LOUISIANA ARTS & CRAFTS

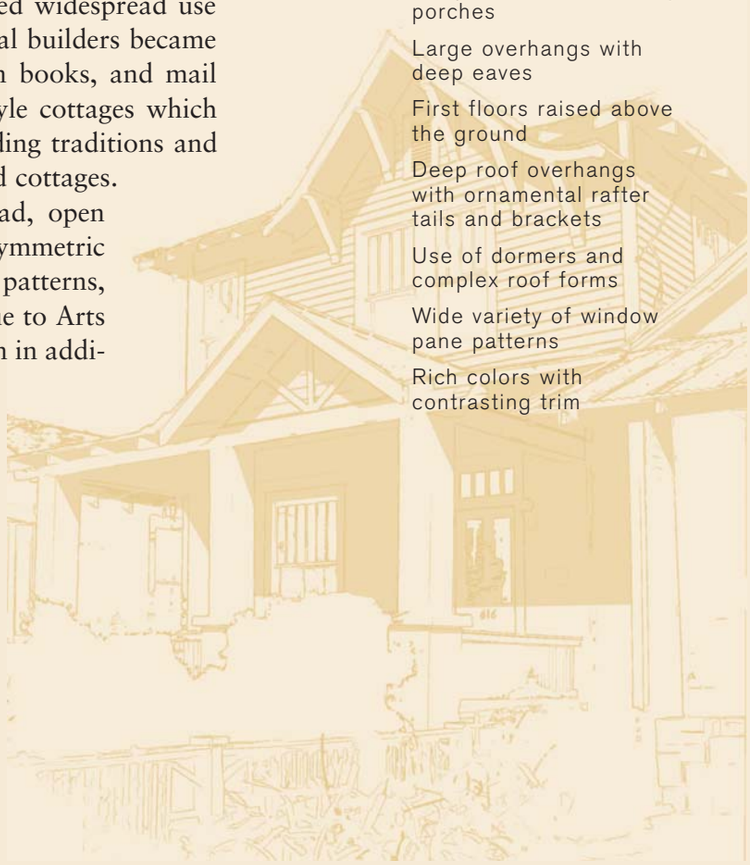
The Arts & Crafts movement, which began in England in the late 19th century, espoused a simple decorative expression of structural elements and the use of natural materials which builders found suitable for both estate and cottage homes.

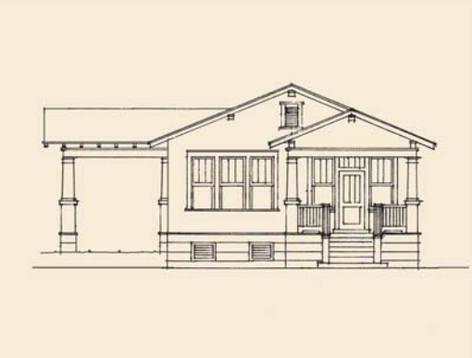
Known as the Craftsman style in the United States, it enjoyed widespread use throughout the country in the early twentieth century. Many local builders became familiar with it through the publication of pattern books, plan books, and mail order catalogs. Louisiana is home to many small Craftsman-style cottages which were created by adapting the elements of the style to local building traditions and applying them to local building types such as shotgun houses and cottages.

The Louisiana Arts & Crafts style is characterized by broad, open porches, roofs with deep overhangs and exposed rafter tails, asymmetric compositions, grouped windows with a variety of upper muntin patterns, expressive trim, and ornamental brackets. One trait that is unique to Arts & Crafts houses in this region is the use of a more vertical column in addition to the shorter and wider columns used in other regions.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Deep one- and two-story porches
- Large overhangs with deep eaves
- First floors raised above the ground
- Deep roof overhangs with ornamental rafter tails and brackets
- Use of dormers and complex roof forms
- Wide variety of window pane patterns
- Rich colors with contrasting trim





GALLERY OF EXAMPLES

Baton Rouge

Photo courtesy of Jay Edwards

New Orleans

Baton Rouge—Spanishtown

Lake Charles

New Orleans

Baton Rouge—Spanishtown

Baton Rouge—Spanishtown

Baton Rouge—Spanishtown

Lake Charles

MASSING & COMPOSITION

ARTS & CRAFTS MASSING

NARROW FRONT

- >> One- to two-story mass
- >> Hip or gable roof with 5 in 12 to 8 in 12 roof pitch
- >> Ridge line of roof runs perpendicular to entrance facade
- >> Includes shotgun & double shotgun

SIDE GABLE

- >> One- to one-and-one-half-story mass
- >> Gable roof with 4 in 12 to 8 in 12 roof pitch
- >> Ridge line of roof runs parallel to entrance facade
- >> Occasionally occurs as two-story mass

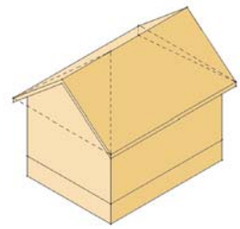
FACADE COMPOSITION

- >> Asymmetrical yet balanced placement of doors and windows
- >> Windows are often grouped in pairs and multiples to create larger openings.
- >> Entrance doors are typically under porches.

MASSING COMBINATIONS

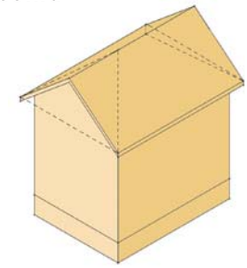
- >> Larger living space forms may be created by combining side and/or rear wings with the main body.
- >> Gabled, hipped, or shed dormers may be added to introduce light into half-story and attic spaces.
- >> The architectural character of the attached elements should match that of the main body.

NARROW FRONT MASSING



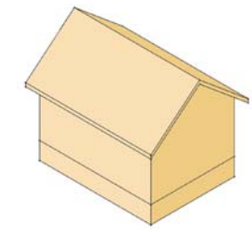
1- to 1½-story Narrow Front

NARROW FRONT MASSING



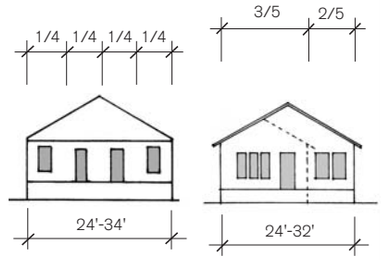
2-story Narrow Front

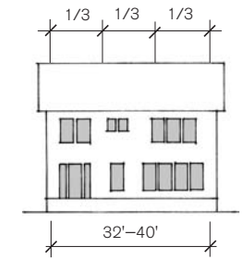
SIDE GABLE MASSING



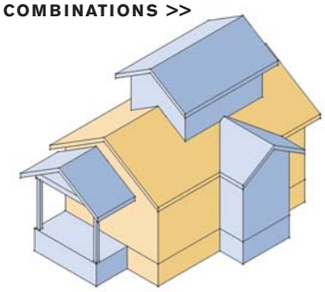
1- to 1½-Story Side Gable

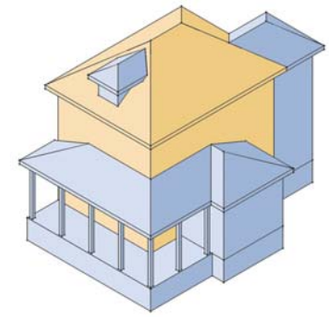
FACADE COMPOSITION DIAGRAMS >>





POSSIBLE MASSING COMBINATIONS >>





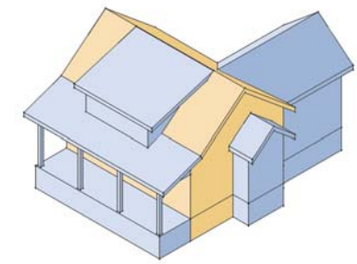


Photo courtesy of Jay Edwards

WALLS, EAVES & ROOFS

WALLS

- >> Typical floor-to-ceiling heights are 9 feet for the first floor and 8 feet for the second floor.
- >> Cladding materials: Smooth-finish wood or fiber-cement lap siding with 4- to 8- inch exposure, random-width cut wood or fiber-cement shingles, light sand-finish stucco
- >> Siding and shingle cladding is mitered at corners or has 4- to 6-inch corner board trim.
- >> Typical base detail has 8- to 10-inch-wide skirting boards.
- >> Foundation walls and piers are typically brick, stucco, or stone veneer; foundation wall vents are centered under windows.

EAVES

- >> Exposed 2 x 8-inch rafter tails cut plumb, 16 to 24 inches on center is by far the most common eave type
- >> Hipped roofs may feature a boxed eave with a continuous fascia and outriggers 24 to 48 inches on center.

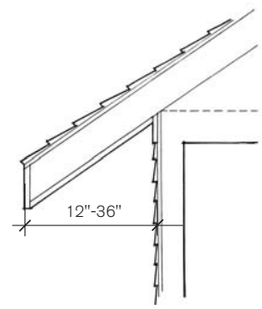
ROOFS

- >> Typically laminated asphalt or composition shingle, occasionally clay tile with flat profile, or 5-V crimp metal panels

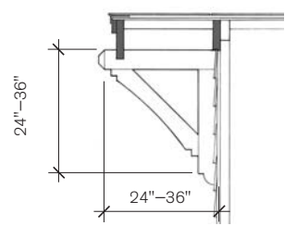
GREEN BUILDING

Ceiling Height
Ceilings higher than the typical 8 feet allow hot air to rise above occupants, thus cooling and increasing human comfort zones. Coupled with larger windows, higher ceilings increase ventilation and circulation. Many older homes have 12-foot ceilings for maximum benefit, but 9- or 10-foot ceilings also enhance comfort.

SIMPLE

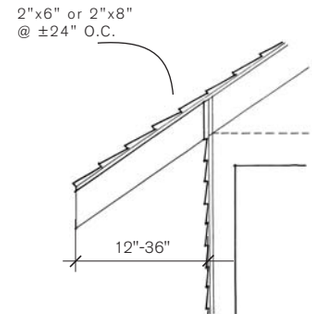


Closed Eave

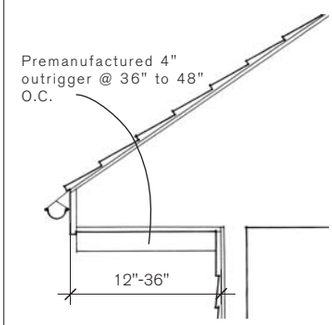


COMMON
Gable End Bracket

COMMON

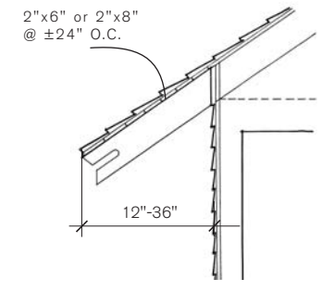


Exposed Rafter Tail

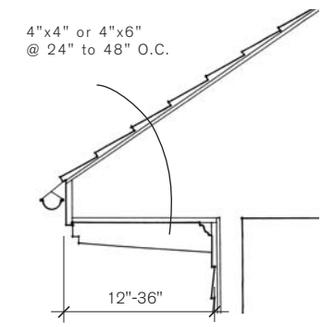


Boxed Eave with Outriggers

ORNATE



Shaped Rafter Tail



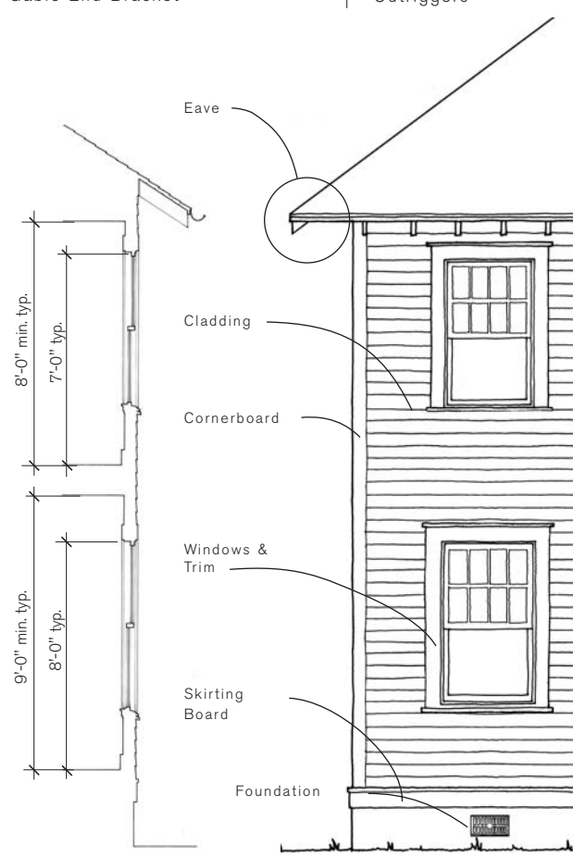
Boxed Eave with Shaped Outriggers

Typical gable end condition

Photo courtesy of Jay Edwards

Boxed eave with shaped outriggers in hipped-roof condition

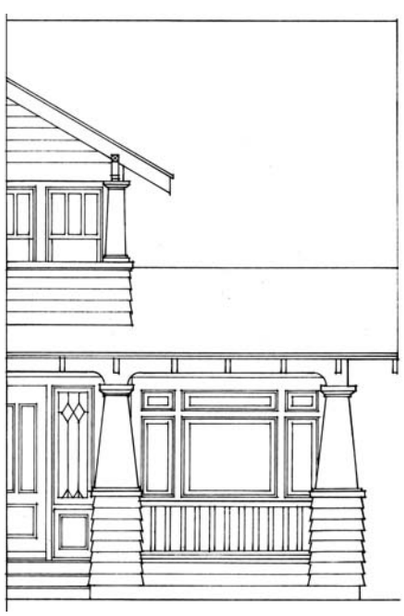
Brick foundation piers



PORCHES

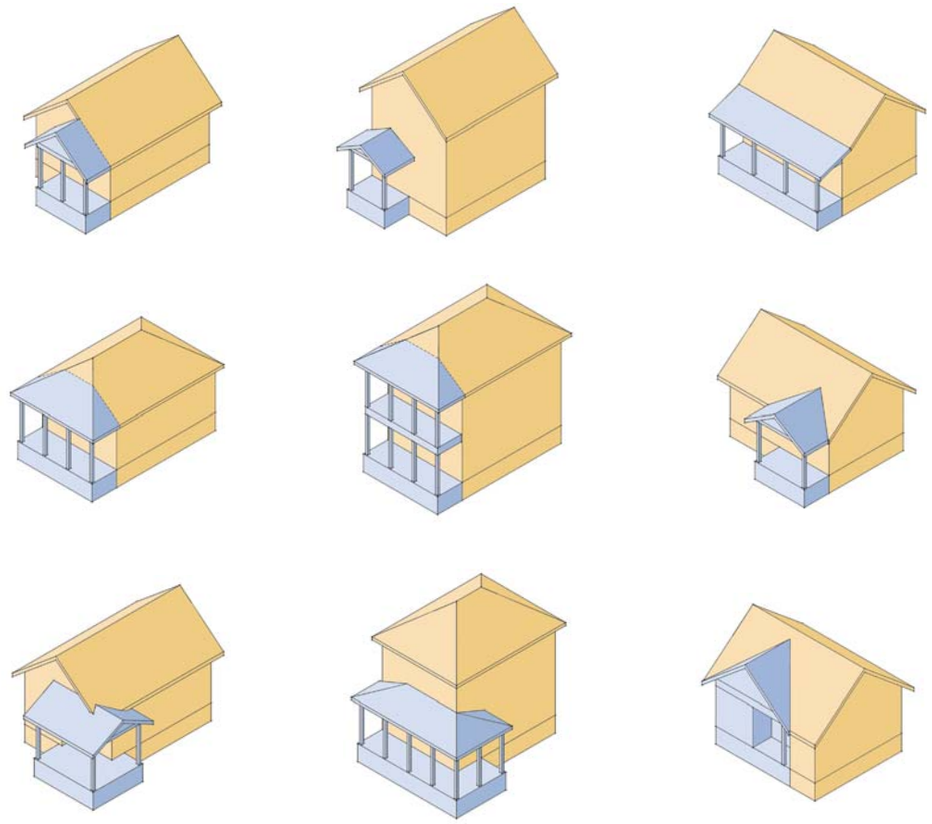
PORCH TYPES & LOCATIONS

- >> Narrow Front massing types, 1- to 1 1/2-stories, may have gable or hip-roofed porches that read as part of the main roof mass, or as separate elements; the porches can run the full length of the facade, or part of it and be symmetrically or asymmetrically placed.
- >> Two-story Narrow Front massing types may have 1- or 2-story porches; porch roof forms typically match main house roof forms; 2-story porches run the full-length of facade and read as part of the main roof mass; single-bay 1-story porches are typically placed asymmetrically on the facade; full-length 1-story porches can wrap past the front facade.
- >> Side Gable massing types may have gable, hip, or shed-roofed porches; often, the porch roof reads as part of the main house roof mass, having the same or shallower roof pitch; gable roof. Porches do not typically run the full length of the facade and can cover a projecting porch, or mark a recessed porch.
- >> Minimum recommended porch depth is 8 feet.
- >> Solid porch walls should be faced in siding, brick, or stucco, if appropriate, and should read as part of a continuous foundation or base treatment.



One-story, engaged porch partial elevation

TYPICAL PORCH TYPES & LOCATIONS >>



1-story Narrow Front

2-story Narrow Front

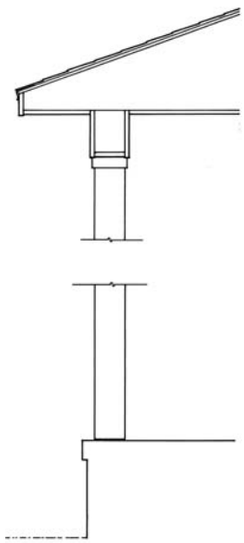
1-story Side Gable

Example of one-story narrow front massing

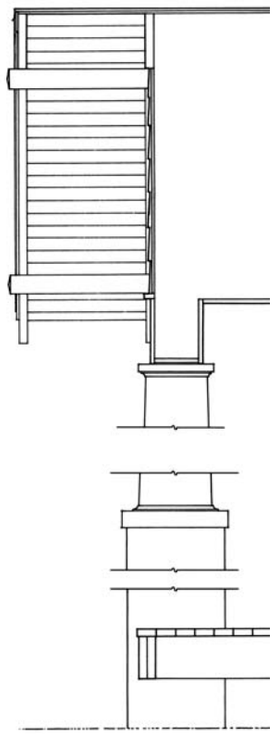
Example of one-story engaged porch

Entry porch on a two-story massing

PORCH SECTIONS >>

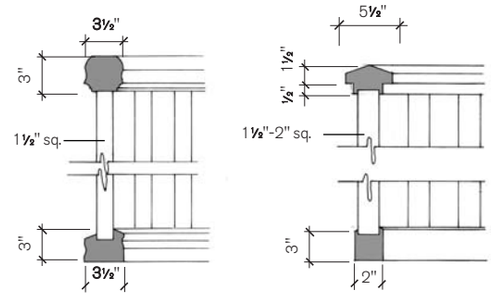


SIMPLE
Hipped Roof



COMMON
Gabled Porch

RAIL DETAILS >>



GREEN BUILDING

Roof Detail
Roofs are the greatest source of potential heat gain to homes, especially during summer months when the path of the midday sun is directly overhead. A light-colored, reflective roof surface is the most effective design strategy to minimize heat gain.

PORCH ROOFS & EAVES

- >> Shed, gabled, or hipped roofs
- >> Gable-end porches are typically designed with expressive structural elements or brackets.
- >> Typical porch slopes range from 4 in 12 to 6 in 12.
- >> Deep eaves often repeating the same rafter or eave treatment as the main house

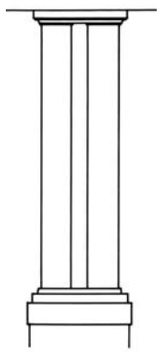
COLUMNS

- >> Post, tapered box, paneled box, or stucco pier
- >> Slender columns and posts, often paired
- >> Columns and posts may be full-height, or partial-height and set on square piers or solid porch walls.
- >> Wood, fiberglass, or composite material with traditional proportions and details

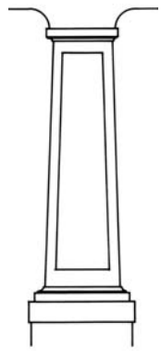
RAILINGS

- >> Wood top and bottom rails with square balusters
- >> Solid rails clad in siding, shingles, stucco, or brick veneer

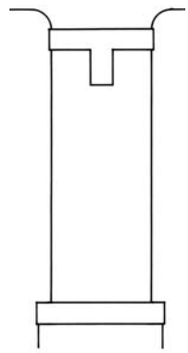
COLUMN TYPES >>



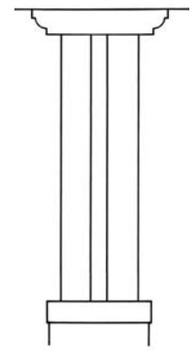
Half-Height Double Post on Pier



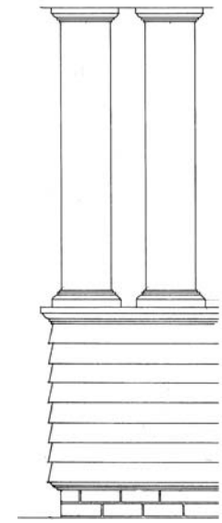
Half-Height Tapered, Paneled Box Column on Pier



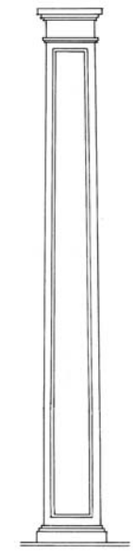
Stucco Pier



Half-Height Double Post on Pier



Half-Height Double Box Column on Solid Rail



Full-Height Paneled Box Column with Entasis

WINDOWS & DOORS

STANDARD WINDOWS

- >> Standard windows are typically double hung and vertical in proportion.
- >> Common muntin patterns are 3 over 1, 4 over 1, 6 over 1, or 9 over 1.
- >> Ornate muntin patterns are occasionally used.
- >> First-floor windows are typically taller than second-floor windows.
- >> Range of sizes:

  Width: 2'-8" to 3'-8"

  Height: 4'-4" to 6'-0"
- >> Materials: Painted wood or solid cellular PVC, or clad wood or vinyl with brick veneer only; true divided light or simulated divided light (SDL) sash with traditional exterior muntin profile (7/8" wide)

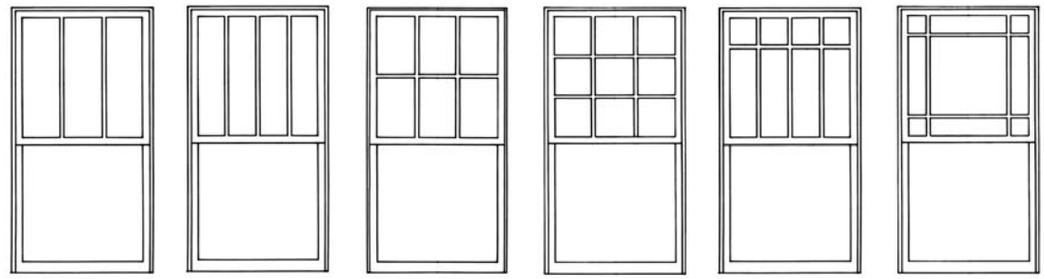
WINDOW ASSEMBLIES & ACCENT WINDOWS

- >> Paired or triple windows, box bay windows supported on wood brackets, and dormers are typical.
- >> Windows are often ganged together in large gabled or shed dormers.
- >> Small accent windows are used in gables and small dormers.

GREEN BUILDING

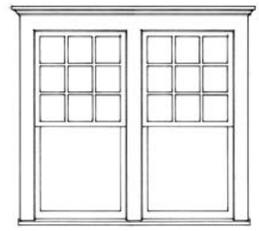
Windows
The type, placement, size, and number of windows are important determinants of energy efficiency and comfort. Larger windows are best on the north and east sides for greater ventilation and day lighting. The size and number of windows should be reduced on the heat-intensive west side. Double-pane, insulated, and Low-E coated windows also mitigate radiant heat gain.

STANDARD WINDOWS >>

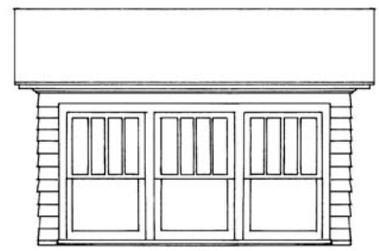


SIMPLE **ORNATE**

WINDOW ASSEMBLIES >>



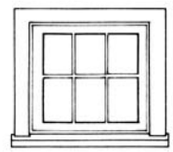
SIMPLE
Double Window



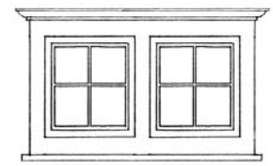
COMMON
Dormer

ORNATE
Box Bay with Triple Window

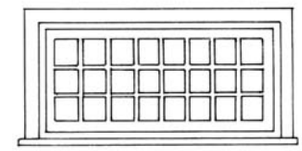
ACCENT WINDOWS >>



SIMPLE



COMMON



ORNATE

DOORS

>> Wood, fiberglass, or steel with traditional stile and rail proportions, panel profiles, and glazing patterns as illustrated below

TRIM

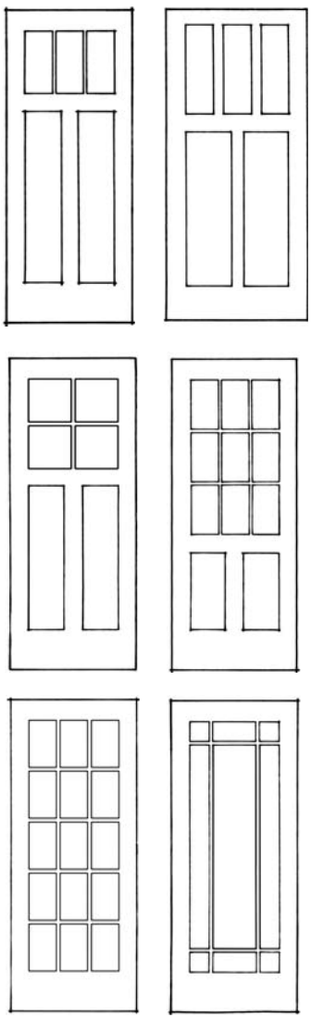
>> Wood, composite, cellular PVC, or polyurethane millwork

SHUTTERS

>> Shutters can be louvered, raised panel, or flat panel.

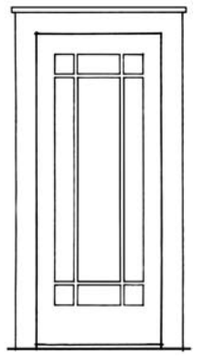
>> Wood or composite, sized to match window sash and mounted with hardware so that they are operable

DOOR TYPES

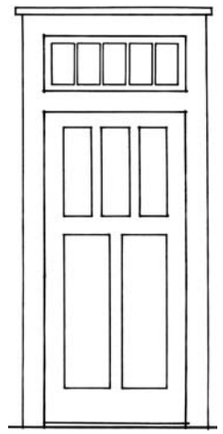


ORNATE

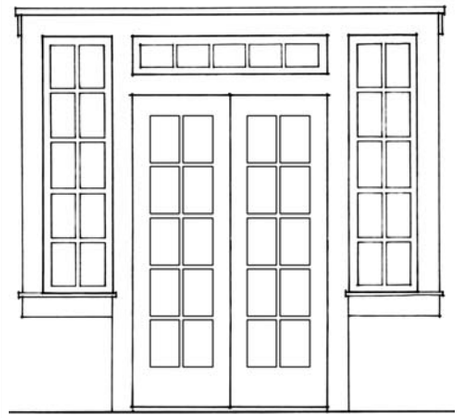
DOOR ASSEMBLIES >>



SIMPLE
Single Door

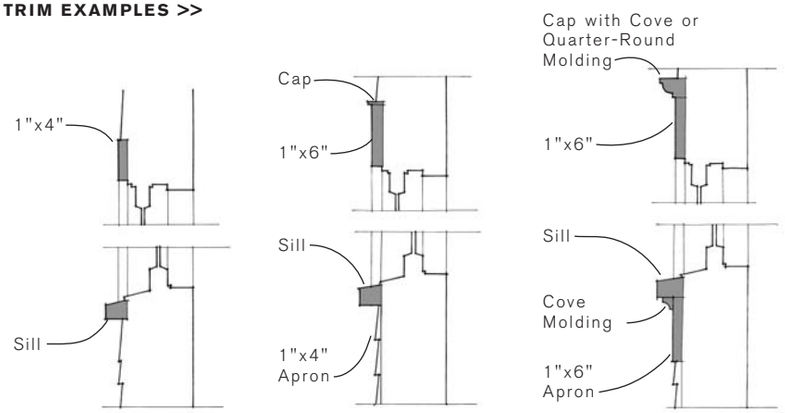


COMMON
Single Door with Transom



ORNATE
Double Door with Transom and Sidelights

TYPICAL TRIM EXAMPLES >>



SIMPLE **COMMON** **ORNATE**