

## UNIT B: ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

### Competency: 302.00

*Identify architectural styles.*

### Objective: 302.02

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*Explain concepts associated with selected styles of residential architecture.*

#### A. Development of architectural styles

##### 1. Influences

- a. Climate
- b. Available materials
- c. Building techniques available to the time period

##### 2. Styles

- a. Few structures exemplify any particular style
- b. Categorized by most common and significant features
- c. Transitions
  - i. Occur from one time period to another
  - ii. Occur from one geographical origin to another

##### 3. Significant historical architectural developments

- a. Post and lintel
- b. Arch
- c. Vault
- d. Dome

##### 4. Influences on early American architecture

- a. European styles serve as a basis for the development of American styles
- b. England, France, Spain, and Italy provided the most significant influences
- c. Structural influences represented
  - i. Available materials
  - ii. Climate
  - iii. Settlers' backgrounds
- d. Style names origin
  - i. Geographical region
  - ii. Shape of the structure

iii. Time period

B. Elements of Design

1. Line

- a. Offers a sense of direction and/or movement in design of structure
- b. Relates a structure to the site and natural surroundings
- c. Curved lines soften appearance
- d. Horizontal lines minimize height and maximize width
- e. Vertical lines create an illusion of height and strength
- f. Diagonal lines create a sense of transition

2. Form

- a. Rectangles, squares, circles, ovals, ellipses
- b. Should be dictated by function
- c. Used to accent specific features

3. Color

- a. Aides in distinguishing between exterior materials and accent shapes
- b. Described in terms of hue, value, and intensity
  - i. Hue represents what is typically considered the color
  - ii. Value is the darkening or lightening of a hue
  - iii. Intensity is the brightness or strength of a specific color

4. Texture

- a. The roughness or smoothness of a surface
  - i. Rough surfaces
    - 1. Feeling of strength
    - 2. Feeling of security
  - ii. Smooth surfaces
    - 1. Illusion of increased height
    - 2. Reflect more light
    - 3. Make colors seem brighter
- b. Important in selecting materials to complete a structure

5. Rhythm

- a. Repetitive element provides rhythm; leads the eye through the design
- b. Created with gradual change in materials, shape, and color

## 6. Balance

- a. The relationship between areas of the structure and an imaginary center line
- b. Formal balance is symmetrical.
- c. Informal balance is nonsymmetrical.

## 7. Proportion

- a. Relates to size and balance
- b. Affects the way a residence relates to its environment
- c. Considered in design of exterior and interior of a structure

## 8. Unity

- a. Relates to rhythm, balance, and proportion
- b. Ties a structure together with a common design
- c. Avoid features that appear "tacked on"

## C. Floor Plan Styles

## 1. Single-level residences

- a. Among the most common styles
- b. Provide stair-free access
- c. Simple to maintain
- d. Can be used with a variety of exterior styles

## 2. Split-level residences

- a. Attempt to combine features of one and two-story structures
- b. Best suited to sloping sites
- c. Construction is greater due to increased foundation costs
- d. May be split from side to side or front to back

## 3. Two-story residences

- a. Provide numerous options for families where stairs are not a problem
- b. Living and sleeping areas are easily separated.
- c. Minimal land is used for building site.
- d. Provide maximum building area at a lower cost per square foot
  - i. Less foundation material
  - ii. Fewer exterior walls
  - iii. Smaller roof

## 4. Dormer style

- a. Two levels with upper level about half of first floor square footage
  - b. Best suited to an exterior style that incorporates a steep roof
  - c. Dormer level is formed in attic-like area
  - d. Offers many of the same economic features of a two-story home
5. Multi-level layouts
- a. Offer endless possibilities for floor levels
  - b. Site topography and owners' living habits dictate style
  - c. Cost exceeds all other styles
- D. Exterior styles
1. Georgian style
    - a. Exemplifies basic style modified throughout the colonies in response to available material and the weather
    - b. Follows classical principles of design used by ancient Greeks
    - c. Principles of form and symmetry are most evident in the front elevation.
    - d. Entry is centered on the wall with equally spaced windows placed on each side
    - e. Usually covered with a columned porch and a doorway trimmed with carved wood detailing
    - f. In Southern homes, most of the exterior is built of brick
    - g. While in northern homes wood siding is the major covering
  2. Saltbox style
    - a. Common modification of the Georgian style
    - b. Maintained the symmetry of the Georgian style without much of the detailing
    - c. Two-story structure at the front that tapers to a one-story at the rear
    - d. Windows generally have shutters that protect against winter winds
  3. Garrison style
    - a. Combines saltbox and Georgian style with construction methods of log buildings
    - b. Originally modeled after the lookout structures of early forts
    - c. The upper level extends past the lower level
    - d. Heavy timbers supported the overhang
  4. Cape Cod style

- a. A one level with a steep roof to allow an upper-floor level formed throughout the center of the house
  - b. Dormers are placed on the front side of the roof to make the second story habitable.
  - c. Windows are symmetrical and shuttered on the lower level.
5. Federal style
- a. Combines Georgian with classical Roman and Greek styles
  - b. Built of wood or brick
  - c. A high, covered entry porch or portico with Greek-style columns are centered over the front door
  - d. Often, the door has arched trim
  - e. Windows are capped with a projected pediment
6. Greek Revival style
- a. Classic proportions and decorations of classical Greek architecture
  - b. Large, rectangular, and very "boxlike"
  - c. A two-story portico with a low, sloped gable roof supported on Greek columns is centered on the residence to add decoration
7. Southern Colonial style
- a. Similar to Georgian style, with symmetrical features
  - b. Also referred to as plantation-style
  - c. Usually has a flat, covered porch extending the length of the house as protection from the sun
8. English-style
- a. Features an unsymmetrical layout
  - b. Walls are constructed of stone, brick, or heavy timber and plaster
  - c. Window glass is often diamond-shaped
9. Dutch colonial style
- a. Many features of homes already described, with a different roof style
  - b. Features a gambrel roof (barn roof)
  - c. Roof made of two levels
    - 1) Lower level
      - i. Very steep

ii. Serves as walls for the second floor

2) Upper area of the roof is the traditional gable roof

10. French colonial style

- a. Differs in the roof design
- b. Roof is similar to the gambrel with a steep lower roof
- c. Uses a hipped or mansard roof to hide the upper floor area
- d. Single-level French manors
  - i. Originally found in the northern states
  - i. Rectangular homes with a smaller wing on each side
  - ii. Mansard roofs used most often, but hip roofs also seen

11. French Normandy style

- a. Multilevel and framed with brick, stone or wood, and plaster
- b. Roof is gable or hip style
- c. Circular turret is near the center of the home

12. French plantation style

- a. Two full floors
- b. Wraparound porch
- c. Covered with a hip roof

13. Spanish colonial style

- a. Built of adobe or plaster
- b. Usually one story
- c. Arches and tiled roofs distinguish the style
- d. Timbers frame a flat or very low-pitched roof
- e. Windows have grills or spindles and balconies with wrought-iron railings

14. Farmhouse style

- a. Two-story construction
- b. Little or no trim or detail work
- c. Surrounded by a covered porch

15. Ranch style

- a. Originated in the Southwest
- b. Defined by a single-story rambling layout
- c. Roof is low-pitched with a large overhang

d. Originally, the major exterior materials were stucco or adobe

16. Victorian and Queen Anne styles

- a. Irregularly shaped floor plans
- b. Ornate detailing

17. Contemporary, or modern styles

- a. Do not denote any special style of home
  - 1) Designed to meet a wide variety of needs and/or reflect the lifestyle of the owner
  - 2) Often, owners prefer the traditional exterior, but rarely would the traditional floor plan be desirable

## Architectural Styles Website

<http://architecture.about.com/od/periodsstyles/ig/House-Styles/>