

Although you may live in a bigger city or town, your neighborhood is considered a community: It's where your home and your school are located.

Your neighborhood is an important place. It is where you live, where you play, and where you go to school to see the other kids that live in your same neighborhood. Since where we grow up becomes a part of who we are, it's worth knowing how your neighborhood came to be what it is.

Neighborhoods are defined, as much as anything else, by the homes in them. And homes, in turn, are defined by their architectural styles. Different styles affect the way that people live in and feel about their homes.

Architectural styles are categorized by periods of architecture that reflect different social, economic, and cultural trends and influences. So the styles of homes in your neighborhood, by reflecting historical trends and influences, tell us a lot about how people lived in your neighborhood.

Architectural Elements

- o Shape: Does a house feel taller ("stretched up") or longer ("stretched out")?
- o Balance/Symmetry: Does a house feel balanced (even) or unbalanced (uneven)? If you divided the façade in two, would the two sides match? Would they be "mirror images"?
- o Lines: Are the lines of the house straight with right angles or are there a curves and different angles?
- o Materials: Is the house constructed primarily of one material or is it made of several different materials?
- o Roof: What shape is the roof? What is its "pitch": Is it steep or shallow or even flat?
- o Windows: What size and shape are the windows? Do they have lots of "lights" or are they mostly just glass?
- o Entry: Where is the main entry located? In the middle of the façade or to the side? Plain or elaborate?
- o Ornamentation: Is the "ornamentation" fancy and intricate or is there relatively little ornamentation (or none at all)?

Slide Answer Key

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| 24. Early Twentieth Century:
Bungalow | 29. Modern: Ranch | 35. Colonial Revival |
| 25. Victorian | 30. Tudor Revival | 36. Modern Ranch |
| 26. Early Modern | 31. English Cottage | 37. Victorian |
| 27. Colonial Revival | 32. Traditional Minimal | 38. Early Twentieth Century |
| 28. Pioneer | 33. Pioneer | 39. Tudor Revival |
| | 34. Early Modern | |