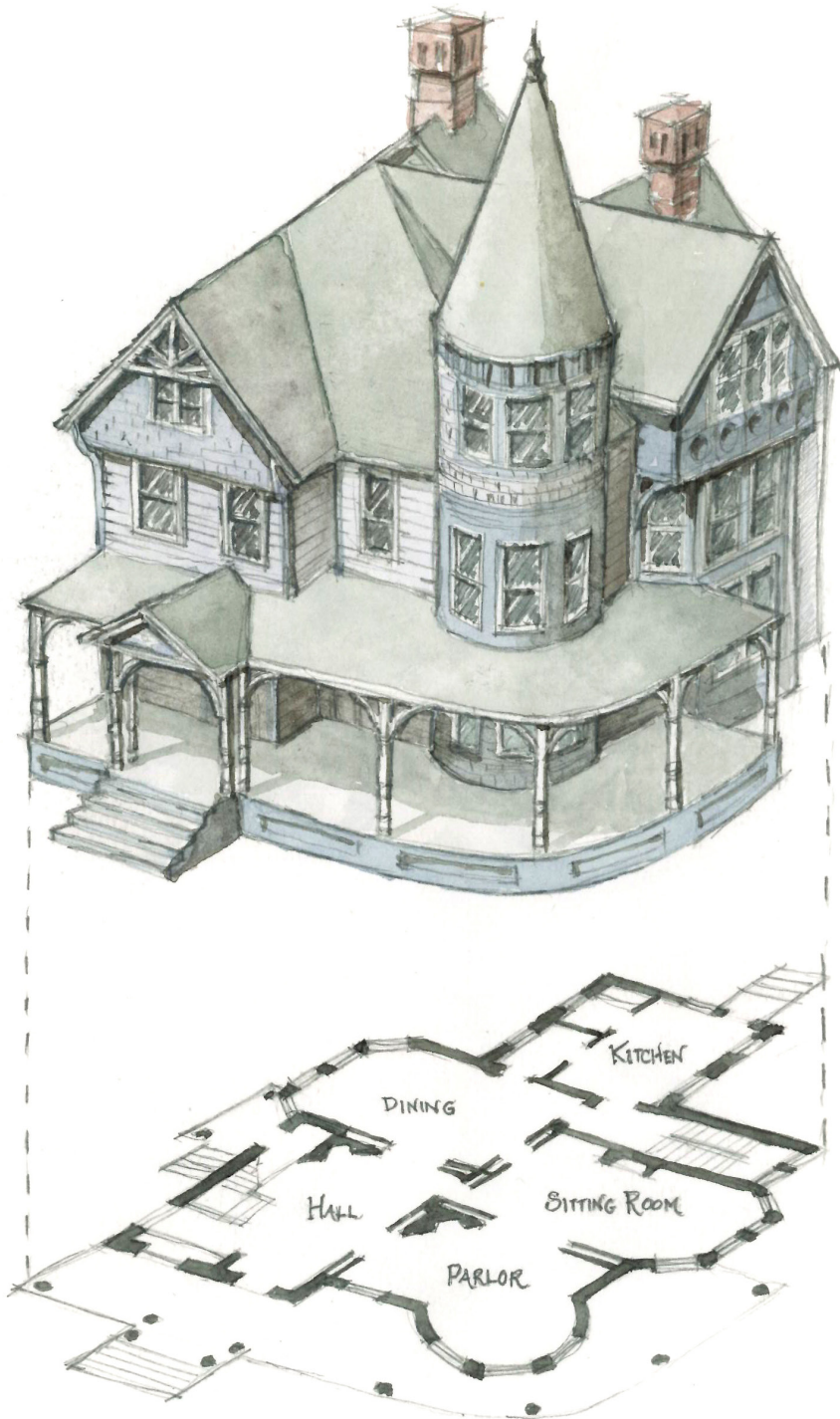


QUEEN ANNE

HISTORIC RESOURCES • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA



INTRODUCTION

Few styles of architecture allow for the exuberant level of detail found in the Queen Anne style. The culmination of Victorian taste, this style shows the eclectic range found in the new era and the ability for manufacturers of the time to distribute these details throughout the country. Thanks to these factors, a variety of ornate columns, spindle work, and elaborate shingles adorn Queen Anne houses.



Santa Barbara's Lower West Side neighborhood features Queen Annes with ornate detailing in the peak of the front gable, round and polygonal towers, decorative brackets under the porch overhanging eaves, and numerous variations of shingle patterns.

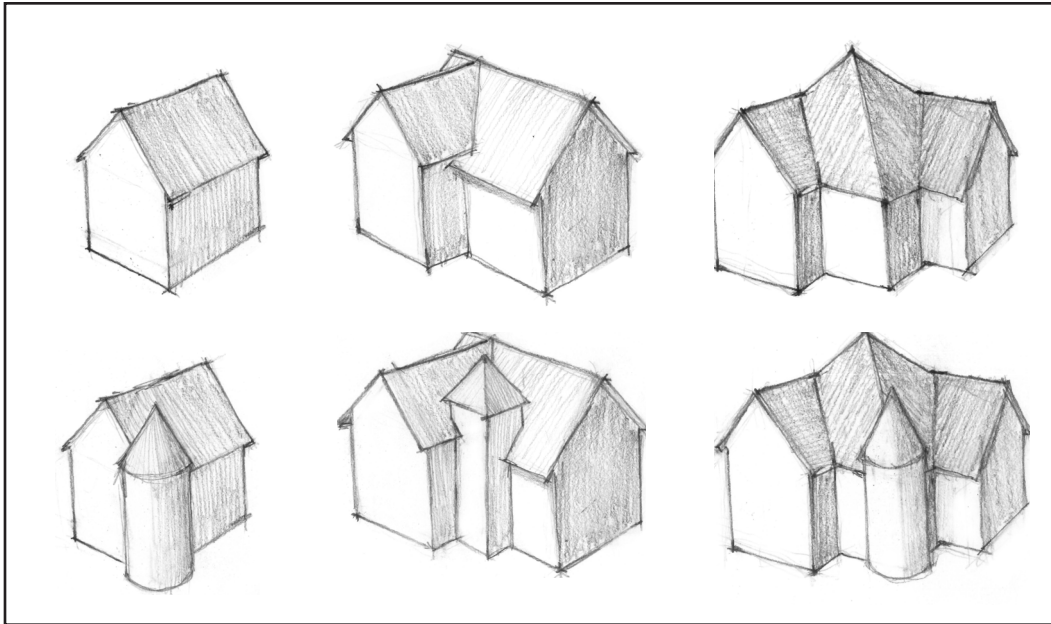
HISTORY

Queen Anne architecture was born in the later part of the Victorian era which included Gothic Revival, Italianate, Stick, and Second Empire styles. In the 1870s, in England, architect Richard Norman Shaw introduced the Queen Anne residential design. It was intended to evoke domestic architecture of some 200 years earlier. The British public loved it.

In the United States, our own first centennial was then approaching and at the huge Philadelphia Centennial Exhibit in 1876, two model houses were built in the Queen Anne style. Americans immediately took to the style. Massively popular in America, Queen Anne spread across the nation at a rapid pace. Much of its success was due to its affordable wood construction (as opposed to the stone and brick of its contemporary, the Romanesque style), as well as its adaptability.

Although it had little to do with its name-sake Anne of Great Britain (1665-1714), Queen Anne architecture did look to the past. Whether it was ancient Rome with its swags, garlands, and high-classical columns, or its richly patterned walls of the earlier High Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne combined a wide variety of architecture features into one decorative whole.

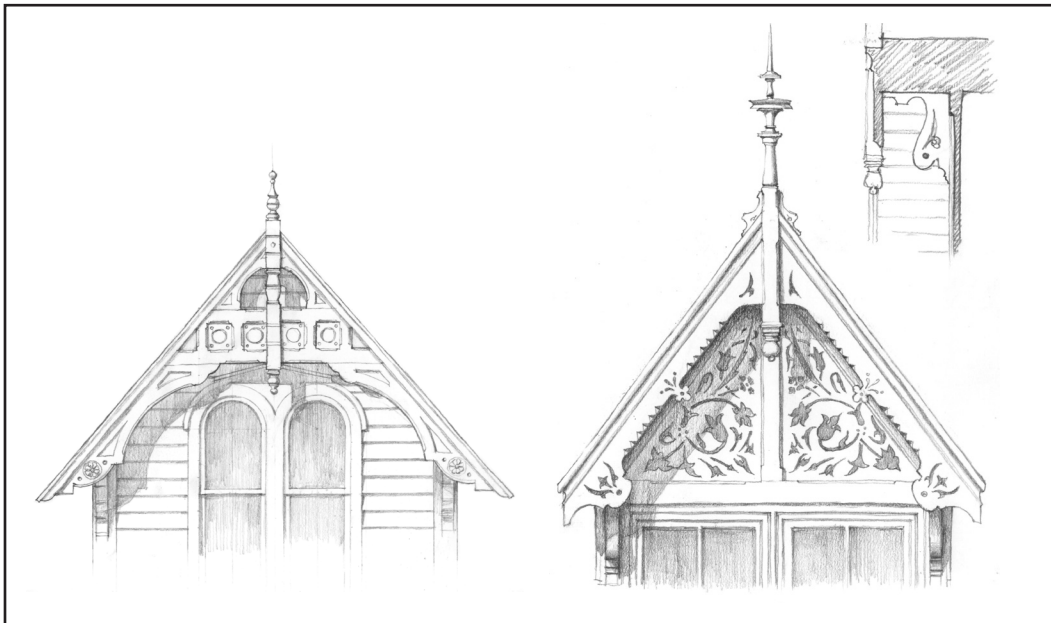
Santa Barbara's Lower and Upper West Side neighborhoods, running along Chapala, De La Vina and Bath Streets, are dotted with elegant Queen Anne residential architecture.



MASSING & OVERALL FORM

The asymmetrical massing of Queen Anne houses comes in three basic forms: the stand-alone front-facing gable; the cross-gabled roof form; and the most complex and most popular, the hipped roof with lower cross-gables. In all of its forms, the pitch of the gable roof remained steep (5:12 or greater), adding to the building's height and overall grandeur.

Queen Anne houses frequently had towers or turrets attached to a corner. The towers are round, polygonal or square. Some towers rise from the ground level while others are cantilevered off of the second floor. Later examples of Queen Anne towers are so integrated into the house that they appear to be extensions of the house.



CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

Gable, Cornice and Eave Details: The expressive gable is adorned with elaborate patterns and topped with turned finials; summarizing the décor of the building. The triangular shape of the gable is filled with interesting patterns, relief decoration, or a fanciful vent. Intricate bargeboards stand proudly forward to complete the gable.

Porch Columns: Porch columns and balustrades are elaborate and turned with ornate spandrels and spindle work at the top. Extensive one-story porches are often echoed in second-story porches that project or recess to further give contrast in the composition of the facade.

Doors: Glass is an elaborate feature of the main entrance door with beveled, etched, and stained glass appearing in doors, sidelights, and transoms. A single large pane of glass is usually set into the upper portion of a door with delicately carved detailing on the door itself.

Windows: Windows are typically double-hung wood, one-over-one panes. The more decorative variety have large panes surrounded by small rectangular panes that are sometimes beveled and stained. Curved turrets have unique curved glass.

Dormers: The picturesque quality is achieved through an intricate roofline silhouette of dormers, high chimneys, towers, turrets and pinnacles. Roofs are punctuated with dormers in a variety of shapes and sizes and echo the rich gingerbread and scroll-work found in the gable ends.

Wall Materials: Elaborate wood shingle patterns ranging from diamond, to rectangular, to fish scale shapes adorn the walls.

