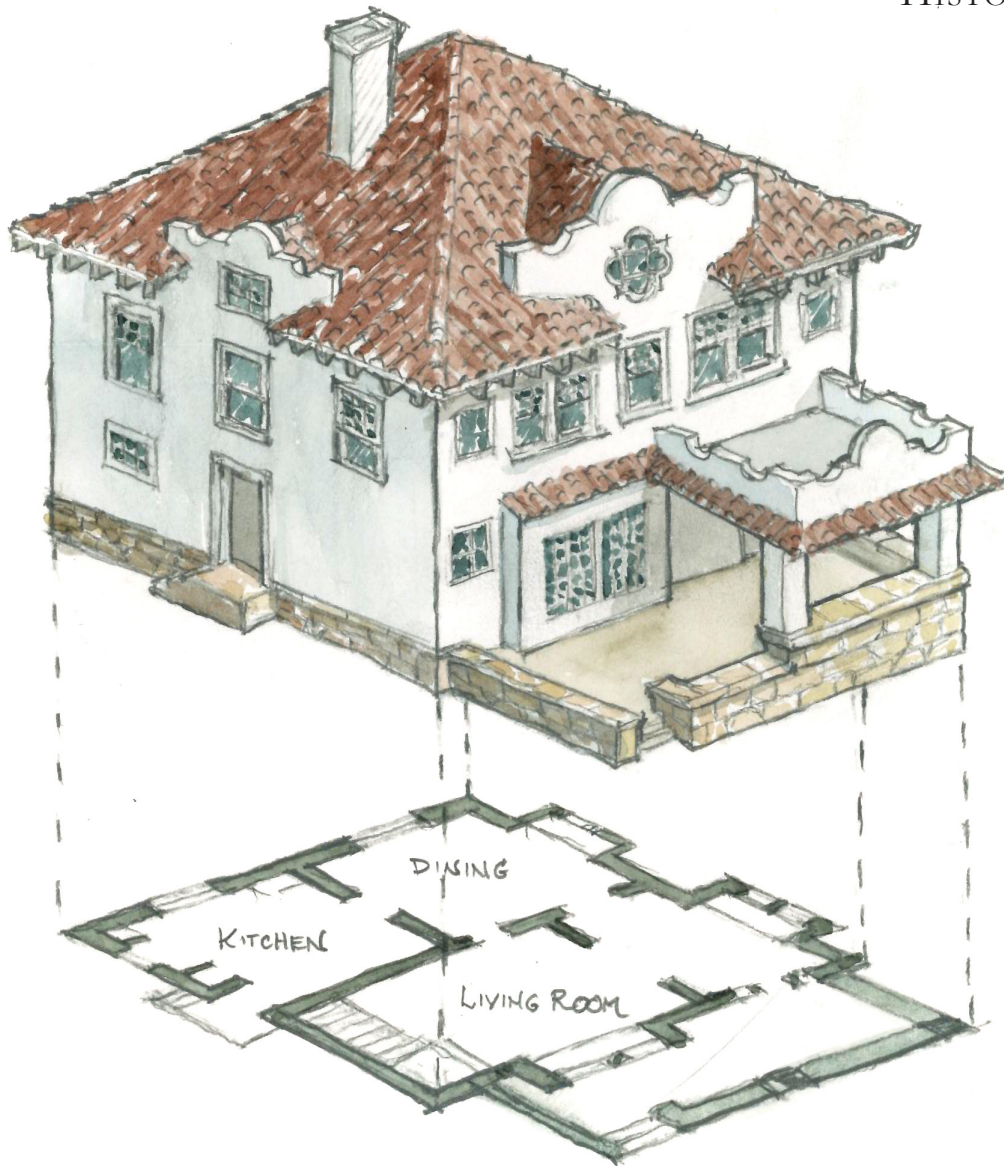


# MISSION REVIVAL

HISTORIC RESOURCES • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA



## INTRODUCTION

Enthused for the early roots of California, a movement to restore and protect the Missions spread throughout the state in the later part of the 1800's. Mission Revival architecture was born. Harkening to the missions with plaster walls, tile roofs and, of course, prominent mission gables, this style took a decisive stance as it honored California's past. Although rooted in church architecture, Mission Revival carried the forms of the Missions to everything from train stations to simple residential homes.



*Santa Barbara Train Station constructed in 1901 is a Mission Revival building that greeted visitors to the charming city that reflects so much of its Colonial and Mexican heritage with its distinctive Mission style parapet and sheltering arcade.*



*The Mission style of Santa Barbara's Crocker Row on the 2000 block of Garden Street demonstrate Mission shaped parapets, smooth stucco walls, wide overhanging eaves and red tile roofs.*



## HISTORY

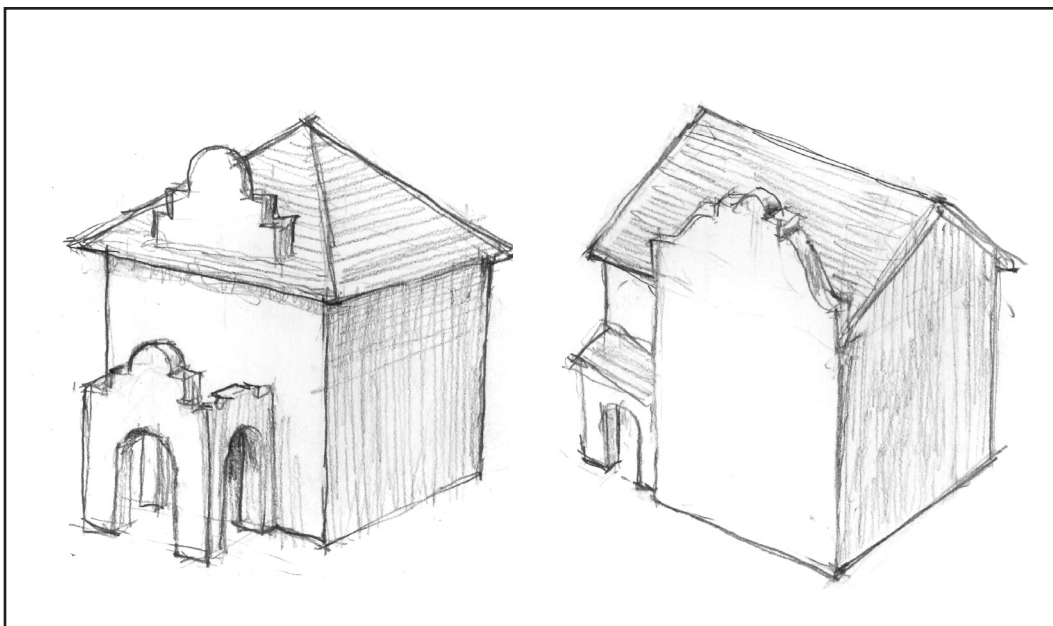
Influential architects like Arthur Page Brown and Arthur Benton championed the style by bringing Mission elements into their designs. Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition saw the California building designed as a Mission Revival building. By the mid 1890's, Mission Revival architecture was in full flight.

Its popularity soared, especially in the southwest. Hotels across the region began building in Mission Revival style. The Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Railroads built their train stations in the new style. Great works of Californian architecture like the Mission Inn in Riverside and the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse in Los Angeles were built in this style.

A huge hit in California, Mission Revival architecture soon spread across the nation. Enthused with a newfound love of Early California, architects of the late 19th and early 20th centuries looked to the southwest icons of early Spanish architecture, the Missions.

In Santa Barbara, buildings such as the train station helped give Mission Revival architecture a strong presence in the City. A wonderful series of Mission Revival houses in Santa Barbara is the famous Crocker Row on 2000 block of Garden Street, designed by renowned architect Arthur Page Brown.



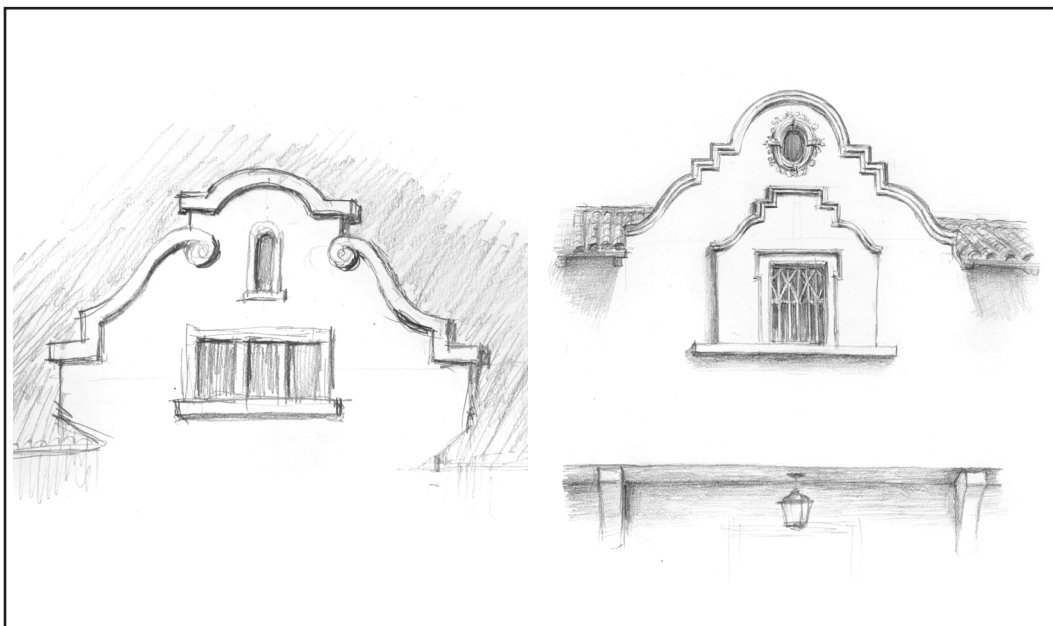


## MASSING & OVERALL FORM

The massing of the Mission Revival building is usually two or more stories tall with a low-sloped hip roof. It has either a symmetrical or an asymmetrical façade. The symmetrical type may be either square or rectangle in plan.

The other type has an asymmetrical façade. Often, this asymmetrical façade is applied to a simple rectangle or square plan. The asymmetrical façade can also be used as part of a more complex, asymmetrical plan.

## CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES



**Parapet and Eave Details:** The strongest and most important Mission Revival characteristic is the Mission parapet. Based on the rounded parapets of Missions such as Mission San Diego Alcalá, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, the Mission parapet celebrates the early Spanish roots of California and the Southwestern States. The Mission Revival residences are known for the wide overhanging eaves.

**Roofs:** Red, terra-cotta tile roofs were important elements of the Mission style. Made of individual Spanish red clay barrel tile, Mission Revival chose a roof material that expressed the inspiration of its form. Additional features of Mission Revival architecture include visor roofs (thin strips of roof tile which cantilever off a wall) and bell towers on the roof.

**Porches (Arcades):** Rather than the covered wood porches of the Victorian era and Craftsman style buildings, front entries are sometimes behind small arched portico or open arcades with arched openings that are defined by simple, large, wide columns. The arcade was reborn in Mission Revival architecture; in public architecture such as the train station, it became a sheltering walkway, while in the private dwelling, it became the porch.

**Doors:** Doors are often wide or paired wood plank or paneled doors. Doors and doorways are often distinguished by an arch. Decorative divided-light glazing is often in main entry doors as well as doors that are flanked by sidelights.

**Windows:** Decorative windows, such as four-sided quatrefoils and three-sided trefoils are often used in the Mission Revival upper story or in the parapet. Originally, these windows were simply openings for venting heat from the upper portion of the building. Eventually, they were enclosed with glass and became decorative features of the Mission Revival style. Other windows often had arched openings, wood frames and casings with double-hung sash and sometimes intricately divided lights in the upper sash. Windows are recessed at the wall plane with a stucco return and no trim.

**Dormers:** Dormers were common on the hipped shaped roofs of the Mission Revivals.

**Wall Material:** Smooth stucco nearly always adorn the walls of Mission Revival buildings, sometimes with various minor plaster or stone decorative elements.

