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Architectural Patterns

A series of well-developed architectural styles or vocabularies were popular throughout the United States in the 19th and early 20th century. These styles were adapted by local builders through the use of early pattern books and later catalogs of house plans. Many early houses were built without the aid of pattern books and are increasingly rare. These styles represent the broader patterns found in the neighborhoods constructed largely before 1940. Each style has become adapted to the local environment and local building traditions.

Five principal architectural styles can be found throughout the United States, which when adapted to local requirements, give neighborhoods unique character. These styles are described in more detail with typical key elements in the following pages.

- Classical and Colonial Revival
- Victorian
- Arts & Crafts
- Mission



Houses that adhere to the traditional architectural and neighborhood patterns add to the quality of the public realm and encourage the safety and vitality of a neighborhood.

INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE
AND CLASSICAL AMERICA

Overview of American Architectural Styles

Classical and Colonial Revival



Victorian



Arts & Crafts



Mission



Classical and Colonial Revival

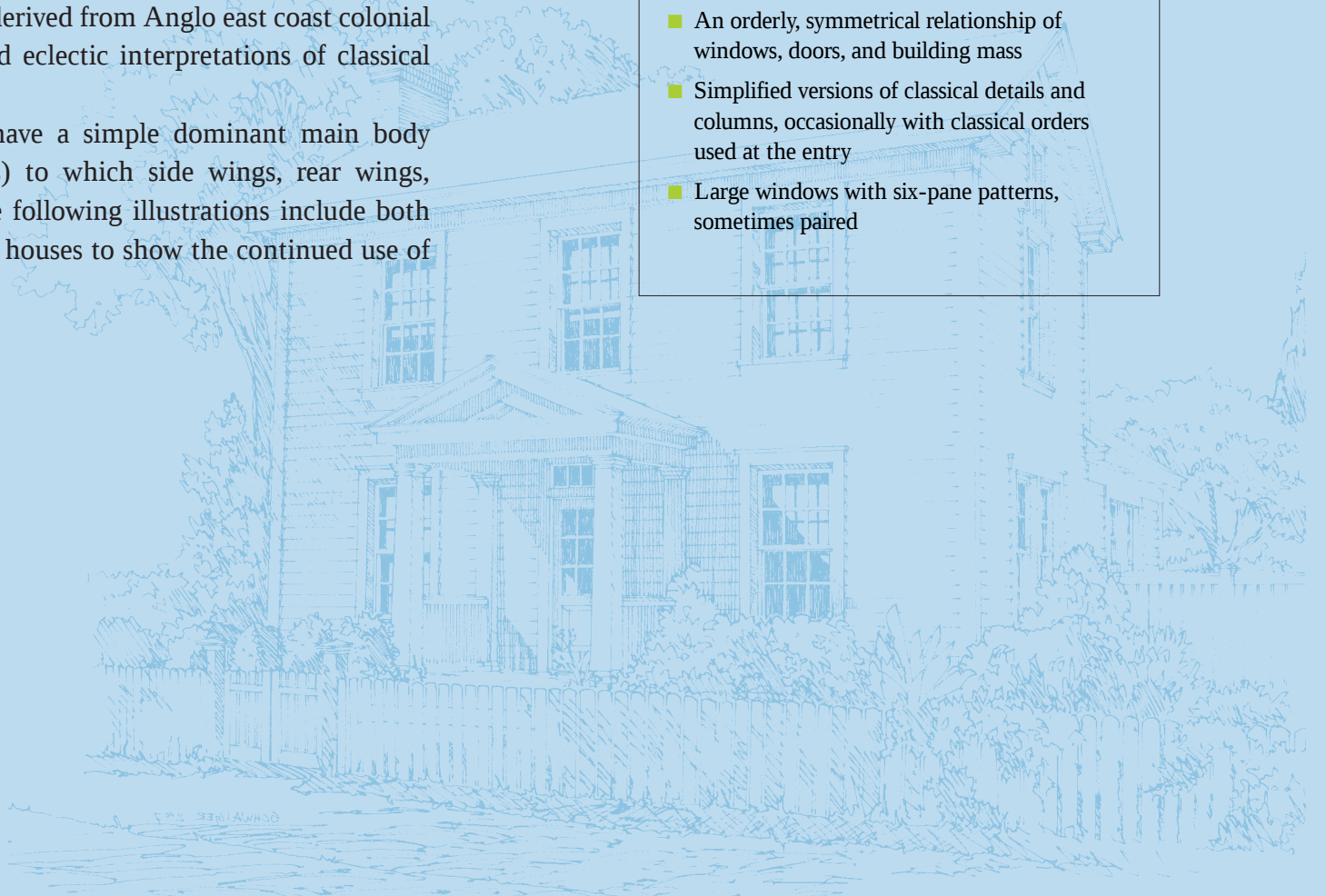
Colonial Revival houses reflect the renewed national interest in Classicism which occurred in the late 19th century. The architecture created for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago is a famous example of this revival. Significant examples of houses from this period can be found throughout the United States.

In the first half of the 20th century, the Colonial Revival style emerged in the United States as a recognized “American-born” architectural style. Colonial Revival style houses were derived from Anglo east coast colonial precedents, which also incorporated eclectic interpretations of classical details on simple massing types.

Colonial Revival style houses have a simple dominant main body (which can be one or two stories) to which side wings, rear wings, and pavilions might be added. The following illustrations include both historic examples and recently built houses to show the continued use of this building tradition.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

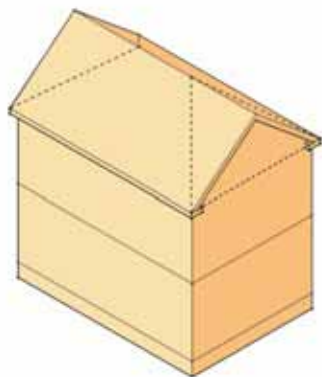
- Simple, straightforward volumes with side wings and porches added to make more complex shapes
- An orderly, symmetrical relationship of windows, doors, and building mass
- Simplified versions of classical details and columns, occasionally with classical orders used at the entry
- Large windows with six-pane patterns, sometimes paired



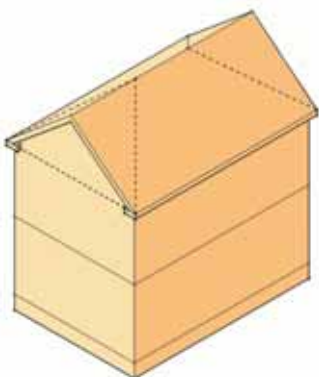
Step 1: Massing, Composition, and Materials

A. Choose Massing Type

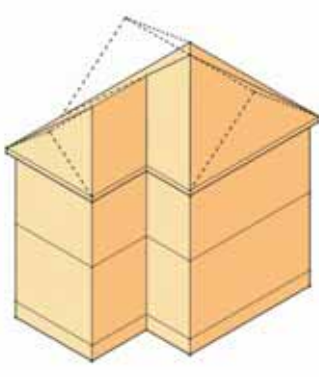
- Massing typologies are generally very simple with side wings if necessary
- Both gable and hip roofs are common
- Roof pitches typically range from 6:12 to 10:12



Side Gable



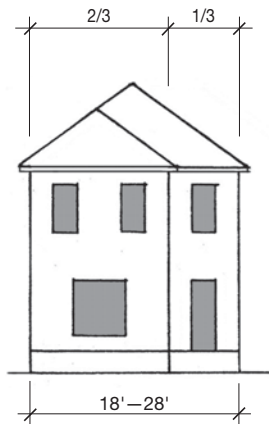
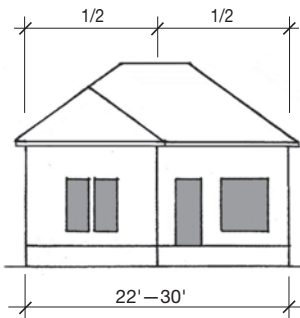
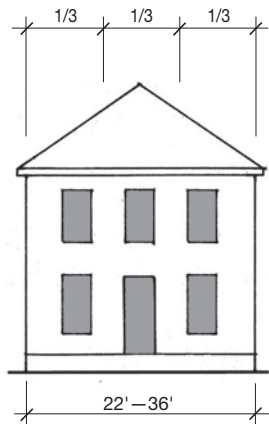
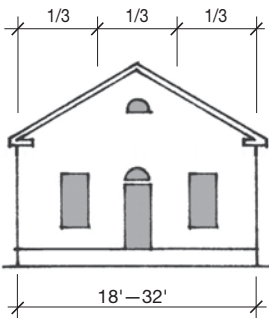
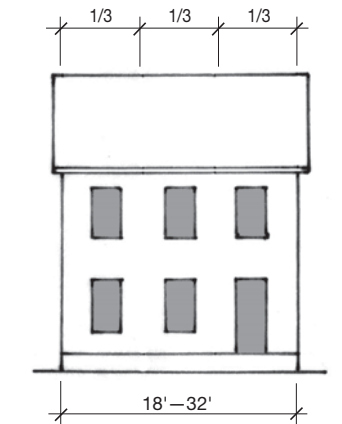
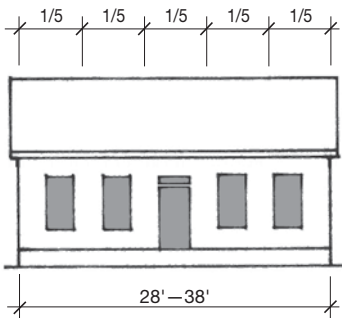
Front Gable



"L" Shape

B. Choose Window and Door Composition

- Window patterns are generally repetitive and very simple with equal space between windows and doors.
- Compositions are often symmetrical with an odd number of bays.
- Accent windows and grouped standard windows can be used for emphasis.
- Wider houses typically have the entrance in the center of the facade whereas narrower houses generally have doors on the ends.



C. Choose Materials

Siding:

- Cementitious siding or vinyl
- Exposure: 5-8"
- Corner boards: 4-6"

Colors:

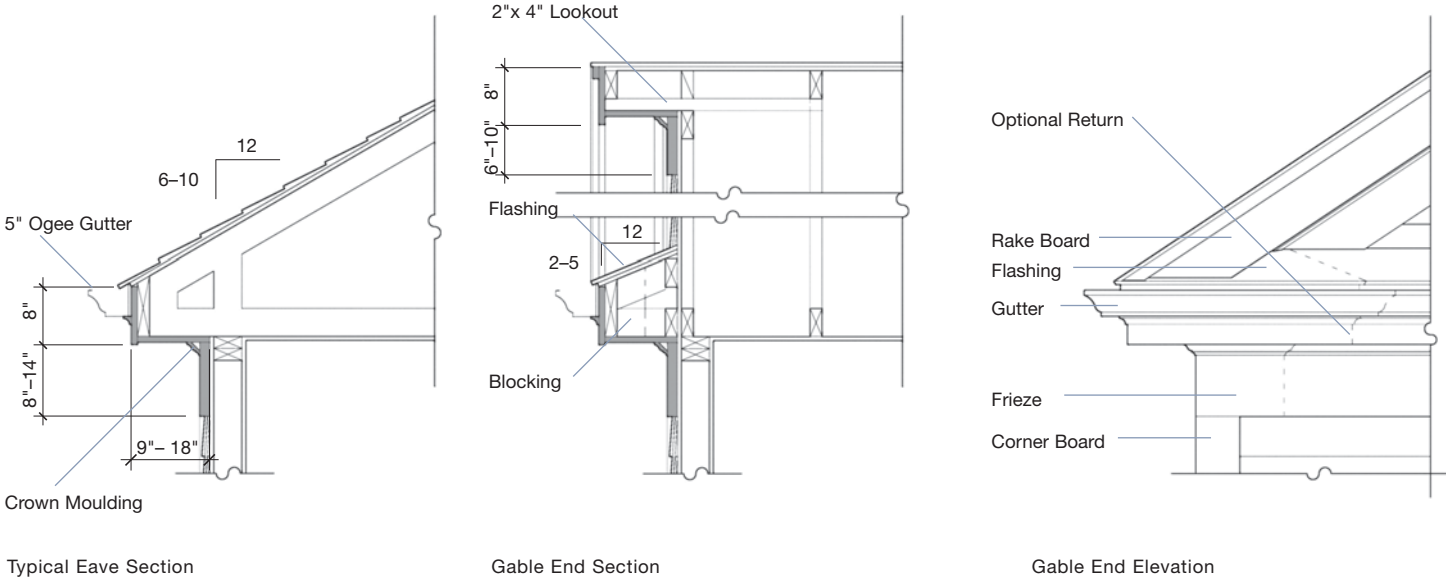
- Body: Generally, all siding is the same color
- Trim: White or off-white



Step 2: Eaves and Porches

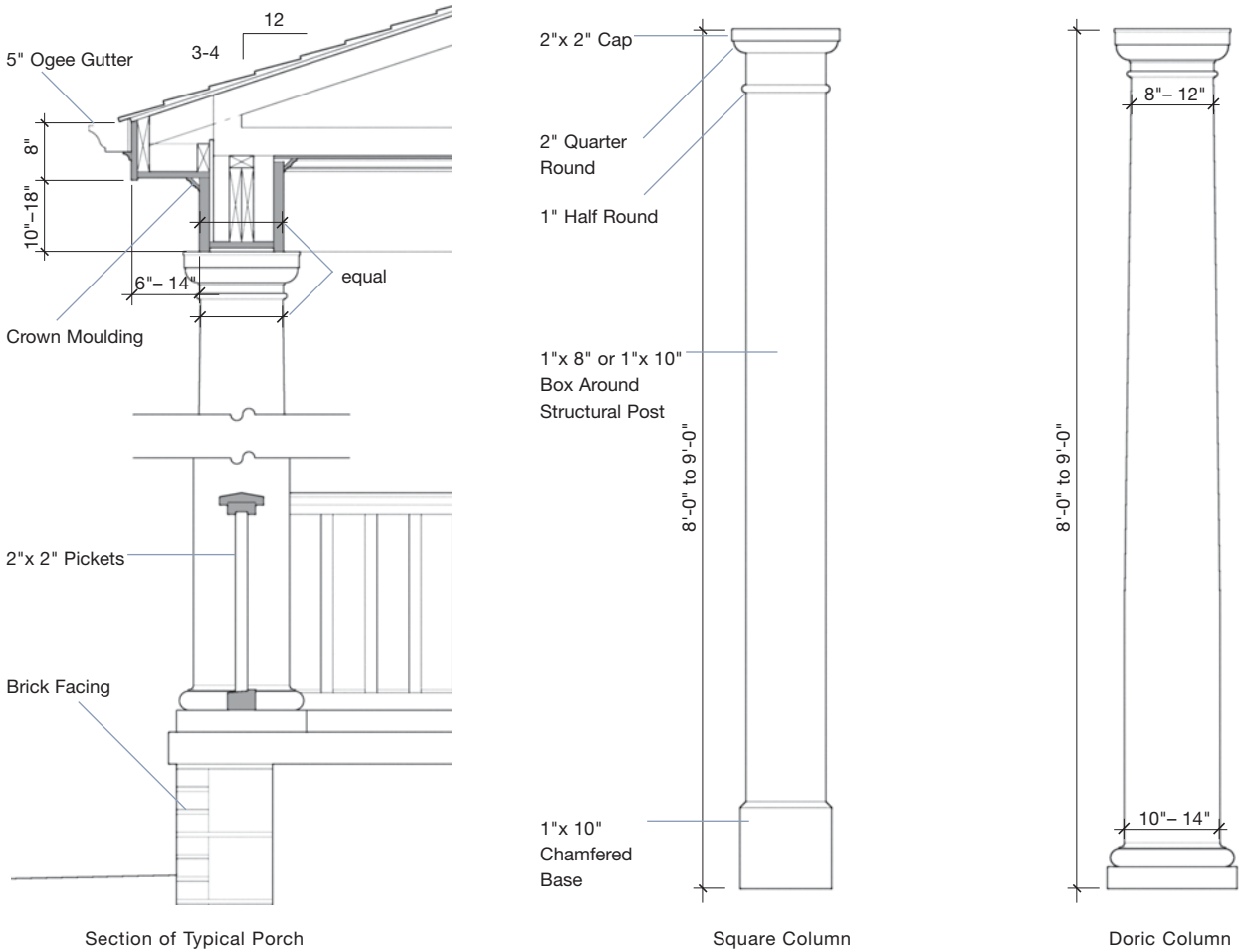
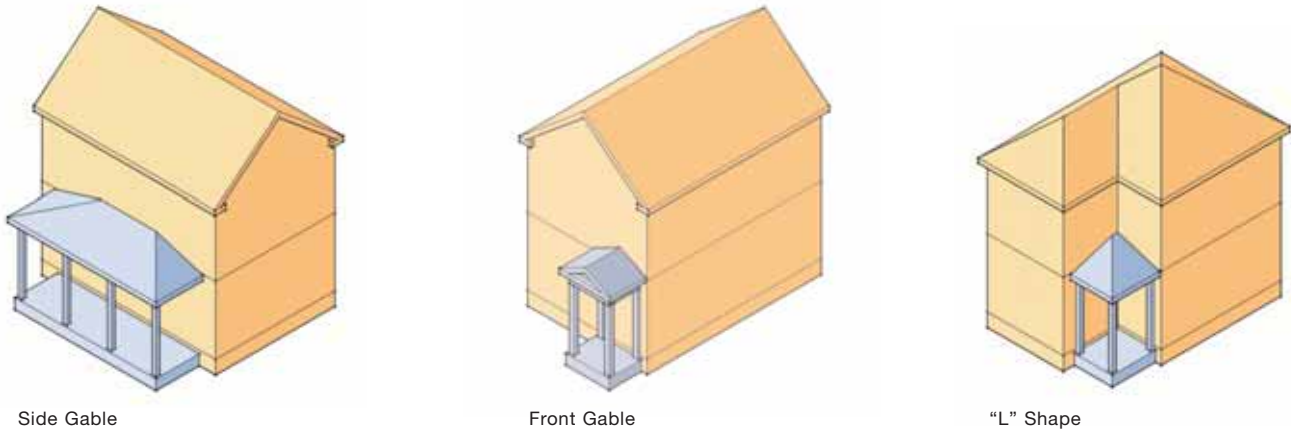
A.
Select Eave Detail

- Overhangs typically range from 9" to 18" in depth.
- Many different designs can be created by variations in roof pitch, gable end treatment, mouldings, and dimensions.
- Boxed-eave detail works for both hip and gable roofs.
- Typically the same detail throughout the country



B.
Select Porch Location and Design

- Porches can range from single-bay porticoes to five-bay full facade porches.
- Single-bay porches typically have a gable roof and pediment.
- Larger porches generally have hip or shed roofs.
- Columns are typically 8 or 9 feet tall; simple, straight box columns, or architecturally correct, doric columns are most common; narrower columns can be paired.
- Porch eave detail resembles that of the house; column neck and beam should be the same width and align.



Step 3: Windows and Doors

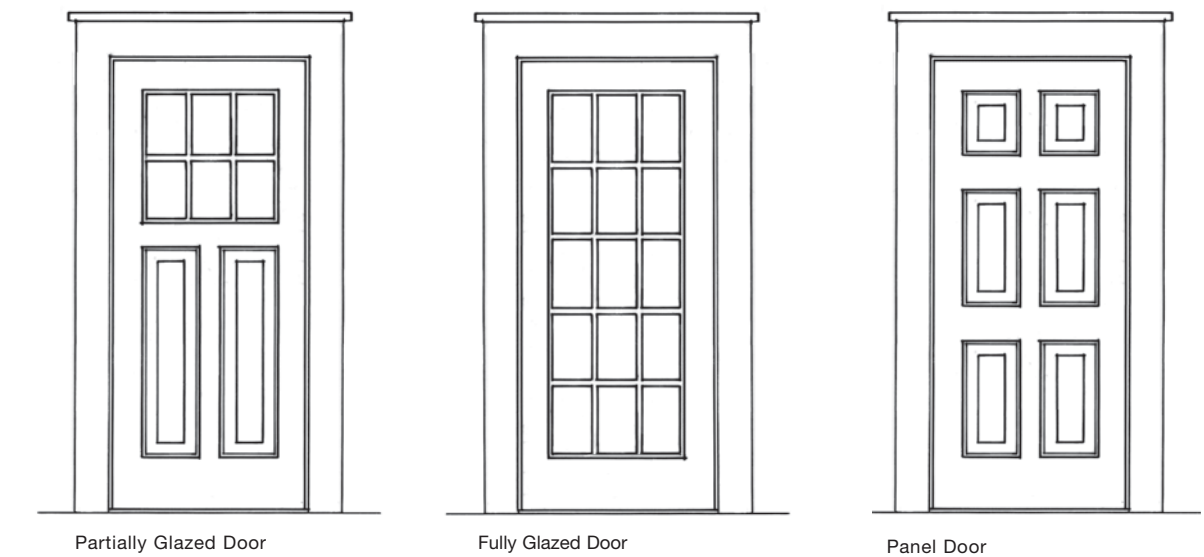
A. Select Windows

- Double hung windows with 6 over 1 or 6 over 6 mullion patterns are typical.
- Standard window dimensions:
Width: 2'-4" to 3'-4"
Height: 5'-0" to 6'-5"
- Standard windows are often paired with a 6" mullion (trim) division.
- Accent windows should have panes of similar proportion to the standard windows used.
- Accent windows are typically used only when space is limited (i.e., over counters, bathroom fixtures, etc.) or as compositional accents.



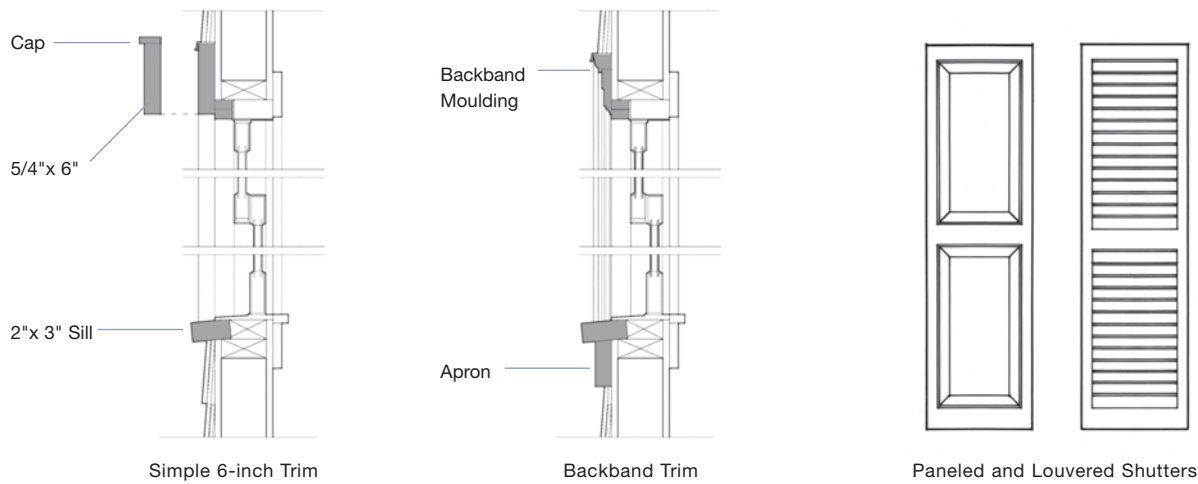
B. Select Doors

- Wood, fiberglass, or steel with traditional stile and rail proportions, panel profiles, and glazing patterns
- Six- and eight-panel doors are common; partially glazed and fully glazed doors are also used.
- Door trim should match window trim.



C. Select Trim and Shutters

- Windows and doors have simple 4 to 6 inch trim.
- Caps, backband mouldings, and aprons under the sill are common.
- Shutters are typically paneled or louvered and should be half the width of the window.



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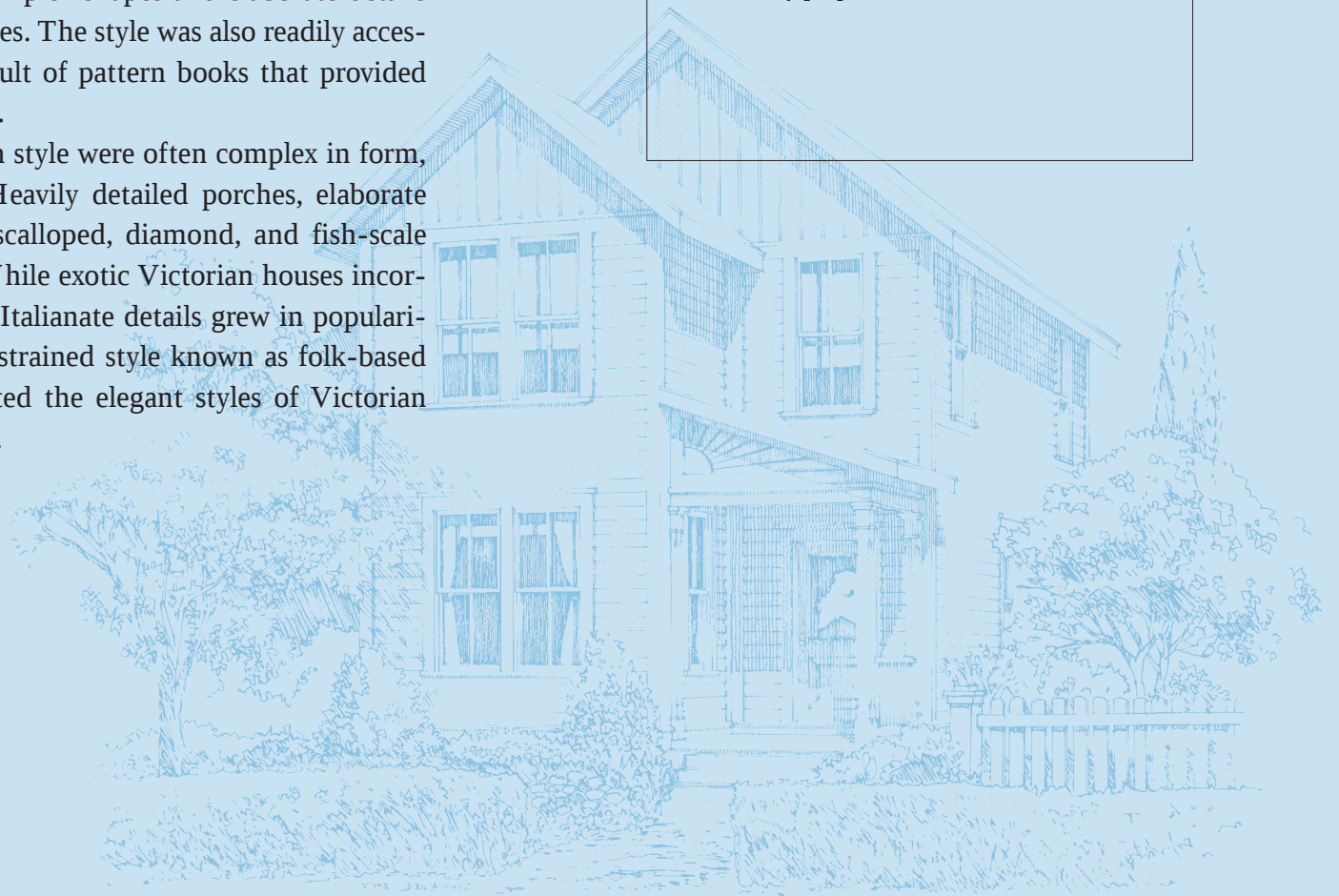
Victorian

The Victorian era refers to the years during which Queen Victoria ruled England, but in reference to American architecture it defines the national style that achieved widespread popularity toward the end of her reign, specifically in the years between 1860-1900. These years saw the rise of the railroad and growth of industrialization, which led to big changes in the construction of American homes. Traditional heavy timber framing methods were being replaced, and consequently architectural styles began to evolve. The emergence of factories accelerated the production of doors, windows, and detailing. Ornate details had once only been available for landmark houses, but with the combination of mass production and low-cost transportation along railways, complex shapes and elaborate details became affordable options for all homes. The style was also readily accessible to many home builders as a result of pattern books that provided drawings of these early house designs.

Traditional houses in the Victorian style were often complex in form, creating picturesque compositions. Heavily detailed porches, elaborate woodwork, and textures created by scalloped, diamond, and fish-scale shingles were all common features. While exotic Victorian houses incorporating Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Italianate details grew in popularity throughout the country, a more restrained style known as folk-based Victorian also emerged, which adapted the elegant styles of Victorian architecture to smaller, simple houses.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

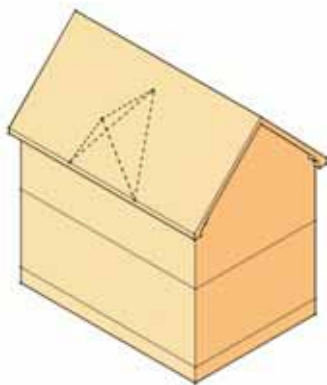
- Prominent porch elements added to simply massed houses to create more complex forms
- An orderly, symmetrical relationship between windows, doors, and building mass
- Cut wood ornament influenced by natural forms or turned decorative millwork
- Vertically proportioned windows and doors



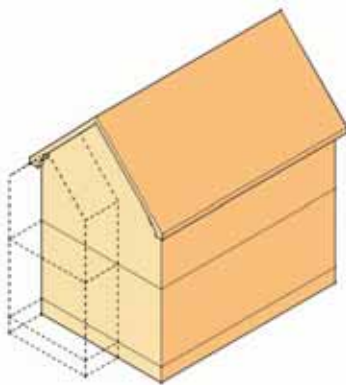
Step 1: Massing, Composition, and Materials

A. Choose Massing Type

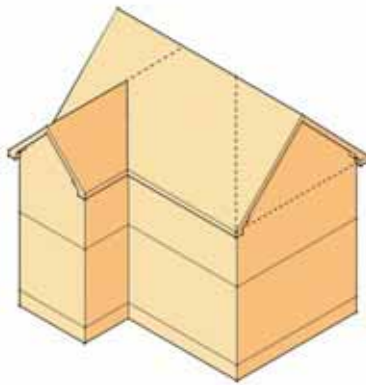
- Hipped or side-gabled rectangular volume, often with a dormer flush to the front facade
- Roof pitch is typically 8:10
- One-story shed or hip front porches from one-fifth to the full length of the main body



Side Gable



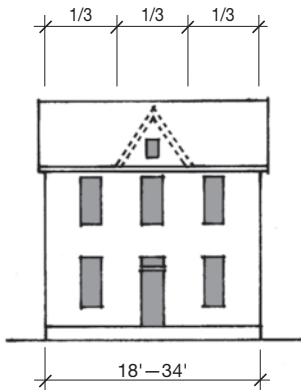
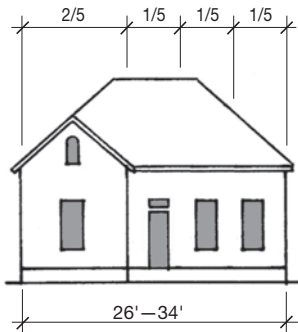
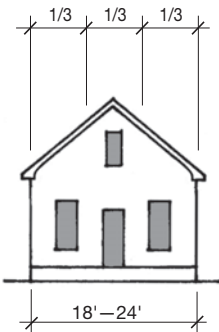
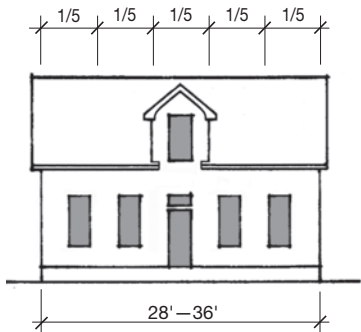
Front Gable



"L" Shape

B. Choose Window and Door Composition

- Characterized by a symmetrical and balanced placement of doors and windows
- Same window design throughout, with the exception of special windows
- Often, the first-floor windows are larger than the second floor.
- Align door head with window heads.
- Symmetrical and balanced placement of doors and windows
- Entrance doors are located in the corner of narrow houses and the center of wide houses.



C. Choose Materials

Siding:

- Wood or fiber cement board
- Exposure: 5-8"
- Corner boards: 3-7"

Colors:

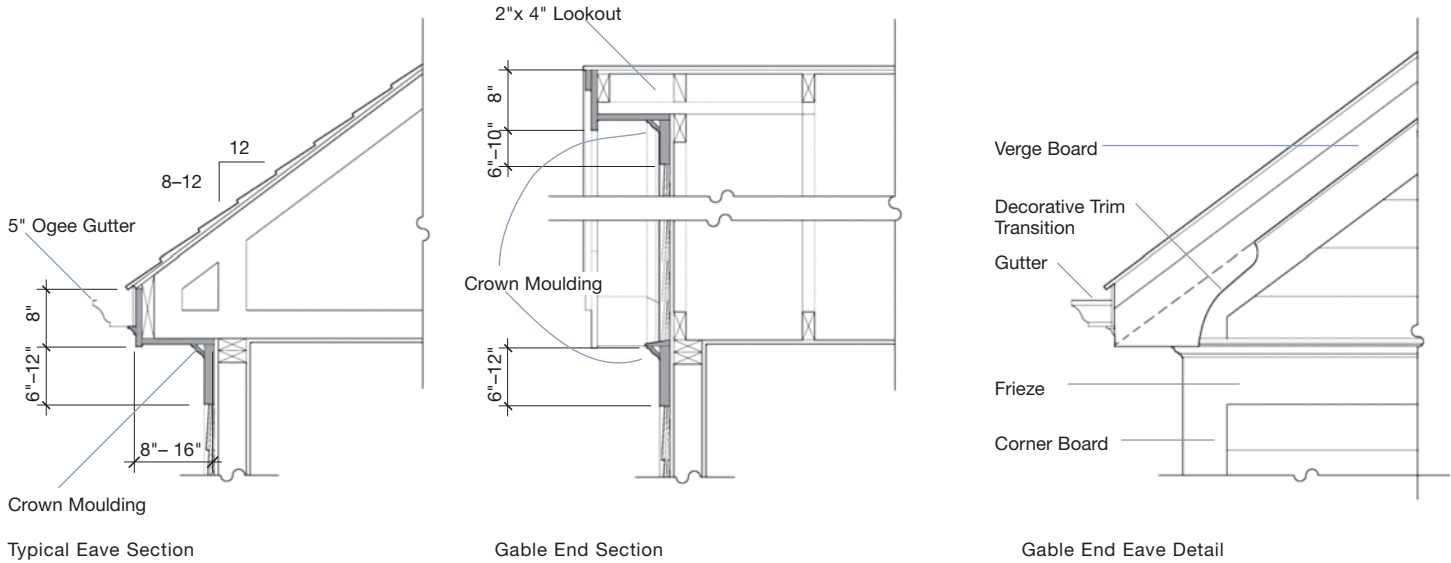
- Body: Pastels and a range of yellows, beiges, grays, blues, and greens
- Trim: Deeper shade of the body color or a slightly different deep shade; white trim may be used



Step 2: Eaves and Porches

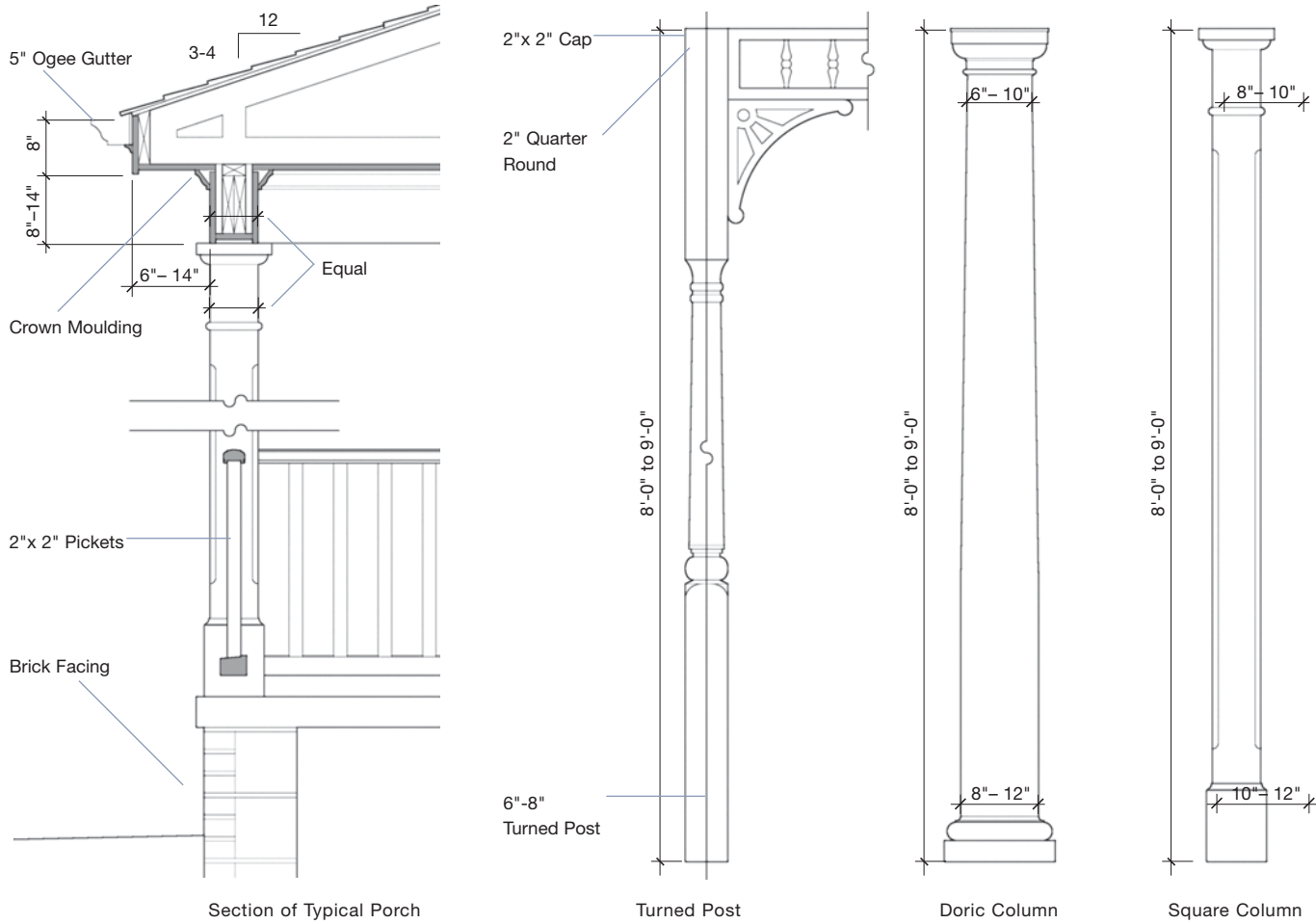
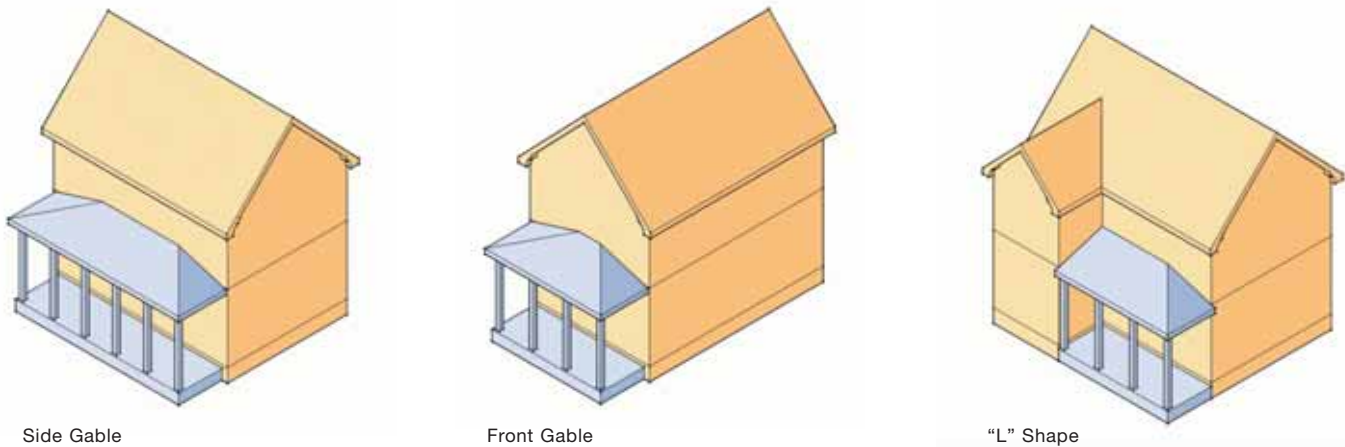
A.
Select Eave Detail

- Overhang between 8 inches and 16 inches; deeper overhangs are typically used on larger houses
- Boxed eaves often have profiled brackets at 8 to 24 inches on center and grouped at corners.
- Raking eaves may have an over-sized, decorative board at the gable end.



B.
Select Porch Location and Design

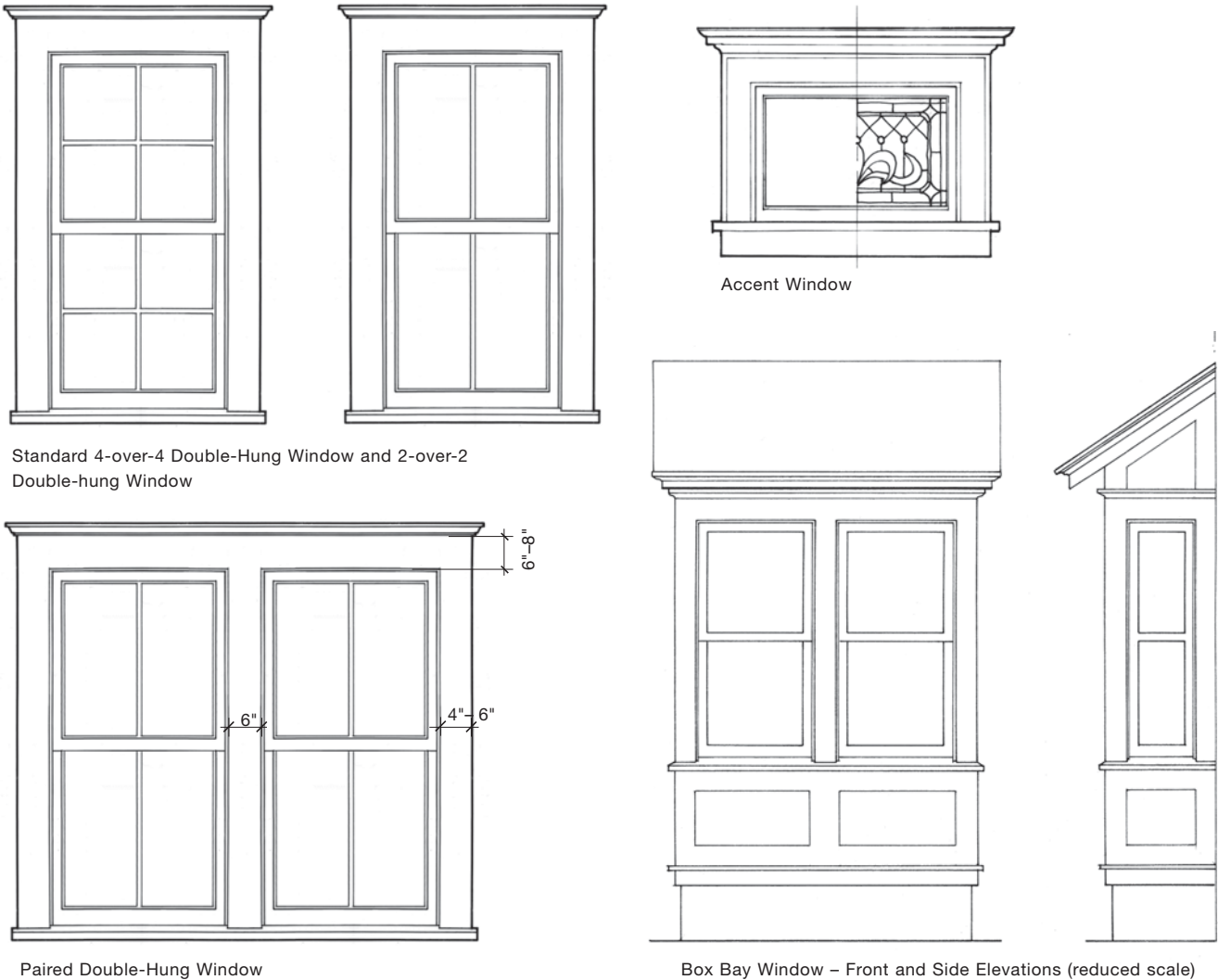
- Minimum recommended porch depth is 8 feet.
- Windows and doors from active rooms should open onto the porch.
- Victorian porches have either 'turned' columns or square, chamfered columns.
- Porches generally have hip or shed roofs.



Step 3: Windows and Doors

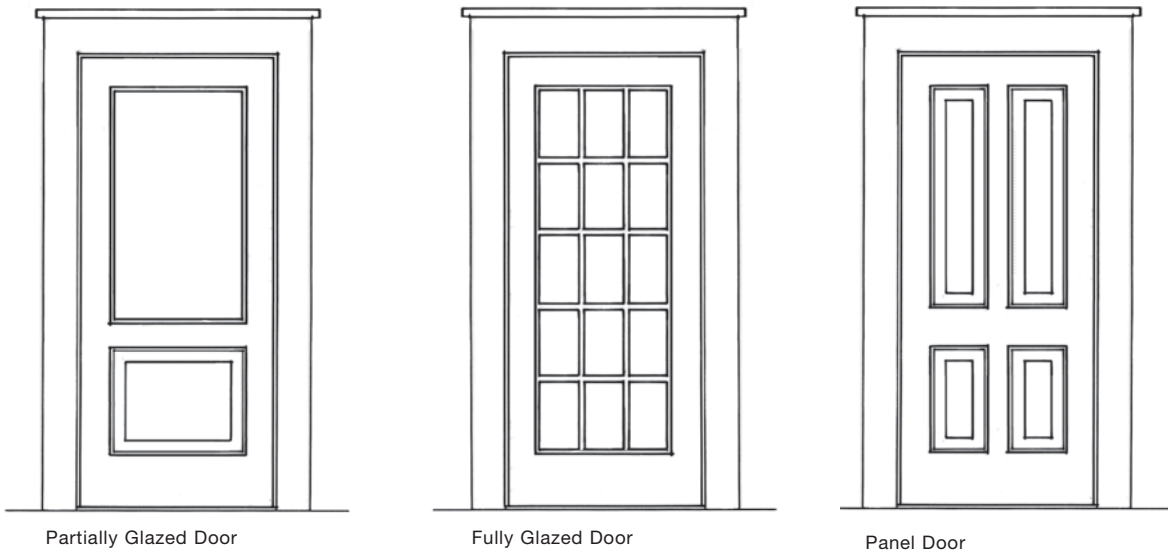
A. Select Windows

- Use double-hung windows with window patterns of 1 over 1, 2 over 2, 4 over 4, and wide trim.
- Standard window dimensions:
Width: 2'-4" to 3'-4"
Height: 5'-0" to 6'-8"
- When windows are paired, use with a 6 inch mullion (trim) division.
- The window may have a decorative cap.
- Accent windows should have panes of similar proportion to the standard windows selected.
- Accent windows are typically used only when space is limited (i.e., over counters, bathroom fixtures, etc.) or as a compositional accent.



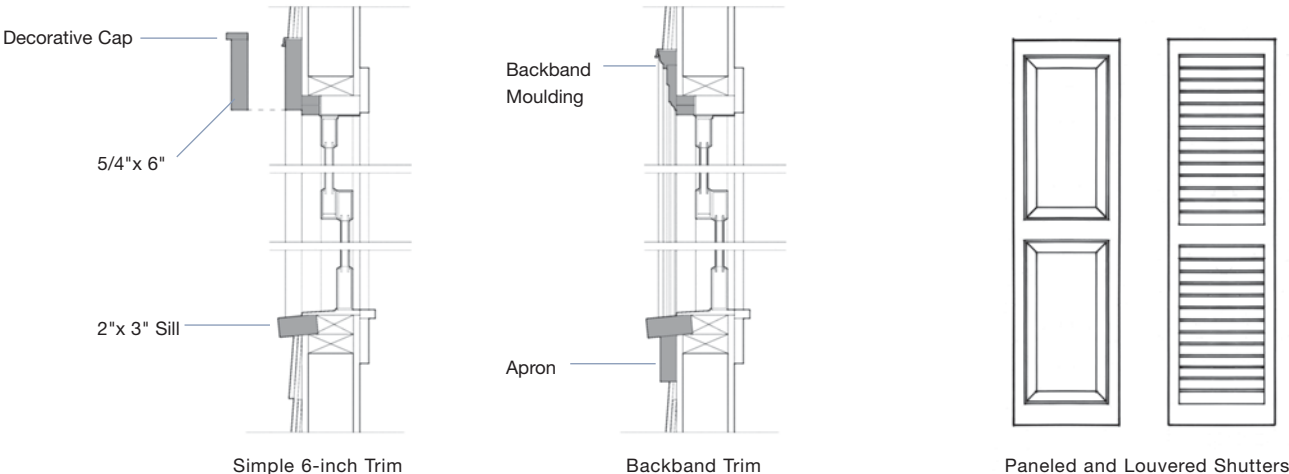
B. Select Doors

- Wood, fiberglass, or steel with traditional stile and rail proportions, panel profiles, and glazing patterns
- Four-panel doors are common; partially glazed and fully glazed doors are also used.
- Door trim should match window trim.



C. Select Trim and Shutters

- Windows and doors have simple 4 to 6 inch trim.
- Caps, backband mouldings, and aprons under the sill are common.
- Shutters are typically paneled or louvered and should be half the width of the window.



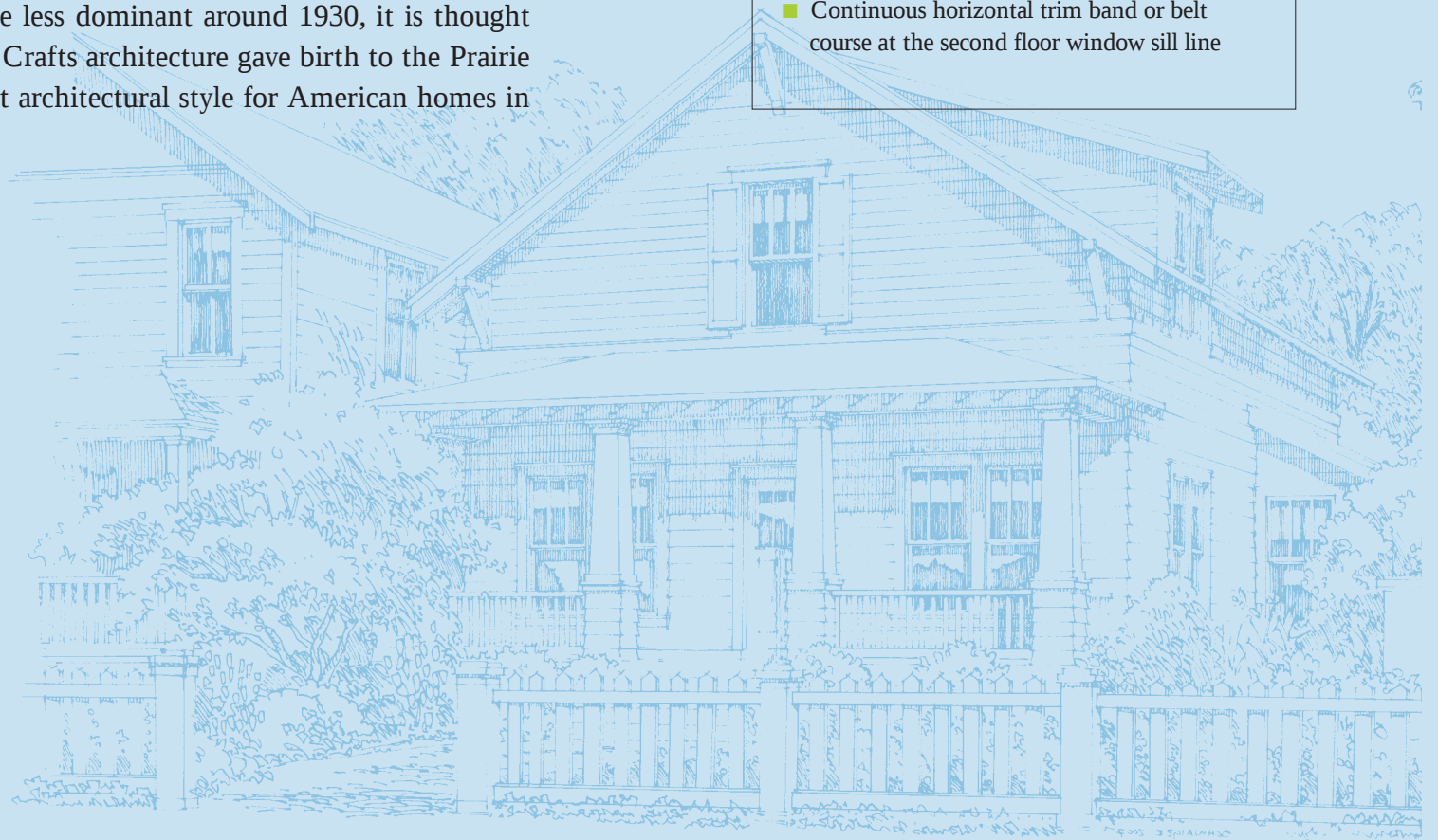
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Arts & Crafts

Often considered the first phase of modern architecture, the Arts & Crafts movement began in England during the late 19th century. This style turned its back on historical precedent and defined itself by using natural materials to create a simple and decorative expression of structural elements. In the United States, the Arts & Crafts style is more commonly called Craftsman and became popular in the early 20th century. Low pitched roofs, wide eave overhangs, and ornamental rafter tails and brackets are some of the most recognizable features of this style, along with the use of rich colors and contrasting trim. The Craftsman style was first seen in the United States in southern California, but it became a very popular architectural language across the entire country, and between the years 1905 and 1920 it was the major style used for smaller houses all over America. Although it became less dominant around 1930, it is thought that the principles of Arts & Crafts architecture gave birth to the Prairie style, which was the foremost architectural style for American homes in the years to come.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Deep eaves, often with exposed, shaped rafter ends or ornamental brackets
- Grouped windows in pairs or in sets of three with divided light patterns in the upper sashes
- Deep, broad porch elements with expressive structural components
- Simple, straightforward volume with low-slope gabled or hipped roof
- Continuous horizontal trim band or belt course at the second floor window sill line

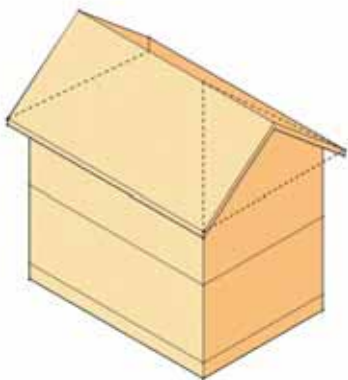


Step 1: Massing, Composition, and Materials

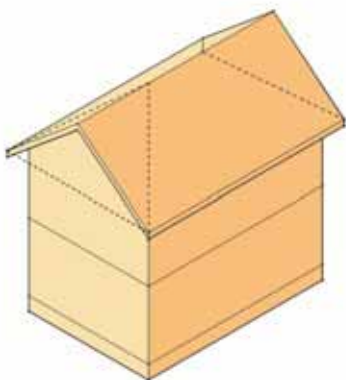
A.

Choose Massing Type

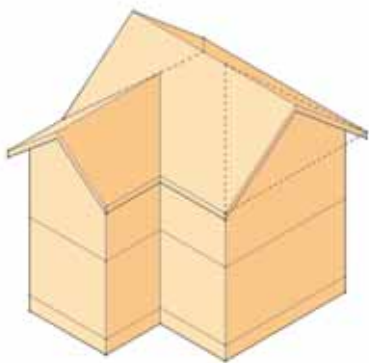
- Rectangular or L-shaped volume with a front-facing gable roof containing a second or third story
- Often an in-line gabled porch or wing added to the front leg of the L to create an asymmetrical form
- Roof pitches typically range from 4:12 to 6:12



Side Gable



Front Gable

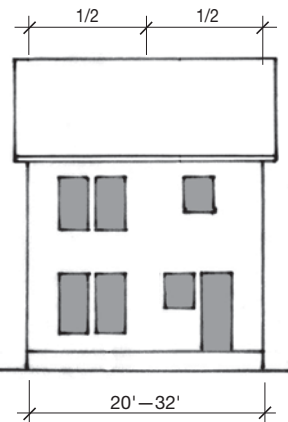
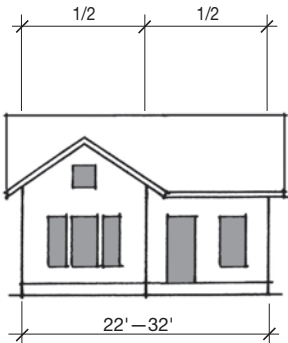
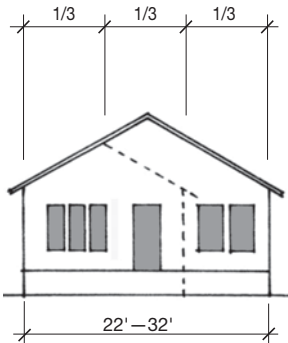
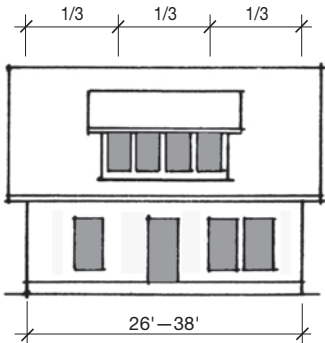


"L" Shape

B.

Choose Window and Door Composition

- Composition is characterized by an asymmetrical yet balanced placement of doors and windows.
- Typically, windows occur in pairs and multiples or as sidelights for oversized ground floor windows.
- Entrance doors are most often under porches and off center.
- Doors are wide in proportion, often with transoms and sidelights.



C.

Choose Materials

Siding:

- Stucco, wood, or fiber cement board
- Exposure: 3-6"
- Corner Boards are optional; when used, a 4-6" exposure is typical.

Colors:

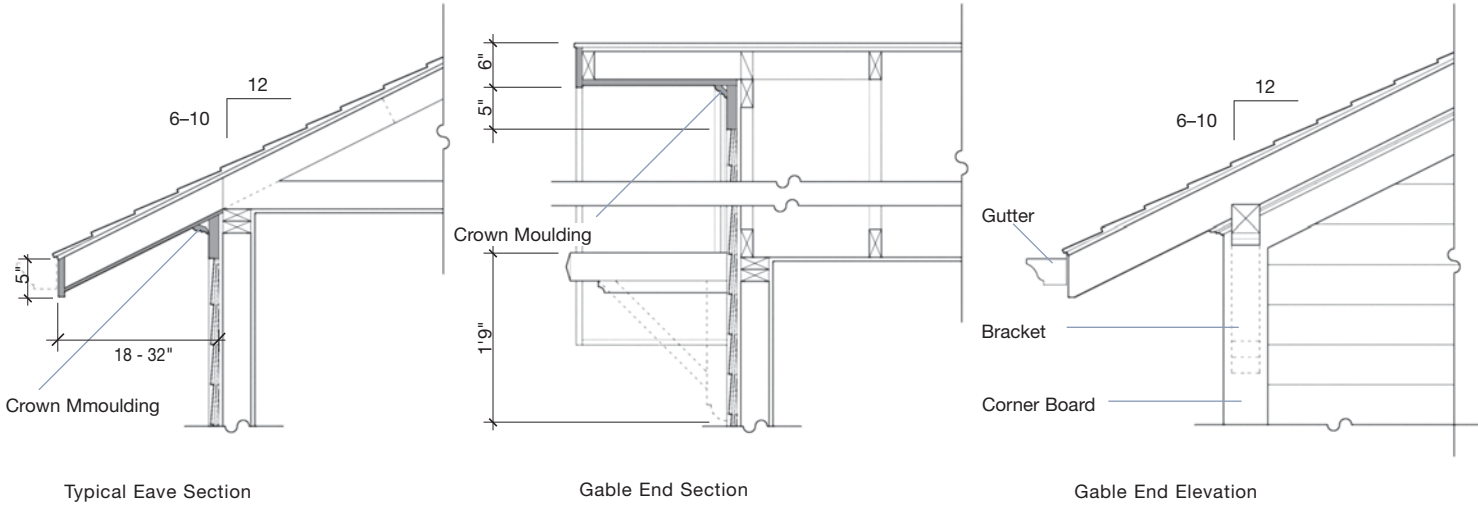
- Body: Can be the same color with frieze; the first and second floors may be differentiated with color.
- Trim: White, off-white, or rich earth tones



Step 2: Eaves and Porches

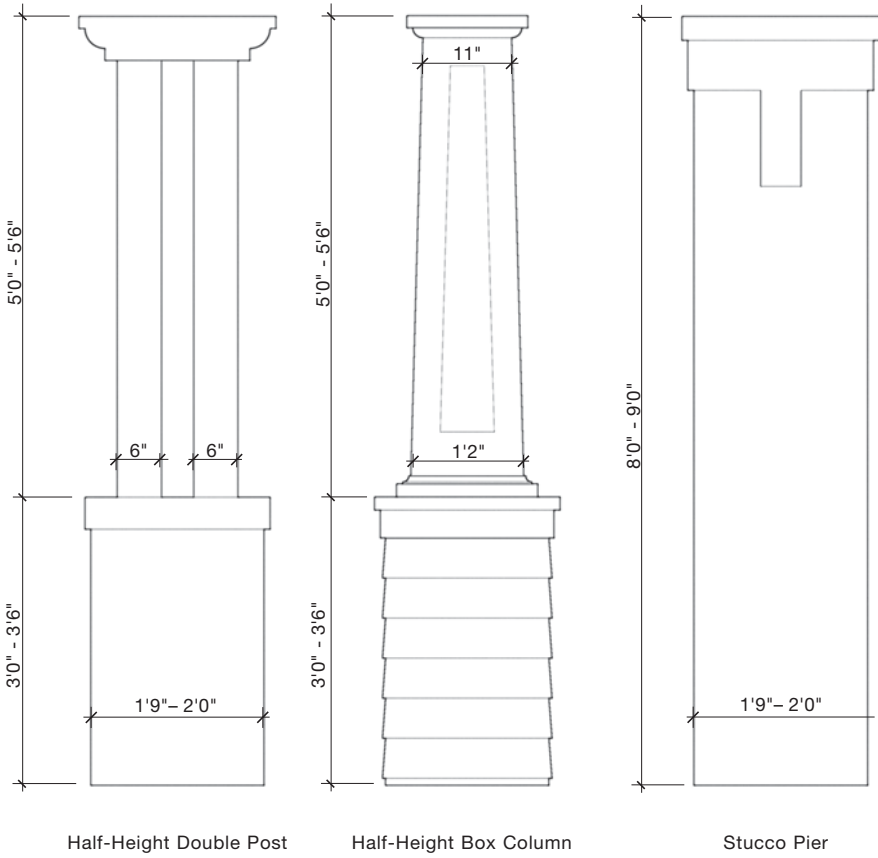
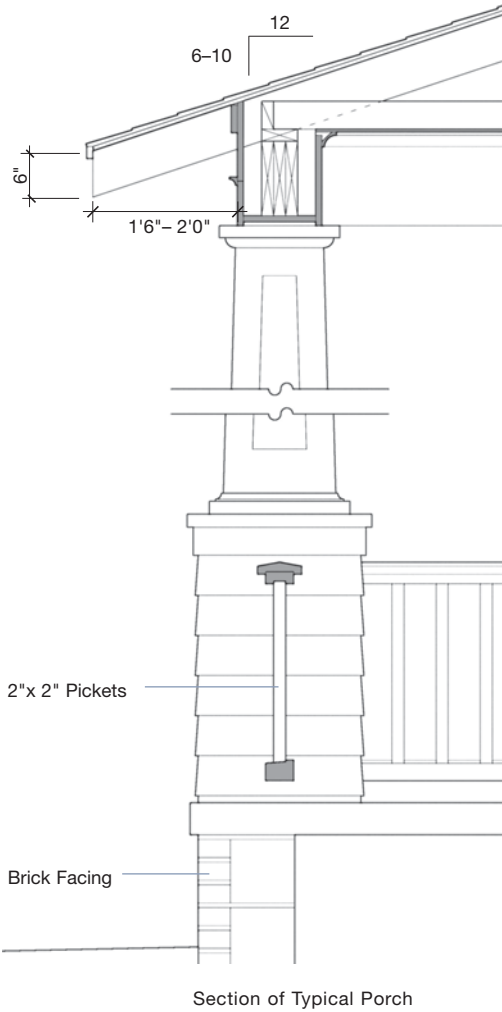
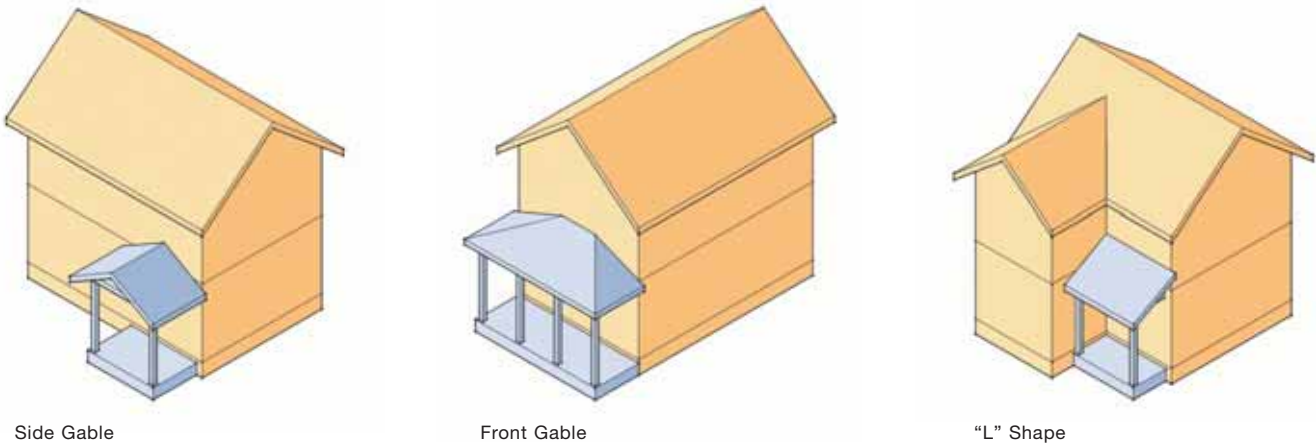
A.
Select Eave Detail

- Overhangs typically range from 18 to 32 inches in depth.
- Boxed eave with flat soffit, with optional profile brackets at 24 inches on center
- 2 x 8 inch rafter tail 16 to 24 inches on center, the most common eave; often hipped, gables feature a vergeboard; exposed rafter tails are either shaped or cut plumb



B.
Select Porch Location
and Design

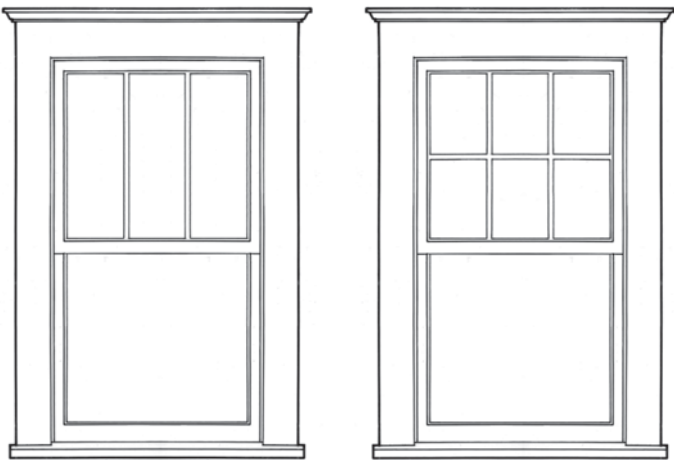
- Minimum porch depth 8 feet
- Porches have deep eaves often repeating the same rafter or cornice treatment as the main house body.
- Porches can have gable-ends, shed roofs, or hip roofs.
- Shed and hip porches typically have a 3 in 12 to 4 in 12 pitch.
- Gable-end porches are designed to express structural elements.



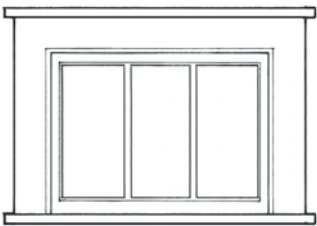
Step 3: Windows and Doors

A. Select Windows

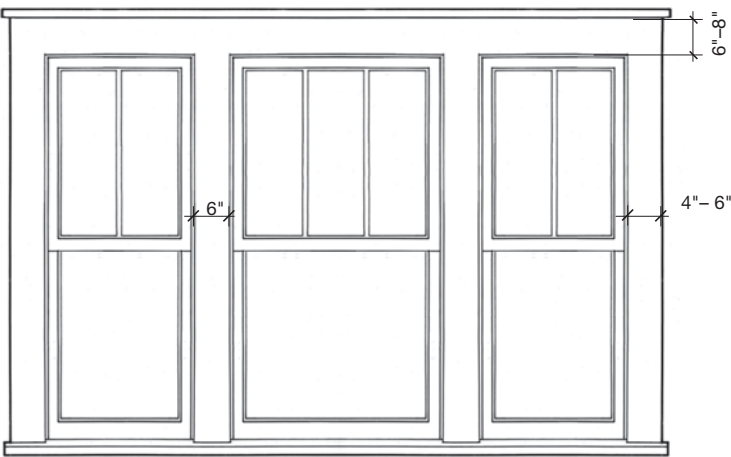
- Casements with divided lights are common.
- Double-hung windows are typically vertical in proportion and have a 3 over 1, 4 over 1, 6 over 1, or 9 over 1 muntin pattern.
- Accent windows include triple windows, small square accent windows, and box bay windows supported on flat cut brackets.
- Dormer windows are commonly ganged together.



Standard 3-over-1 Double-Hung Window and 6-over-1 Double-Hung Window



Accent Window



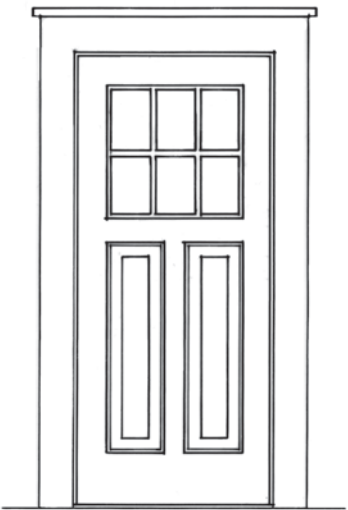
Grouped Double-Hung Windows



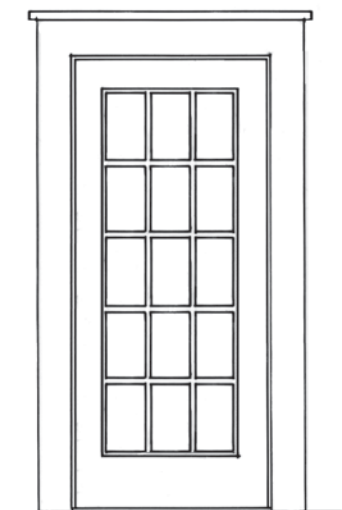
Partial Elevation of a Shed Dormer with Grouped Window (reduced scale)

B. Select Doors

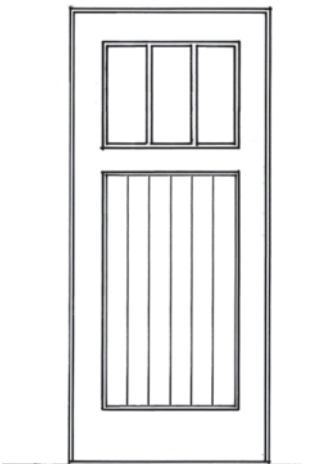
- Arts & Crafts doors are often stained wood or painted rich colors plank designs or a panel door with the top half glazed.
- Doors may have sidelights or transoms in clear or leaded glass.



Partially Glazed Door



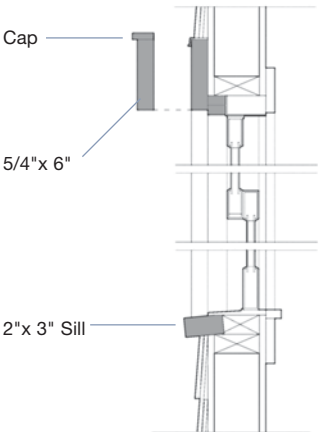
Fully Glazed Door



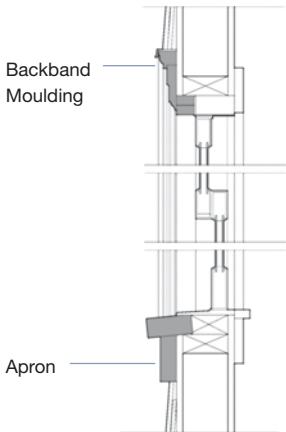
Panel Door

C. Select Trim and Shutters

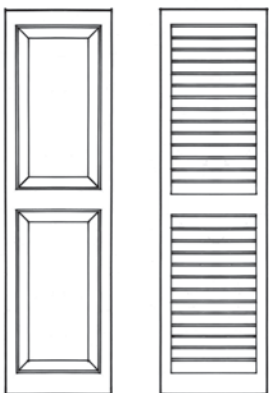
- Window and door trim often carries a simple moulding and cap above.
- Caps, backband mouldings, and aprons under the sill are common.
- Casements with divided lights are common.
- Shutters are typically paneled or louvered and should be half the width of the window.



Simple 6-inch Trim



Backband Trim



Paneled and Louvered Shutters

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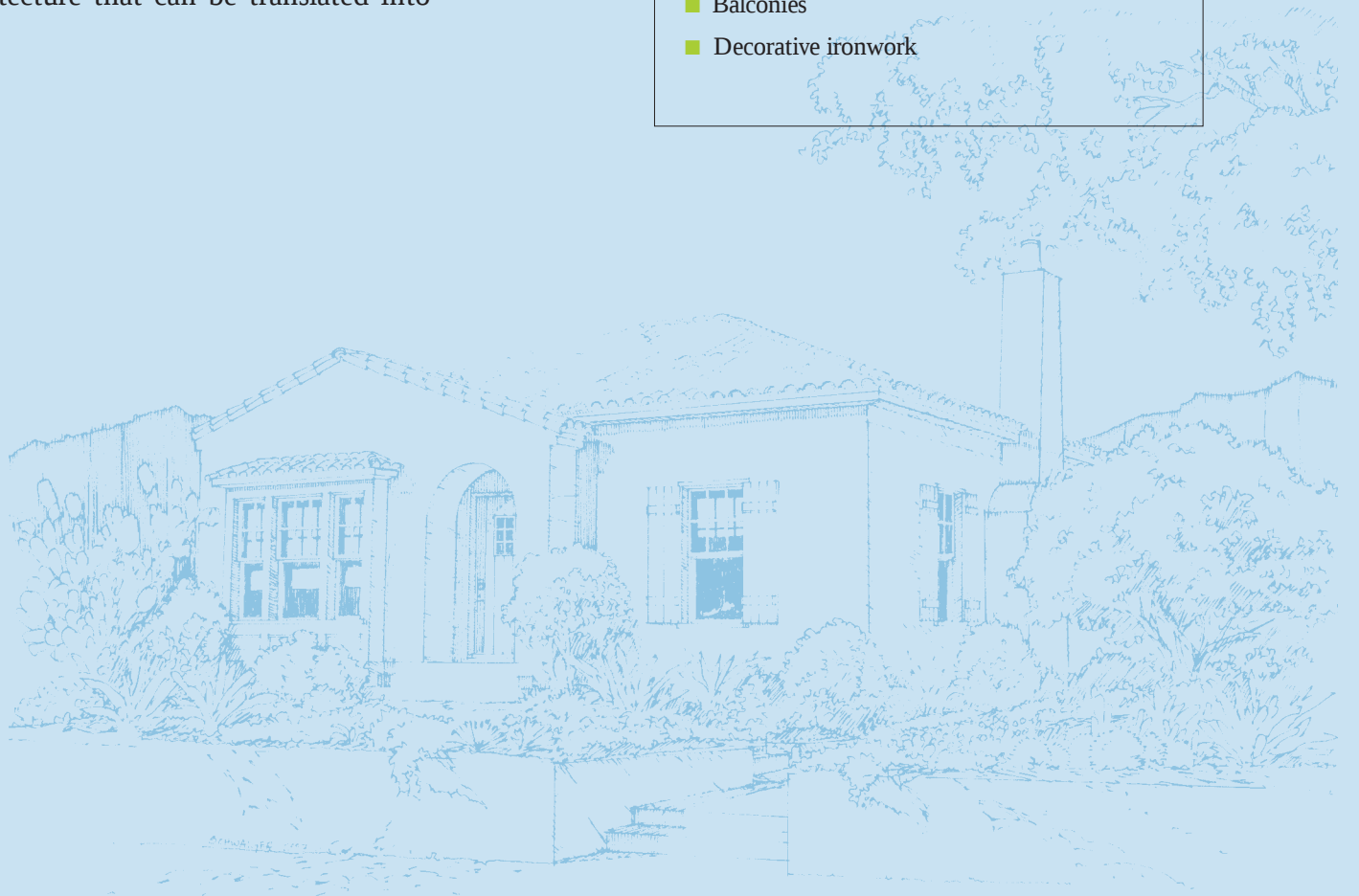
Mission

Sometimes thought to be California's counterpart to Colonial Revival architecture in the Northeast, Mission style became popular around 1890, and remained one of the principle styles of building throughout the early 20th century. Mission style relied heavily on its heritage and was greatly influenced by Hispanic architecture. While this style of building was never commonplace outside the Southwest, there are examples found throughout the country.

Mission architecture has a strong identity, notably defined by shaped parapets and arches, quatrefoil windows, and red roof tiles. Also common to this style are smooth stucco walls and open porches supported by large square piers. This style generally does not include decorative detailing and uses elements of Hispanic architecture that can be translated into simple shapes.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

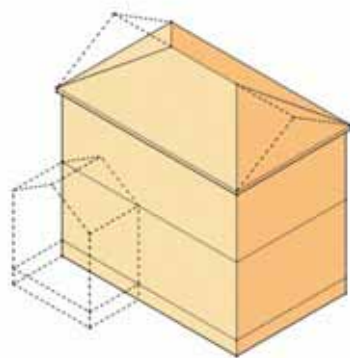
- Stucco walls with a handmade/formed appearance
- Shallow sloped, terra-cotta barrel tile roofs in variegated colors (red is predominant color)
- Thick walls with deep recessed openings
- Covered patios/porches/loggias
- Detailing primarily at openings
- Balconies
- Decorative ironwork



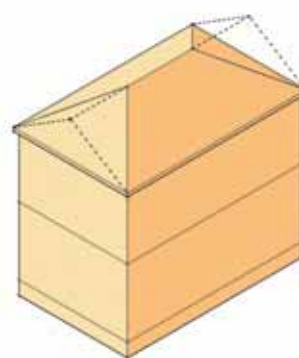
Step 1: Massing, Composition, and Materials

A. Choose Massing Type

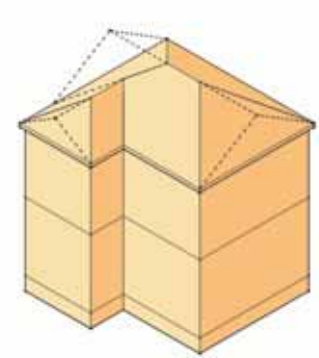
- Rectangular volume with a 4 in 12 to 10 in 12 roof pitch and gable or hip parallel to the street
- Inset patios on first floor are common.
- A one- or two-story wing projecting forward from the main body



Side Gable



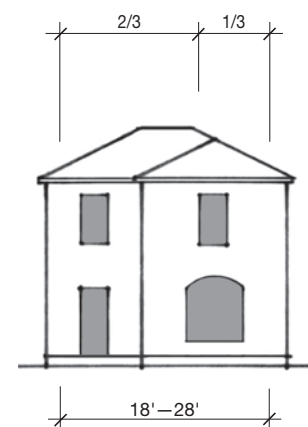
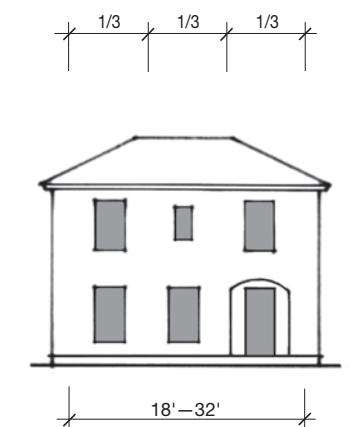
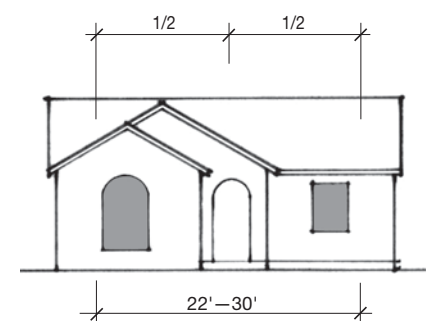
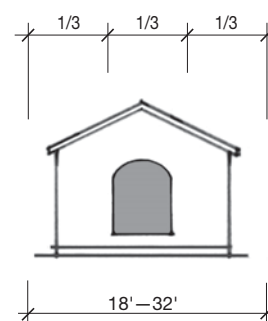
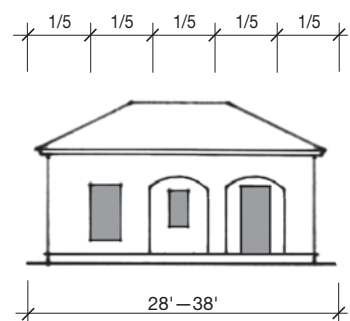
Front Gable



"L" Shape

B. Choose Window and Door Composition

- Character is derived from a good use of proportion and a sparing, well-placed use of ornament.
- Although windows and doors are typically placed asymmetrically, the overall composition is balanced.
- Paired windows are tall with a vertical aspect.
- The size of windows should diminish with each succeeding story.



C. Choose Materials

Cladding:

- Stucco with handmade/formed appearance
- Color: White or light hue

Roof:

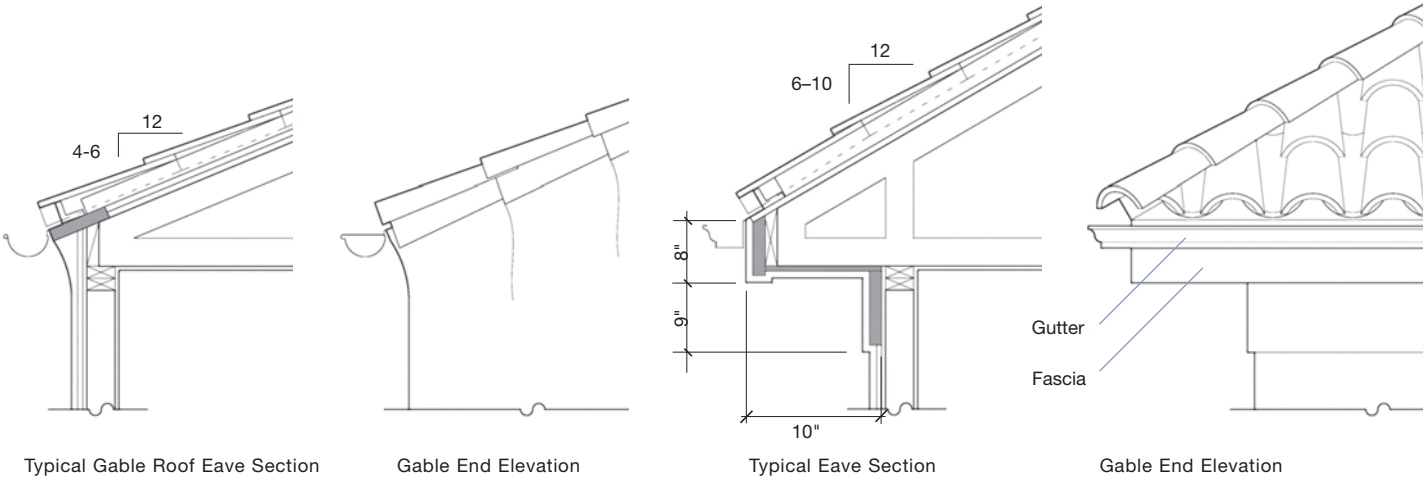
- Terra cotta barrel tile, multiple 'stacked' tile at eaves
- For cost efficiency, barrel tiles may be used at eaves and asphalt shingles of a similar color used on primary roofs.



Step 2: Eaves and Porches

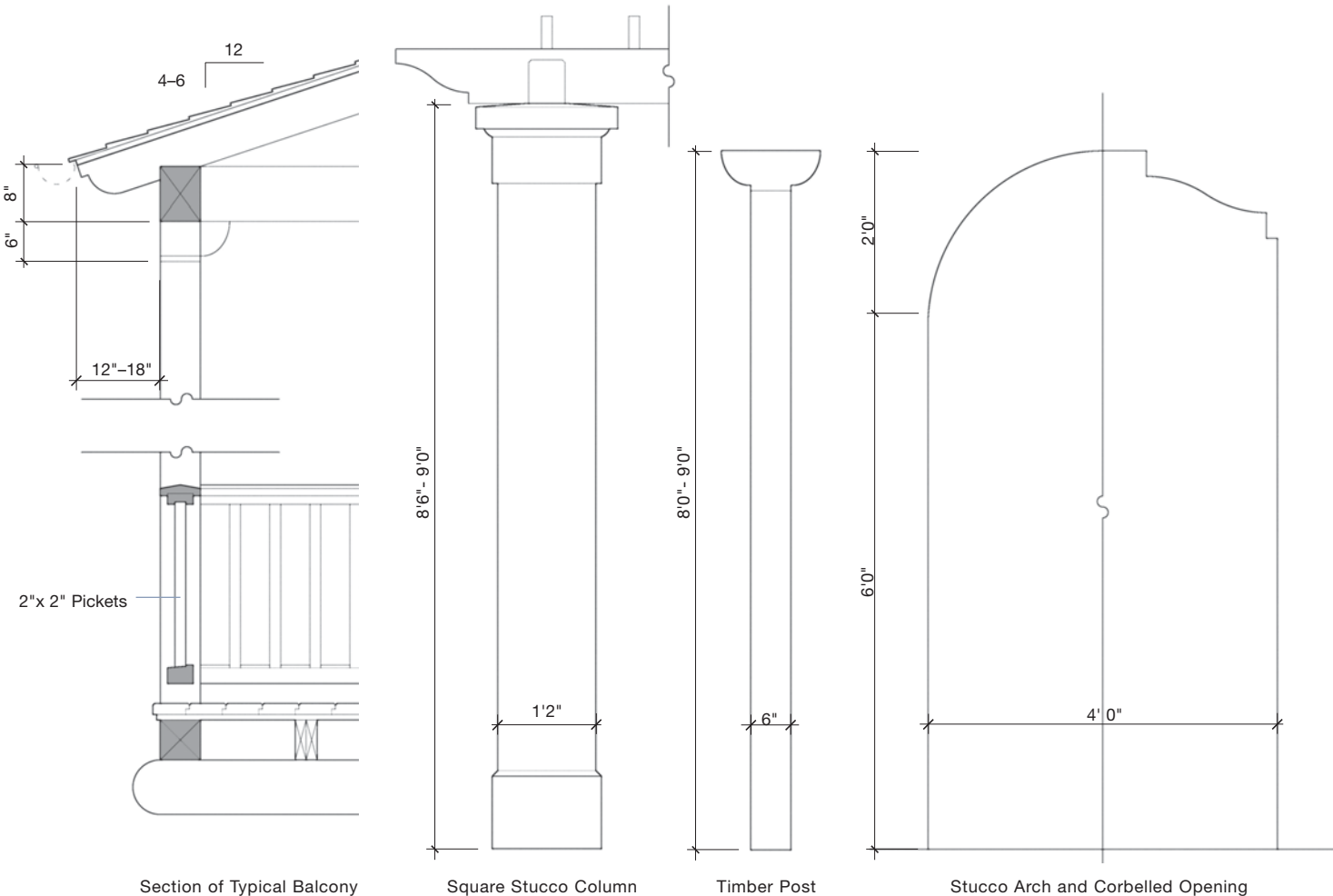
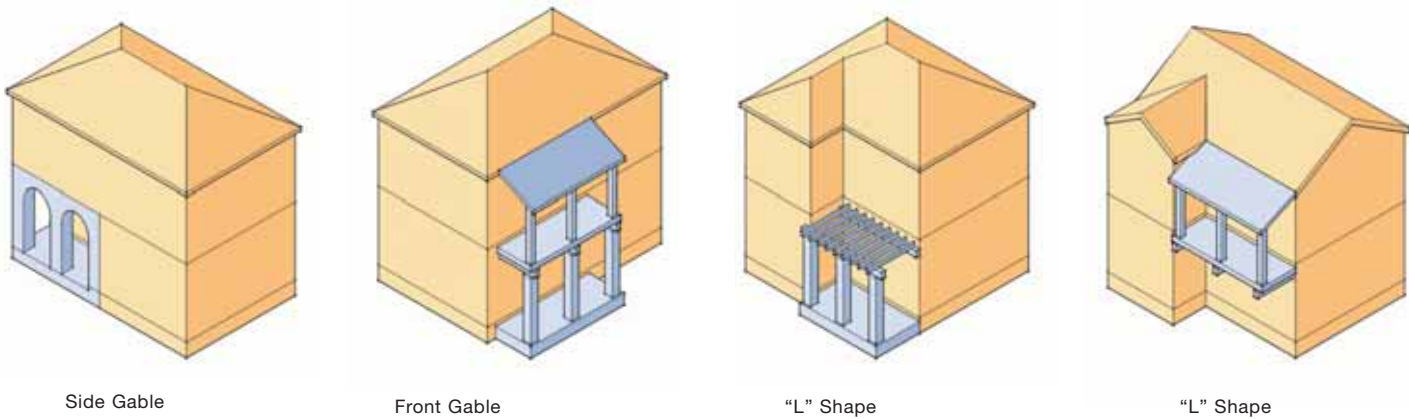
A.
Select Eave Detail

- Second floor offsets should create 8 to 10 inch overhangs.
- Shallow eaves are constructed of building wall material or molded plaster.
- Open eaves and exposed rafter tails are common in some areas of the country.



B.
Select Porch Location
and Design

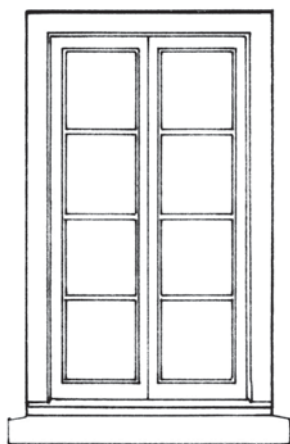
- Patios and loggias substitute for porches.
- Minimum depth 8 feet
- Defined by either plaster arches with plaster columns, or plaster arches with cast stone columns (round, square, or rectangular)
- Porch floors are typically paved with stained concrete, optional terra cotta tile, brick, or stone accents.
- Balconies may be designed as shallow 'French balconies' and made of metal or plaster; balconies are deeper when made of wood, often becoming a 'gallery' onto which multiple rooms may open.



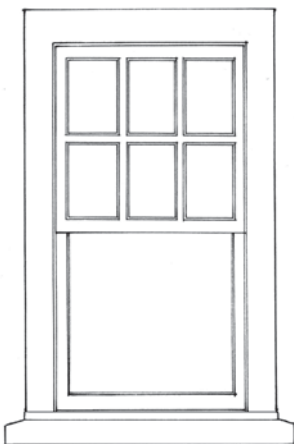
Step 3: Windows and Doors

A. Select Windows

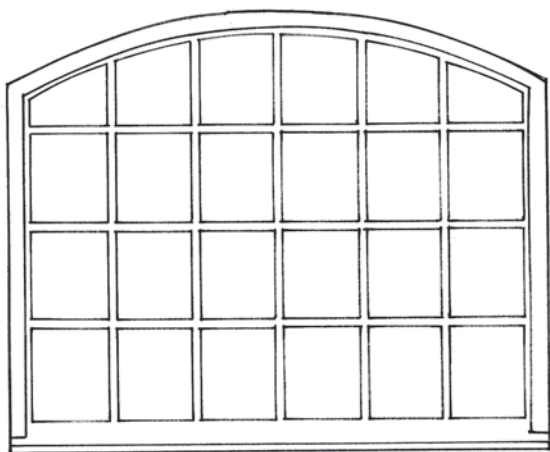
- Windows may have a vertical or horizontal pane configuration.
- Windows surrounded by stucco should be recessed back from the face of the facade as deeply as possible to create the illusion of thick walls.
- Casement windows are used as either single units, double units, or paired double units.
- Windows often have either three-light or six-light, multi-pane units.
- Windows often have flat or arched transoms; transoms have glass patterns similar to window glass patterns.



Paired Casement Window



6-over-1 Double-Hung Window

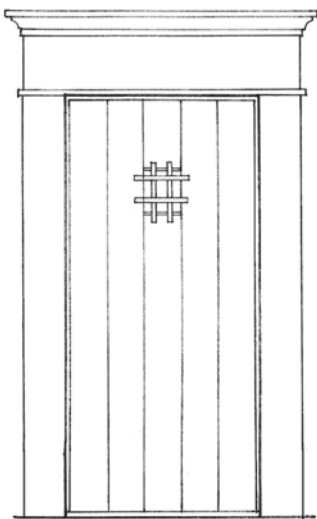


Oversized Arched Window

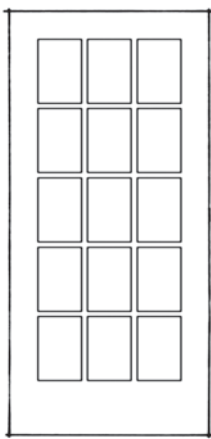


B. Select Doors

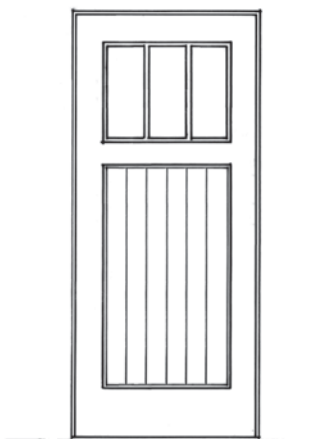
- Doors are often stained wood or painted a deep color with either wood plank design or a panel door with the top half glazed.
- Single plank/board or panel style door, often with wrought iron accents
- No sidelights
- Recessed as deep as possible



Single Plank/board Door



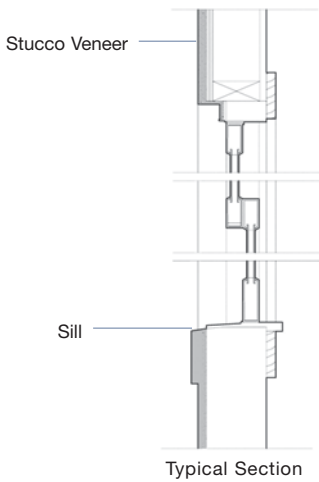
Fully Glazed Door



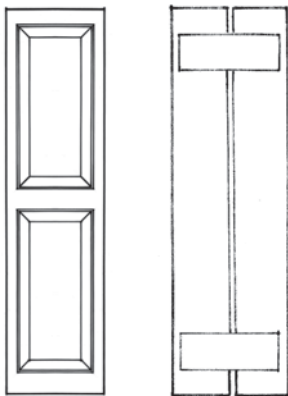
Panel Door

C. Window Detail and Shutters

- Cast plaster or concrete surrounds
- Trim is not required; wood lintels are sometimes used above door and window openings.
- Raised or flat wood panel or louvered shutters used as an accent
- Shutters should be half the width of the window.



Typical Section



Paneled and Board Shutters

