Harriet Moody

The Moody sisters, Harriet and Mildred, made a unique contribution to Santa Barbara’s built environment. They chose to respond to illustrations from a collection of English fairytales rather than to the prevailing Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. Harriet Moody was the architect while Mildred painted and decorated the cottages. English Cottage style is a unique and personal interpretation of English Vernacular architecture of the sixteenth through the seventeenth centuries. Among her surviving commissions are six houses on Rosemary Lane, a cluster of houses on Periwinkle Lane, the former studio of her sister, Mildred, on Coast Village Road, and a house at 2207 Alameda Padre Serra. Moody often incorporated salvaged materials from older estates into her buildings. Her modestly sized houses emphasized picturesque qualities and handcrafted details. The popularity of her designs was a testament to the continued vigor of period revival architecture in Santa Barbara during the late 1930s through the mid-1940s, a period most noted for the rise of less traditional architectural forms influenced by Modernism. Designing thirty-five homes, true to the English country cottage style, Harriet and Mildred sustained the architectural practice for which the sisters are best known. While working in local government, Harriet participated in the City’s reconstruction after the 1925 earthquake and observed its resurrection in a Spanish Colonial Revival architectural theme. The Moody sisters often incorporated salvaged materials from older estates into their buildings. Their modestly sized houses emphasized picturesque qualities and handcrafted details. The popularity of their designs was a testament to the continued vigor of period revival architecture in Santa Barbara during the late 1930s through the mid-1940s, a period most noted for the rise of less traditional architectural forms influenced by Modernism.