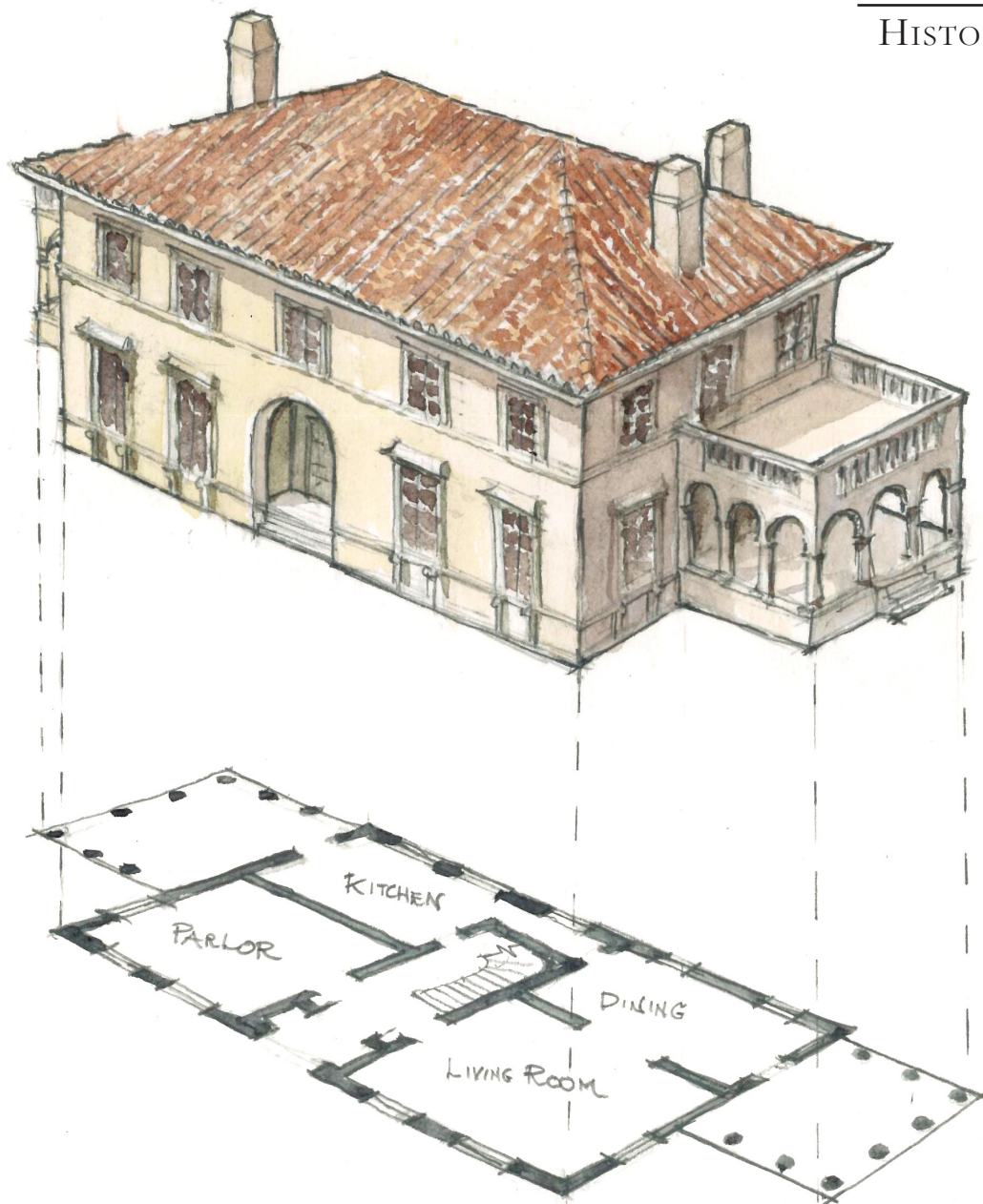


ITALIAN MEDITERRANEAN

HISTORIC RESOURCES • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA



INTRODUCTION

An important part of Santa Barbara's architecture, the Italian Mediterranean pre-dates the Spanish Colonial Revival and was key to Santa Barbara's spirit as the new American Riviera. Having both a climate and geography similar to the coastal hill-towns of the Italian Riviera, Santa Barbara embraced the Italian Villa as architecture and garden design well suited to the Santa Barbara lifestyle.



One of Santa Barbara's finest examples of the Italian Mediterranean style commercial buildings in downtown is the Masonic Temple on Carrillo Street.

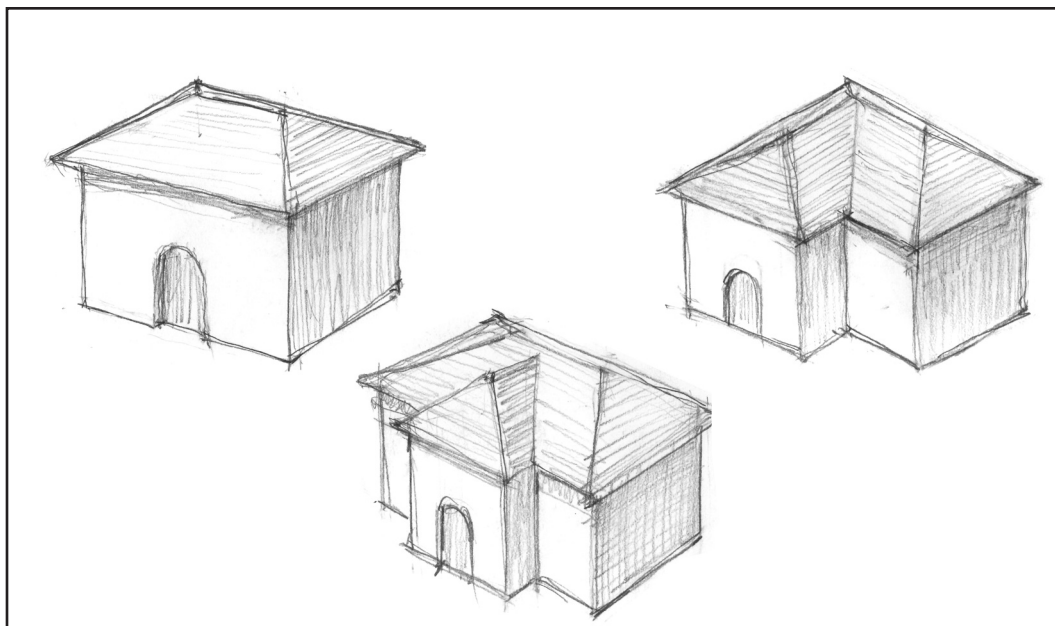


The house in the Upper East Side neighborhood of Santa Barbara captures the Italian Mediterranean symmetrical façade and deeply recessed front entrance.

HISTORY

With increased leisure travel to Europe during the late 1800's and early 1900's, patrons began to request architecture strongly based on particular regions of the Mediterranean. The Italian villa was seen as a perfect model for the American country house, as a counter to the Gothic-related forms of the Queen Anne and Shingle styles. With more advanced printing techniques, as well as carefully studied drawings and photographs, architects were able to base their designs on highly accurate academic books of Italian architecture. This contrasts with the earlier American Italian movement, the Victorian Italianate, whose source was primarily pattern books that were loosely based on Italian models.

In Santa Barbara, Italian Mediterranean fit well with the Mediterranean-like climate and was easily mixed with the growing popularity of Spanish-Mediterranean, as well as the thriving Mission Revival architecture. There are a few examples of commercial Italian Mediterranean style buildings in downtown Santa Barbara, as well as many large homes in the Upper East neighborhood and on the Riviera.

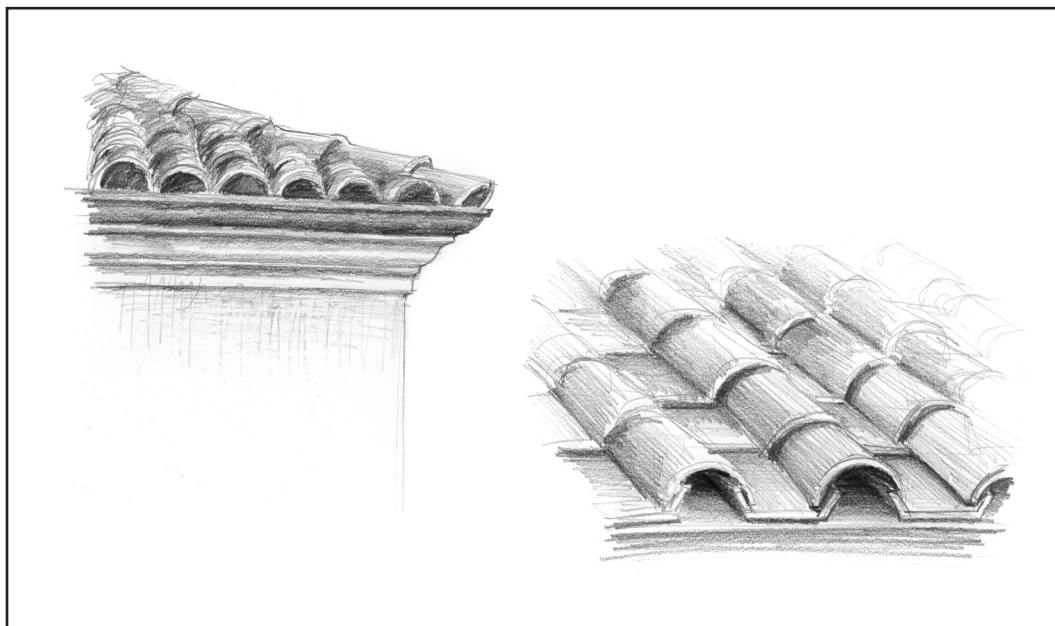


MASSING & OVERALL FORM

The general form of the Italian Mediterranean house/villa is a rectangular or square box, two stories tall, with a hipped roof. These tend to be of three types: the simple rectangular box shape with centrally located entrance; the rectangular box with projecting mass(es); and an asymmetrical form.

CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

Roof, Cornice and Eave Details: The roof of the Italian Mediterranean house shows its connection to the other Mediterranean styles while differentiating itself as Italian in origin. Low sloped with a hipped roof, the roof is distinguished from the Spanish Colonial Revival by using Roman pan and barrel terra-cotta roof tiles, rather than the Spanish barrel and barrel. The Roman pan is a long, flat tile, with ridges on either side. The barrel tiles then sit on top of the pans. The transition from wall to roof treatment features boxed in eaves with a classical cornice rather than open rafter tails. The cornice often includes large brackets like the Victorian Italianate style.



Porch Columns: The recessed, shallow entrance area is typically accentuated by classical columns or pilasters, often of the Tuscan order, that flank the shallow entrance. The portico has single arch or a series of arches making an arcade.

Doors: Since the style has a strong adherence to order and symmetry, the Italian Mediterranean entrance is centrally located with an opening above the entrance in the full second floor that is flanked by symmetrical openings in a symmetrical arrangement of rectangular openings on either side of an arched opening.

Windows: Elaborate windows are on the first floor with more simplified window patterns on the second floor. Italian Mediterranean windows are paired, true-divided light, wood casement windows with no trim as they sit deeply recessed in the stucco wall.

Dormers: There may be small hipped dormers symmetrically placed on the roof.

Wall Materials: In Santa Barbara, Italian Mediterranean walls are stucco and never wood siding to differentiate them from the Italianate. Other decorative features include quoins and belt courses that divide the plaster walls.

