



## Craftsman Style Homes – Charming American Design from Early 1900s

Craftsman Style Homes were first designed in southern California by the Greene Brothers, Charles and Henry, in the early 1900s. Famous for the Gamble House built in 1908 which is often referred to as the “ultimate bungalow”, craftsman style home plans started as a shift toward building smaller, yet quality middle-class homes.

The British began the Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th century, responding to the industrial age’s growing middle class. This was a shift away from traditional Victorian homes built only for the upper class. With more people having income to purchase a single-family dwelling, architects in the UK accommodated them by creating Arts and Crafts style homes. They featured quality crafted design elements for the working man.

This same shift was mirrored in the U.S. as the middle class became a greater force with money for buying the American dream – their own home. The Craftsman style house features more open and friendly living spaces vs. the traditional Victorian plan which for example, separated the working kitchen from the dining area.

### **How to Recognize Craftsman Style Homes**

There are several distinct elements common to charming Craftsman style homes. Gabled roofs, a low-pitched roof line or hipped-roof with shallow downward sloping angles from a center ridge are part of this distinctive look. Most also include deep overhanging eaves with decorative brackets or exposed rafter tails.

Craftsman home plans almost always include a front porch, which frequently runs the full width of the building. Sturdy square pillars support the extended roof and vary in style. Pillars can be straight, tapered, all wood, or part wood with brick or stone bases. Later versions of this warm home design filled in the railing area as streets became busier, separating the front porch from street noise and commotion.

Exterior finishes include horizontal clapboard, wooden shingles, stucco, brick and stone. Examples can be found across the country, sometimes combining stucco with the wood detail of the Tudor style or brick detail from the bottom half of the front elevation.

Craftsman bungalows often include a second-floor dormer to add space and create even more visual interest. Many homes of this style are designed with a symmetrical, balanced look. The idea of the arts and crafts movement was to feature natural materials like wood and stone for greater hand-crafted character.

### **Craftsman Style House Interior**

The interior of Craftsman style homes relies on simple forms and open living spaces. The front door opens to a small entry way, separating the interior from the weather outdoors. It’s common to find a built-in area with wooden pegs to hang coats and a bench for putting on your shoes. This is representative of the easy living spaces versus the traditional Victorian of the time.

From the front entry, you walk into the living room which usually is situated in the front of the home facing out to the street. Besides the front porch, the second most distinctive feature of a Craftsman style home is the fireplace as the living room’s focal point.

Built-in bookcases and cased openings with heavy wood trim are part of the Craftsman-style charm. Some trim is painted and other times the casings have been stained to show off the natural beauty of the wood. Depending on the home design, the first floor might sport higher ceilings with wood beams or trim for striking visual detail.

Dining rooms are frequently outfitted with a chair rail or wainscot and even a plate rail to display dishes or other decorative pieces. Many kitchens from this architectural style include a breakfast nook for grabbing a quick meal with built-in seating and sometimes a table.

Originally these plans were for smaller, more bungalow type homes. But over the years, this style of home has been upscaled by architects, with floor plans of 3,000-4,000 square feet becoming more common. Today there is a strong, renewed interest in the aesthetically pleasing and easy living of craftsman style homes. Craftsman house plans are loved in the Adirondack Mountains, featuring exposed beams with natural wood finishes.

### **Prairie Style Home Design**

A variation on the Craftsman Bungalow, Prairie Style was created by the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959). Wright loved the aesthetics of the American Craftsman style and was very interested in designing quality homes for the middle class.

The look was created so that homes appeared to grow out of the typically flat prairie lands with low-pitched, hipped or gabled roofs. Bold horizontal lines, deep set overhangs and decorative brackets or exposed rafters were common design features.

Floor plans were family-centered with wide open living spaces and well-sized, double-hung windows for plenty of light. Using natural materials including wood, brick and stone gave these hand-crafted homes a special feeling for these lucky families, many of whom had never lived in a single-family dwelling or owned their own homes before.

### **Heritage Custom Builders Home Styles**

Heritage Custom Builders has three communities underway including Heritage Pointe, Timber Creek Preserve and Mourningkill Meadows. Each features a variety of home styles including single-family ranches and colonials.

Conscious about nature, outdoor living and family enjoyment, Heritage Custom Builders has created neighborhoods that stand out, offering beautiful parks with walking trails. Space has been designed for family fun outdoors and an area where the community can gather. Each home also has a landscaping allowance to enhance your own yard as well.

Our new construction homes come with complete plans, but can be customized to your style, needs and desires. Building plans show specs for standard features, from room layouts to decorative details like granite counter tops, wood trim and flooring. And, you can make additions and trade up to higher-grade materials within your budget.

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