

Architectural Styles

Beaux Arts

This style was popular in Ontario from 1885- 1945. It was often used for banks, schools, train stations, libraries, and other public buildings. This style used classical architectural styles influenced by Greek and Roman buildings but on an exaggerated scale. It also used elements of renaissance and baroque architectural styles.

Edwardian Four Square

This style was popular in Ontario from 1890- 1930. It was used to build single family homes. These houses are found in older neighbourhoods.

Georgian

This style was popular in Ontario from 1750- 1850. It was used to build a variety of buildings. The most common in Brockville is family homes. Houses built in this style are the first stone buildings Loyalist built. As years went on, often these homes were renovated using different architectural styles.

Neo- classical

This style was popular from 1810- 1850 in Ontario. It was often used for civic and public buildings. This style was often created by putting neo-classical decorations (pillars, porticos etc.) on buildings built in the Georgian style. It was influenced by the architecture of ancient Greek and Roman buildings.

Italianate, Commercial

This style was popular from 1850- 1900. It was a style commonly used for commercial buildings in a city or towns downtown area.

Queen Anne Revival

This style was popular in Ontario from 1870- 1910. This style takes elements from various architectural schools to create homes that have many different architectural elements to create a unique look. This style was popular for large houses built by the political and business elite. Houses were built for a single family.

Romanesque

This style was popular in Ontario from 1840- 1900 and was used for both homes, public buildings, and government buildings. This style looks “heavy” compared to other architectural schools. Buildings in this style will often look castle like.

Victory Housing

This style of housing was popular in Ontario from 1940- 1960. Victory homes were built by the government in response to the housing shortage that occurred after World War II as soldiers came home. These homes are often smaller houses that were made for a single family. Neighbourhoods of these homes helped spread the suburban movement in Canada.

Architectural Building Terms

Asymmetrical/ Symmetrical

Asymmetrical buildings are buildings that do not look identical on either side of the front of the house, whereas a symmetrical building will be identical.

Bays

The number of bays in a building is counted by the number of openings (doors and windows). A single storey home with one window on either side of the front door would have 3 bays.

Brackets

An ornamental projection from a wall that visually supports a cornice, roof, balcony, window, etc.

Columns, Ionic

Ionic columns consist of a slender shaft sitting on a base and a capital with a volute. This is the top cap of a column that has a double-sided twist or whirl.

Columns, Doric

Doric columns do not sit on a base. The top cap is very simple with little to no ornamentation.

Cornice

A cornice is the projecting shelf created by a ceiling, roof, or pediment. These can be made of stone, brick, iron, and steel. On large homes and commercial buildings these are very decorative.

Crenellations

Crenellations are often associated with castle battlements. It is the wall (or fake wall) around the top of a building or tower that has regular depressions.

Dormers

A dormer is a gable window that protrudes from the pitch of a roof. These are usually found in bedroom spaces.

Extrados

The outer curve of an arch. These can be highly decorated, often around doorways.

Façade

The front face of a building. To be called a façade a building must be built in a particular style with elements of the intended school of architecture.

Gable

The triangular portion of a roof above the eaves. A gable may also be part of a dormer. Buildings can have front facing or side facing gables.

Lintel

A horizontal beam of wood, steel, or stone above an opening that supports the weight of the building above it.

Pediment

A pediment is the gable end above a door or window. It is often triangular but can be curved. Pediments are often decorated with a cornice along the bottom.

Pilasters

A pilaster is a square pillar or column that sits on a base and ends with a cap on top. Structurally they act as supports for a building but are often built as decoration. Pilasters often protrude from a wall.

Pitch

Pitch refers to the slope or steepness of a roof.

Portico

A portico is a covered porch area at the entrance to a building.

Quoins

Quoins are decorative stone or brick work along the corner of a building. They are usually made of larger stones or bricks from the rest of the building and are in a different colour.

Roof, Hipped

A hipped roof has all sides of the roof slope down to the wall. There are no end gables or vertical sides with this style.

Sill

Sills direct away water and are supports that doors and windows rest on. They can be decorative or plain and made of wood, stone, concrete, or metal.

Tympanum

A tympanum is the triangular or semicircular wall space inside a pediment. It can be plain or have elaborate decorations.

Verandah

A verandah is an enclosed porch around a building.

Vernacular architecture

Vernacular architecture are locally built buildings that are not done by professionals. It uses local materials and is built to suit the local environment while still using elements of a particular architectural style (or two).

Window, Sash

A sash window has two different sashes or frames that contain one or more panes of glass. Sashes are placed so that one sash can be slide over another to open the window. Sash windows can have 4- 16 panes of glass per frame.

Window, Sidelight

Sidelight windows are narrow tall windows that are placed on either or both sides of a door, usually exterior doors.

Window, Tracery

Tracery windows are windows that are divided into various sizes and shapes by ribs of carved stone or shaped metal. They are often found in gothic churches.

Window, Transom

Also called a fanlight when semicircular, a transom window is a horizontal window above a door. A Transom is the structural beam that separates a door from a window.