
- Hispano-Moresque
- Italian Renaissance Revival
- Mediterranean Revival
- Mission Revival
- Monterey
- Neoclassical Revival
- Prairie
- Spanish Colonial Revival
- Shingle

The period between the World Wars was one of intense building activity in Los Angeles, and a wide range of revival styles were built in the area during this period. The Eclectic Revival styles popular in Los Angeles between the First and Second World Wars include the Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, French Eclectic, Chateauesque, English and Tudor Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Egyptian Revival, Monterey and Hispano-Moresque styles. The Craftsman and Craftsman Bungalow styles continued to develop as popular styles through this period. Many of these styles were popular both as residential and commercial styles, with a few, particularly the Egyptian Revival and Chateauesque styles, being particularly popular for use in small and large scale apartment buildings.

All of these styles were based on an exuberantly free adaptation of previous historic or “foreign” architectural styles. The Los Angeles area is home to the largest and most fully developed collection of these styles in the country, probably due to the combination of the building boom that occurred in this region in the 1920s and the influence of the creative spirit of the film industry. Prominent architects working in these styles included Paul Revere Williams, Walker & Eisen, Curlett & Beelman, Reginald Johnson, Gordon Kauffman, Roland Coates, Arthur R. Kelley, Carleton M. Winslow, and Wallace Neff.

Many surviving examples of these styles exist in Los Angeles, particularly in the Hancock Park, Windsor Square, Lafayette Park, Spaulding Square, Larchmont Heights, Whitney Heights, Carthay Circle, South Carthay, Miracle Mile North, and Los Feliz areas.

THE EARLY MODERN STYLES (1900-1945)

Art Deco
Minimal Traditional
Modern
Moderne
Prairie

The period between the World Wars was also a fertile one for the development of architectural styles that were based on an aggressively modern aesthetic, with clean lines and new styles of geometric decoration, or none at all. The Art Deco, Moderne, and Modern styles all took root and flourished in the Los Angeles area during this period. The Prairie style and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright could also probably be included in this category. The influence of the clean lines of these styles also gave birth to another style, the Minimal Traditional style, that combined the spareness and clean lines of the Modern and Moderne styles with a thin veneer of the colonial or historic revival styles. Prominent architects in the Los Angeles region working in these styles included Richard Neutra, Paul R. Williams, R.M. Schindler, Stiles O. Clements, Robert Derrah, Milton Black, Lloyd Wright, and Irving Gill.

POST-WORLD WAR II (1945 - 1965)

Contemporary
Dingbat
Googie
Minimal Traditional
Post and Beam
Post War Commercial Strip
Ranch

The period dating from 1945-1965 saw an enormous explosion in the development of single-family housing in the Los Angeles area. Much of this development took the architectural vocabulary of the pre-war years and combined it into simplified styles suitable for mass developments and small-scale apartments. Residential architectural styles popular in Los Angeles in this period included the Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Post and Beam, Contemporary, and Dingbat styles. This architectural guide also includes some examples of Post World War II commercial styles, such as the Googie style and the commercial strip development.

Prominent architects working in these styles in Los Angeles included Gregory Ain, A. Quincy Jones, J. R. Davidson, Cliff May, John Lautner, William Pereira, Rapahael Soriano, and H. Hamilton Harris, although many of these styles were builder-developed. Areas where these styles may be found in Los Angeles include Westchester, West Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley.