

San Diego's Architectural Timeline

1542 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sails into San Diego Bay & names it San Miquel.

1602 Don Sebastian Viscaino enters harbor and names it San Diego de Alcala.

1600-1820 mission architecture which was reinterp in CA by untrained priests who mixed elements of neo-classical orders with Churrigueresque style and vernacular architectural traditions of native homes in Spain

1600-1840 Spanish Colonial Architecture influenced by terrain/materials; homes were long, low one-story, constructed of thick stone/adobe; low pitch gabled roof became popular option

1769 Spanish build Presidio; Father Serra arrives

1769-1848 Mission Colonial Period

1800 1st American ship arrives

1822 Mexico becomes an empire; San Diego becomes Mexican. Old Town begins as scattered houses at base of Presidio Hill.

1830's Mexico secularized mission lands; earnest settlement begins, Spanish Colonial architecture flourishes

1850's Spanish Colonial traditions exposed/combined with anglo architectural traditions, soon fusion of Spanish Colonial with New England Colonial Revival called "Monterey" which popularized a second story; elements such as wood for siding, balustrades, colonial columns paired windows for shutters, paneled doors, and décor treatments, Americans attracted to CA

1850 Charles P. Noell builds the 1st all wood house using pre-fab pieces brought around the horn. Andrew B. Gray and William Heath Davis start New Town. Middletown is started by Oliver S. Witherby, Cave Couts, etc.

1851 Davis puts up his pre-fab house in New Town

1853 People leave New Town for Old Town, name becomes Davis' Folly.

1867 Alonzo E. Horton arrives/decides to move to town; buys Horton's Addition 10 days later/establishment of New Town

1868 Matthew Sherman buys Sherman's Addition; 1400 acres put aside for city park; Nash opens 1st store in Horton's New Town; New San Diego Hotel opens

1869 3000 people in New Town; stage office moves to New Town; Henry J. Johnston buys 60 acres of Inspiration Heights; Establishment of New Town

1870 "San Diego Union" moves to New Town; County Supervisors move offices to New Town; Horton House opens; 1st clerk is George Marston

1875 1st water reservoir opened in University Heights

1881 San Diego Gas Co. organizes

1882 San Diego telephone organizes

1883 Irving Gill arrives marking the start of the modern era in San Diego

1885 1st transcontinental train arrives in SD; national fascination with Spanish architectural heritage led to several revivals of Spanish influenced architecture into the 20th century

1887 peak of railway boom; Gaslamp is built as business district of SD; Golden Hill named by Daniel Schulyer & Erastus Bartless. Jesse Shepard arrives for building of Villa Montezuma. Sarah J. Cox builds 1st house in Mission Hills w/parts of father's steamship S.S.Orizaba in the structure

1900 CA becomes part of the Union, Spanish architectural heritage romanticized on a national level from the Santa Fe RR Co. & Helen Jackson Hunt's "Romona"

1915 Panama California Exposition/Fair

1890-1920 romanization of the Mission architecture flourished; simplistic in form; a/symmetrical; 1-2 stories; additional décor elements with Mission Revival Style, quatrefoil windows and tiles/cast terracotta

1895 Golden Hill becomes the neighborhood to live in

1900-1920's Greene & Greene Bungalow/Mission

1901 Gustave Stickley begins publishing "Craftsman Magazine;" which started the Craftsman movement; movement in CA was centered in Pasadena

1906-14 transitional period where emphasis is on the horizontal as opposed to the vertical, an eclectic transition mixing many styles, Southern CA depended more upon the inventiveness of architect/builder as standard materials used abroad were not readily available, also see beginnings of Art Deco and Modernism in use of geometric forms

1903 Kate Sessions moves her nursery to Mission Hills

1908 John D. Spreckles provides streetcar service to Mission Hills; George Marston starts Mission Hills

1910 Frank Lloyd Wright's MidWestern Prairie School style becomes popular.

1915 short-lived but great impacting resurgence for Spanish colonial architecture when buildings from Panama Exhibition broke away from Neoclassicism, introduced Spanish Colonial Revival to the general public

1916 Irving Gill published landmark article in Craftsman magazine called Home for the Future: The New Architecture of the West

1917 World War I, after WWI Spanish influenced architecture wanted on the national level

1915-1940 Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture usually rectilinear/multilevel; décor more intricate, wrought iron, close relation to outdoors with French doors open to terraces; Spanish Eclectic Style represents through varied décor elements; fountains and arcaded walks become important

1923 R.M.Schindler designs Pueblo Ribera in La Jolla

1930 Art Deco becomes popular; example is the State Theatre & Ford Building in Balboa Park

1935 California Pacific International Expo opens Balboa Park

1939-1945 World War II; Lloyd Rucco led post-WWII modernism movement; San Diego continues to grow at a very fast pace

1950's Design Center on 5th Avenue by Lloyd Ruocco; Homer Delawie led modernism into 50's & 60's

1954 Establishment of U of SD

1961 Mission Valley Development

1964 Mission Bay Development

1964 U of California San Diego

1966 Salk Institute in La Jolla designed by Louis I. Kahn; Deems/Lewis, Leonard Veitzer, Tucker, Sadler carried modernism into 60's & 70's

1969 Sherman-Gilbert house moved to Heritage Park by SOHO; Coronado Bridge is commissioned & built