

Architectural Styles: What's the Difference Between Tudor and Victorian, Anyway?

A buyer often has a picture in mind when they start the search for a new home. And while they might not be able to articulate the differences between a European style versus a French Provincial style home, or a Bungalow versus a Craftsman, it's a time-saver when their agent can pinpoint the style they want.

The following guide covers every option of Residential Detached Style. This guide can help you pinpoint exactly what you are searching for.

A-Frame



An A-frame is a house style with steeply-angled sides that meet at the top in the shape of the letter A. A-frame homes saw a surge in its popularity in the post-World War II era, especially from the mid-1950s through the 1970s. A-frame homes are more common in rural areas than metropolitan ones, and are often situated in lake or mountain setting where their expansive windows highlight impressive views.

Bungalow



These narrow, rectangular one and one-half story houses originated in California during the 1880's as a reaction to the elaborate decoration of Victorian homes. The style then moved eastward to the Midwest in the early 20th century, where it remained popular through the Great Depression.

Bungalows have low-pitched gabled or hipped roofs and small covered porches at the entry. The style became so popular and was so economically accessible that you could order a bungalow kit from Sears and Roebuck catalog; entire neighborhoods of these catalog-ordered homes exist to this day, especially in the Midwest. The name "bungalow" had its origins in India, where it indicated a small, thatched home.

Cabin



A cabin is a rustic-styled home typically constructed of hewn logs which retain curves on the home's exterior. A cabin's exterior can also be constructed of milled, flat-sided logs, but the rough exterior with exposed grain remains a distinguishing characteristic. Cabins are similar in style and construction of Rustic homes, but are more modest than the large-scale, grander Rustics. In Georgia, cabins are typically located in mountain areas.

Cape Cod



Some of the first houses built in the United States were Cape Cods. The original Cape Cod homes were shingle-sided, one-story cottages with no dormers. During the mid-20th century, the small, uncomplicated Cape Cod shape became popular in suburban developments. A 20th-century Cape Cod is square or rectangular with one or one-and-a-half stories and steeply pitched, gabled roofs. It may have dormers and shutters.

Chalet



A chalet is a wooden dwelling with a sloping roof and widely overhanging eaves, common in Switzerland and other Alpine regions. Nowadays, the term is used for a lodge built in this style. Chalets are comparable in size to Rustic style homes, but are more refined in appearance than both Rustic and Cabin style homes. Some chalets have tall, highly angled rooflines similar to an A-frame, but the chalet always has significantly tall vertical walls topped by the highly angled roofline, whereas an A-frame has little if any vertical walls on the sides of the home.

Cluster



A Cluster home is typically a home which runs deeper on its sides than it does across the front exterior, and is located in a developed community. Cluster homes are detached, single family homes located on very small lots (typically no larger than 1/8 of an acre) and are built less than 15-25 feet apart (depending on local building ordinances) often with shared amenities (pool, tennis, clubhouse, etc.) and services (outside maintenance, cable, garbage delivery, cable, etc.).

Colonial

Center Hall
Colonial



Saltbox
Colonial

Georgian
Colonial



Dutch
Colonial

America's colonial period encompassed a number of housing types and styles, including Cape Cod, Saltbox, Georgian, and Dutch Colonial (see examples below). However, the definition of Colonial style refers to a rectangular, symmetrical home with bedrooms on the second floor. An example of a common colonial found in Georgia is the ubiquitous “five-four-and-a-door” **Center Hall Colonial**. The double-hung windows usually have many small, equally sized square panes. A **Saltbox Colonial** is modest in size with a roof that angles much lower on one side of the house than on the other. A typical **Georgian Colonial** has a rectangular shape, brick or simple siding exterior, double hung windows with no shutters, and a gabled entrance often flanked by Greek columns. **Dutch Colonial** houses are typically a tall one-and-one-half story building with a large flank-gambrel roof containing the second floor and attic. The lower roof slopes at both front and rear are broken by large full-width shed dormers on the second story level; the dormers usually dominate the roof, and the gambrel form is sometimes evident only on the end walls.

Contemporary



Contemporary is an overall feel to a home's style, and not a stand-alone style by itself. For example, a Ranch is a stand-alone style of home, and within the Ranch style there are Contemporary Ranches and Traditional Ranches. Contemporary themed homes typically feature odd-sized and often tall windows, lack of ornamentation, and an unusual mixtures of wall materials – stone, brick, and wood – and were built primarily between 1950 – 1970. In Georgia, "Contemporary" is frequently interchanged with what architects refer to as Shed style, popular with architects in the 1960s and 1970s. These are typical in metro-Atlanta and feature multiple roofs sloping in different directions, which create multi-geometric shapes. Native flagstone, cedar siding placed diagonally or vertically, recessed and downplayed front doorways, and a lack of windows on some exterior planes are common. There is virtually no symmetry to this style.

Cottage



A cottage is a modest single-story house with a notable lack of pretension. A cottage is straightforward and practical, with enduring simple lines and small-scaled ornamentation such as window boxes and trim details.

Country



A large wrap-around porch is a typical characteristic of a Country style home's exterior. Large higher pitched roofs present the look and feel of the cottage. This style of home is also referred to as a southern style home. Floors are often hardwood or wide-plank heart of pine typical to most historical country homes found throughout the southeastern states. The name states where these homes are found, in the country or rural areas

outside of the city. Country style homes offer the appeal of a cottage with a much larger square footage for modern living and entertaining.

Craftsman



Many people confuse the Craftsman style homes with the Bungalow style homes. However, there are some major differences between craftsmen type and bungalow type homes. Bungalows are 1 to 1½ story houses which most often use elements of the Craftsman style. Craftsman homes are larger scale, 2 or more full stories, and while the exterior ornamentation is comprised of simple materials, the level of detail work and ornamentation exceeds the modest Bungalow's. The signature wide and deep front porch is supported by heavy square columns and functions as an outdoor living space; it is not the ornamental type porch on many homes.

European



European home plans typically feature 1 1/2 to 2 story floorplans, with stone, stucco, or brick facades. These home designs offer a stylish look with rich ornamental detailing and work best on larger lots as they are generally larger or luxury house plans. They are less country-inspired than French Provincial homes, and often incorporate Mediterranean details. Typical features of this home style include keystones, corner quoins, and copper-topped bay roofs, which punctuate the home's traditional look.

French Provincial



Balance and symmetry are the ruling characteristics of this formal style. Homes are often brick with detailing in copper or slate. Defining features include a steep, high, hip roof; balcony and porch balustrades; rectangle doors set in arched openings; and double or triple French windows with shutters. Second-story windows usually have a curved head that breaks through the cornice.

Mobile



A large trailer fitted with utility connections that is used as a residence. While these dwellings are usually placed in one location and left there permanently, they do retain the ability to be moved. Behind the cosmetic work fitted at installation to hide the base, there are strong trailer frames, axles, wheels and tow-hitches present. Mobile homes in the United States are regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), via the Federal National Mfd. Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. This national regulation has allowed many manufacturers to distribute nationwide, since mobile homes are immune to the jurisdiction of local building authorities.

Modular



Resale value is one of the most important differences in modular and manufactured homes. Modular homes retain or gain value, as traditional homes do. Mobile homes, however, nearly always depreciate in value over time. Modular homes are factory-built homes placed on a permanent foundation at the home site. A wide variety of styles and configurations are possible, and basement configurations are common. Individual modules are transported to the home site on flat bed trucks and put in place with a crane. Unlike manufactured homes, Modular homes must conform to all state, local and regional codes where the home is located.

Ranch



Ranch homes emerged as one of the most popular American styles in the 1950s and 60s when the automobile became common in American households, enabling homebuyers to move into suburban homes on bigger lots. The style is characterized by its one-story, pitched-roof construction, built-in garage, wood or brick exterior walls, sliding and picture windows, and sliding doors leading to patios. A ranch home can be contemporary or traditional in exterior style.

Rustic



Rustic style homes evoke much of the feel of a cabin, but on a much grander scale (similar to the relationship of a Craftsman home to a Bungalow). Typically 2 or more stories, rustic homes feature rough-hewn exterior and interior finishes, but the interiors are finely appointed with modern conveniences. These homes retain a country feel with multiple rock and stone fireplaces, porches, balconies, and multi-story rooms, exposed beams and extensive wood surfaces.

Traditional



Traditional is an overall feel to a home's style, and not a stand-alone style by itself. For example, a Ranch is a stand-alone style of home, and within the Ranch style there are Traditional Ranches and Contemporary Ranches. A traditional theme features established, classic elements which pre-date the early 20th century. Such elements include: intricate moldings, centrally-placed fireplaces, French doors, windows with mullions, formal dining rooms, formal living rooms, built-in bookcases, chair rails, ceiling medallions, etc.

Tudor



This architecture style was popular in the 1920s and 1930s and continues to be a mainstay in suburbs across the United States. The defining characteristics are half-timbering on bay windows and upper floors, and facades that are dominated by one or more steeply pitched cross gables. Patterned brick or stone walls are common, as are rounded doorways, multi-paned casement windows, and large stone chimneys.

Victorian



Victorian architecture dates from the second half of the 19th century, when America was exploring new approaches to building and design. Advancements in machine technology meant that Victorian-era builders could easily incorporate mass-produced ornamentation such as brackets, spindles, and patterned shingles. The last true Victorians were constructed in the early 1900s, but contemporary builders often borrow Victorian themes in their exteriors.

*This article is based on research from numerous sources, including but not limited to: **Architectural Digest Magazine**, REALTOR.org® Architecture Guide, REALTOR.org® Architecture Coach, **Traditional Home Magazine**, Wikipedia, GreatBuildings.com, PreservationDirectory.com, Architecture.About.com, HomePlans.com, CraftsmanPerspective.com and AntiqueHome.org.*