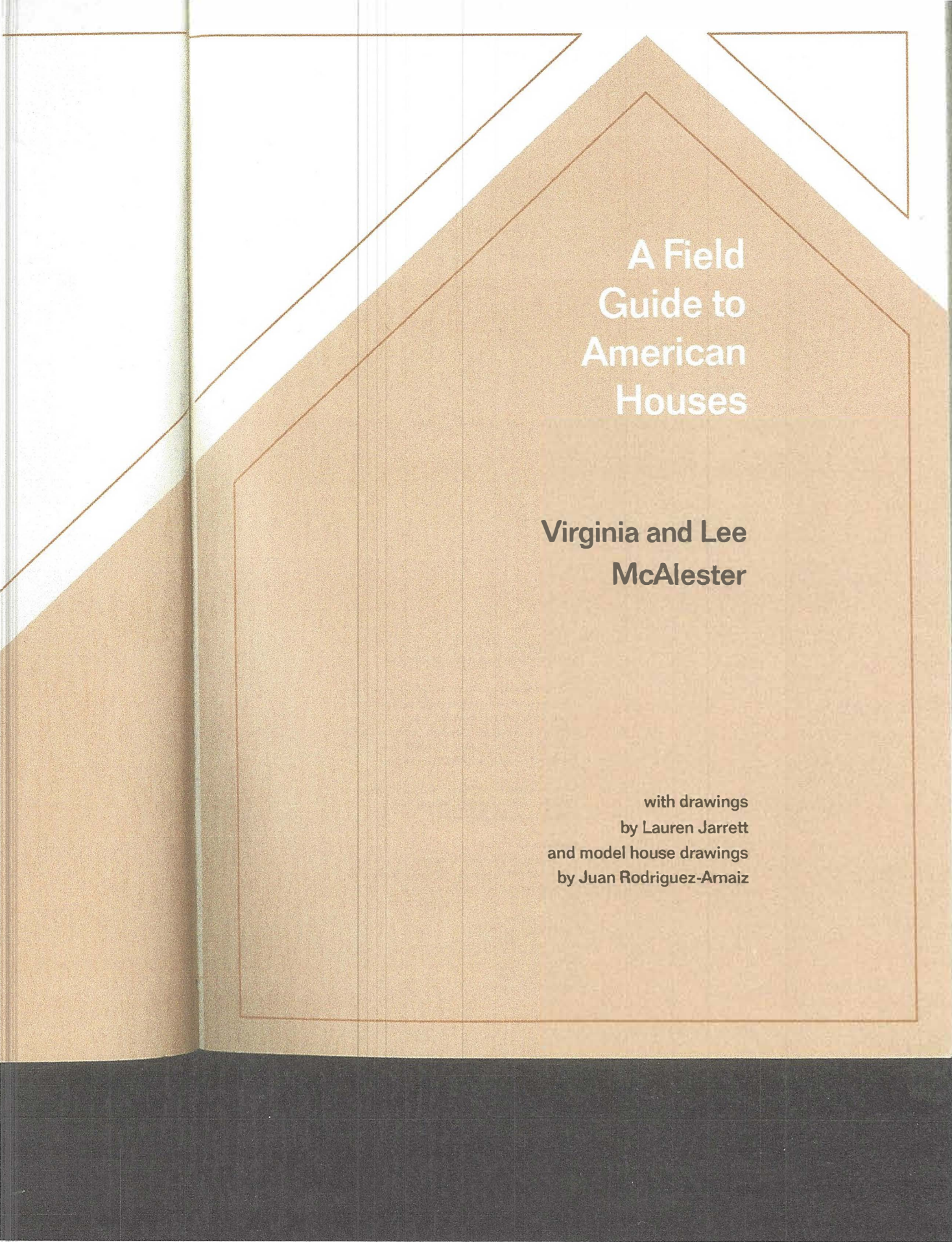


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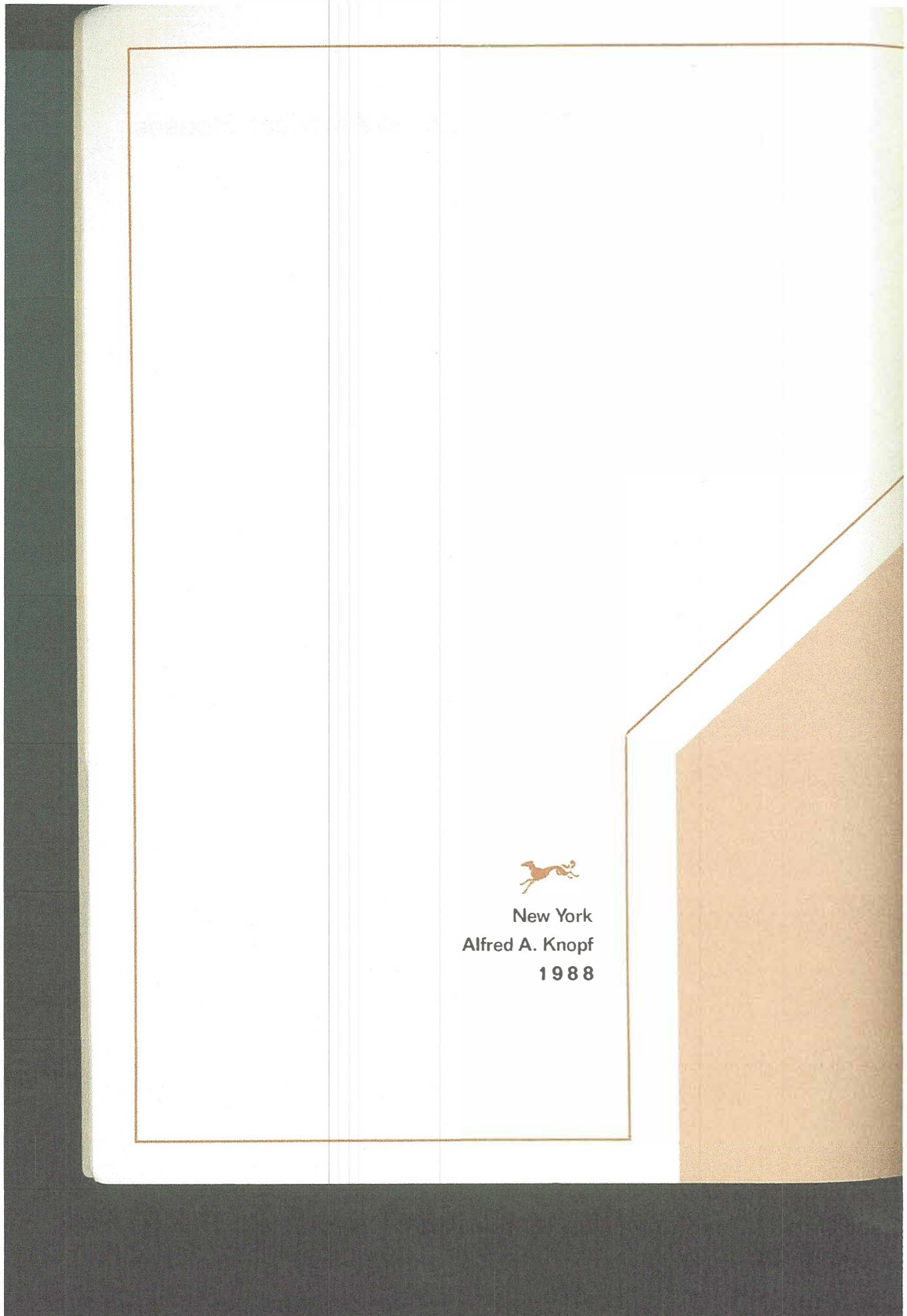


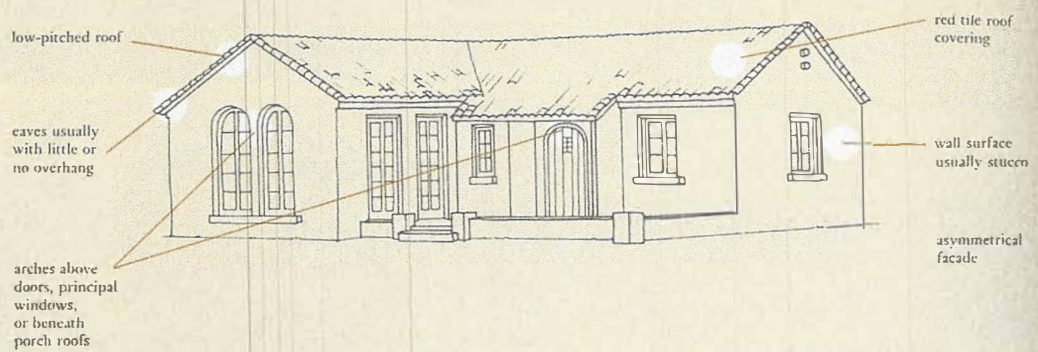
# A Field Guide to American Houses

**Virginia and Lee  
McAlester**

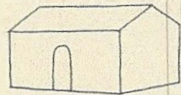
with drawings  
by Lauren Jarrett  
and model house drawings  
by Juan Rodriguez-Amaiz







SIDE-GABLED ROOF



pages 422-3

CROSS-GABLED ROOF



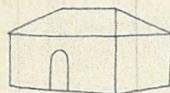
pages 424-5

COMBINED HIPPED-AND-GABLED ROOFS



pages 426-7

HIPPED ROOF



page 428

FLAT ROOF



page 429

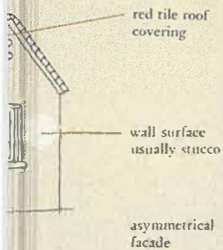
PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES



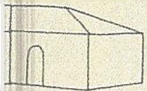
## ECLECTIC HOUSES

## Spanish Eclectic

1915-1940



SIDE-AND-GABLED ROOFS



## IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Low-pitched roof, usually with little or no eave overhang; red tile roof covering; typically with one or more prominent arches placed above door or principal window, or beneath porch roof; wall surface usually stucco; facade normally asymmetrical.

## PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES

Five principal subtypes can be distinguished:

**SIDE-GABLED ROOF**—About 20 percent of Spanish Eclectic houses have side-gabled roofs. Many of these are multi-level with taller, side-gabled sections bounded by lower, side-gabled wings.

**CROSS-GABLED ROOF**—About 40 percent of Spanish Eclectic houses have cross-gabled roofs with one prominent, front-facing gable. These are usually L-plan houses; one-story and two-story forms are both common, as are examples with wings of differing heights.

**COMBINED HIPPED-AND-GABLED ROOFS**—Some landmark examples have rambling, compound plans in which different units have separate roof forms of varying heights arranged in an irregular, informal pattern. Typically both hipped and gabled roofs are used in combination, a pattern which mimics the varied roof forms of Spanish villages.

**HIPPED ROOF**—About 10 percent of Spanish Eclectic houses have low-pitched hipped roofs. These are generally two-story forms with simple rectangular plans.

**FLAT ROOF**—About 10 percent of Spanish Eclectic houses have flat roofs with parapeted walls. These typically show combinations of one- and two-story units. Narrow, tile-covered shed roofs are typically added above entryways or projecting windows. This subtype, loosely based on flat-roofed Spanish prototypes, resembles the Pueblo Revival house.

## VARIANTS AND DETAILS

The style uses decorative details borrowed from the entire history of Spanish architecture. These may be of Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic, or Renaissance inspiration, an unusually rich and varied series of decorative precedents. The typical roof tiles are of two basic types: Mission tiles, which are shaped like half-cylinders, and Spanish tiles, which have an S-curve shape. Both types occur in many variations depending on the size of the



*Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*

tiles and the patterns in which they are applied. Dramatically carved doors are typical of Spanish architecture; these are more common on high-style Spanish Eclectic houses but also occur on modest examples. Doors are usually emphasized by adjacent spiral columns, pilasters, carved stonework, or patterned tiles. Less elaborate entrance doors of heavy wood panels, sometimes arched above, are also common. Doors leading to exterior gardens, patios, and balconies are usually paired and glazed with multiple panes of rectangular glass. Many examples have at least one large focal window. These are commonly of triple-arched or parabolic shape and may be filled with stained glass of varying design. Decorative window grilles of wood or iron are common, as are similar balustrades on cantilevered balconies, which occur in a variety of shapes and sizes. Other typical details include tile-roofed (and otherwise decorated) chimney tops; brick or tile vents; fountains; arcaded walkways (usually leading to a rear garden); and round or square towers.

## OCCURRENCE

Spanish Eclectic is most common in the southwestern states, particularly California, Arizona, and Texas, and in Florida, all regions where original Spanish Colonial building occurred and continued into the 19th century. Landmark houses in this style are rare outside of Florida and the Southwest but, as in the related Mission style which preceded it, scattered vernacular examples are found in suburban developments throughout the country. During the 1920s, many new communities in Florida and southern California were planned in the Spanish Eclectic style, and older towns (such as Santa Barbara, California) sought to affect a Spanish Colonial image.

## COMMENTS

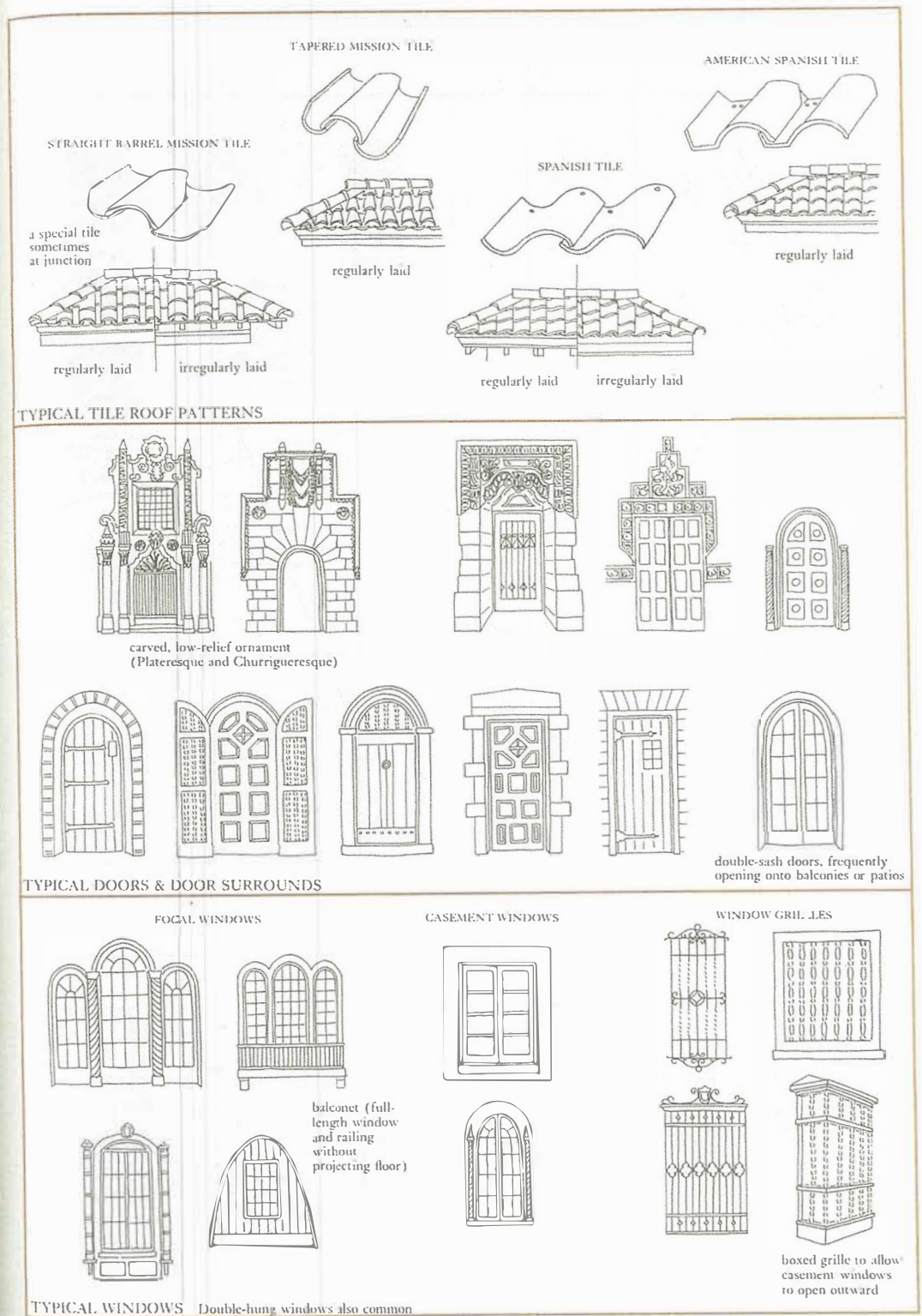
Domestic buildings of Spanish precedent built before about 1920 are generally free adaptations in the Mission style. It was not until the Panama-California Exposition, held in San Diego in 1915, that precise imitation of more elaborate Spanish prototypes received wide attention. The exposition was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who had previously authored a detailed study of Spanish Colonial architecture. Goodhue wanted to go beyond the then prevalent Mission interpretations and emphasize the richness of Spanish precedents found throughout Latin America. Inspired by the wide publicity given the exposition, other fashionable architects soon began to look directly to Spain for source material. There they found a still longer and richer sequence of architectural traditions which became melded into a style that they continued to call the Spanish Colonial Revival. Because of its broad roots we prefer the more inclusive name Spanish Eclectic. The style reached its apex during the 1920s and early 1930s and passed rapidly from favor during the 1940s.



doors are typical of eclectic houses but adjacent spiral columns leading to exterior porches are commonly of varying design. ar balustrades on other typical details tile vents; foun- or square towers.

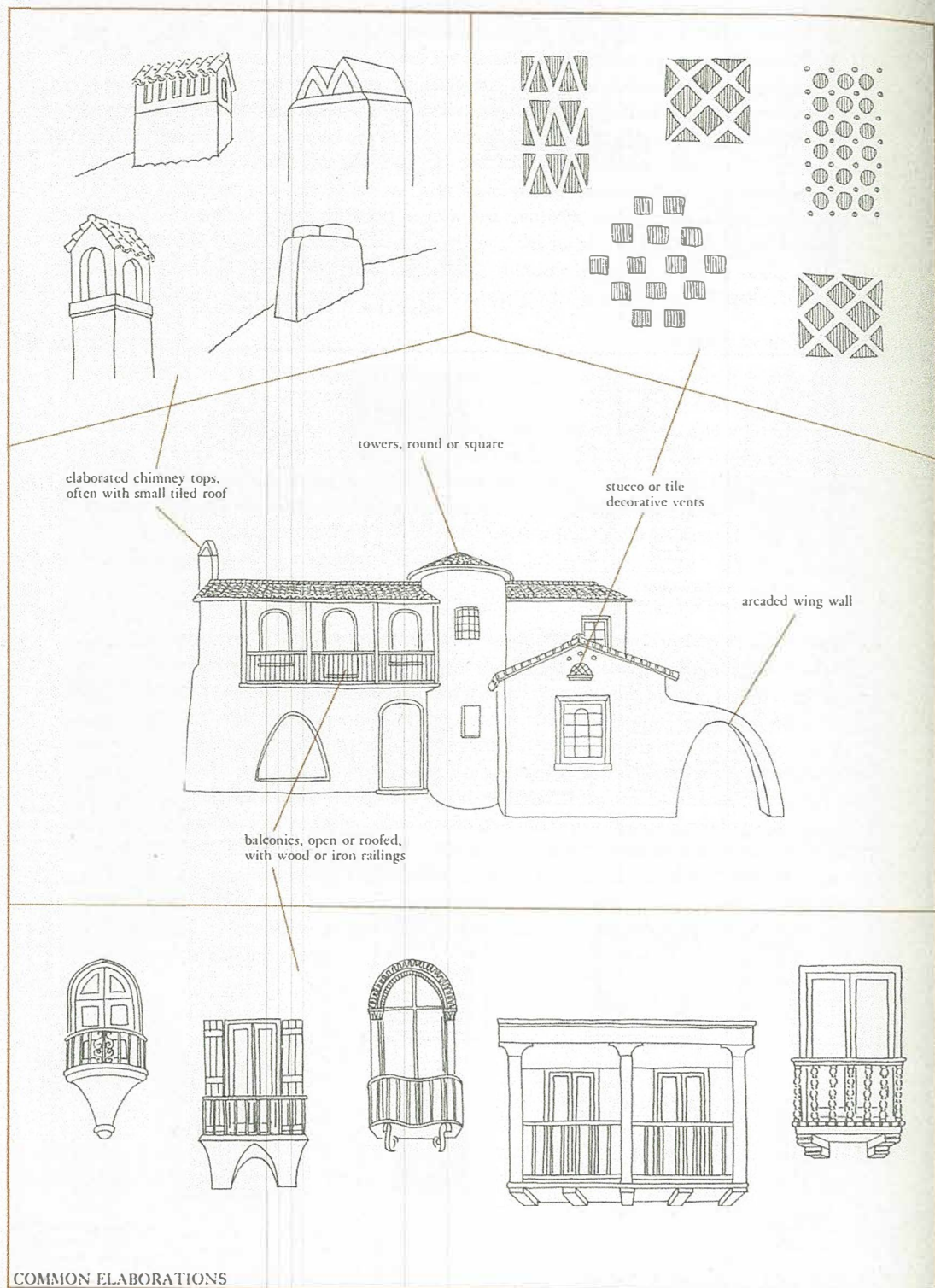
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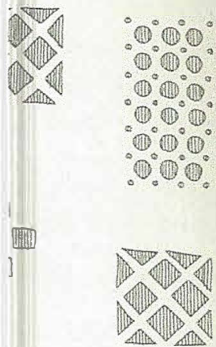




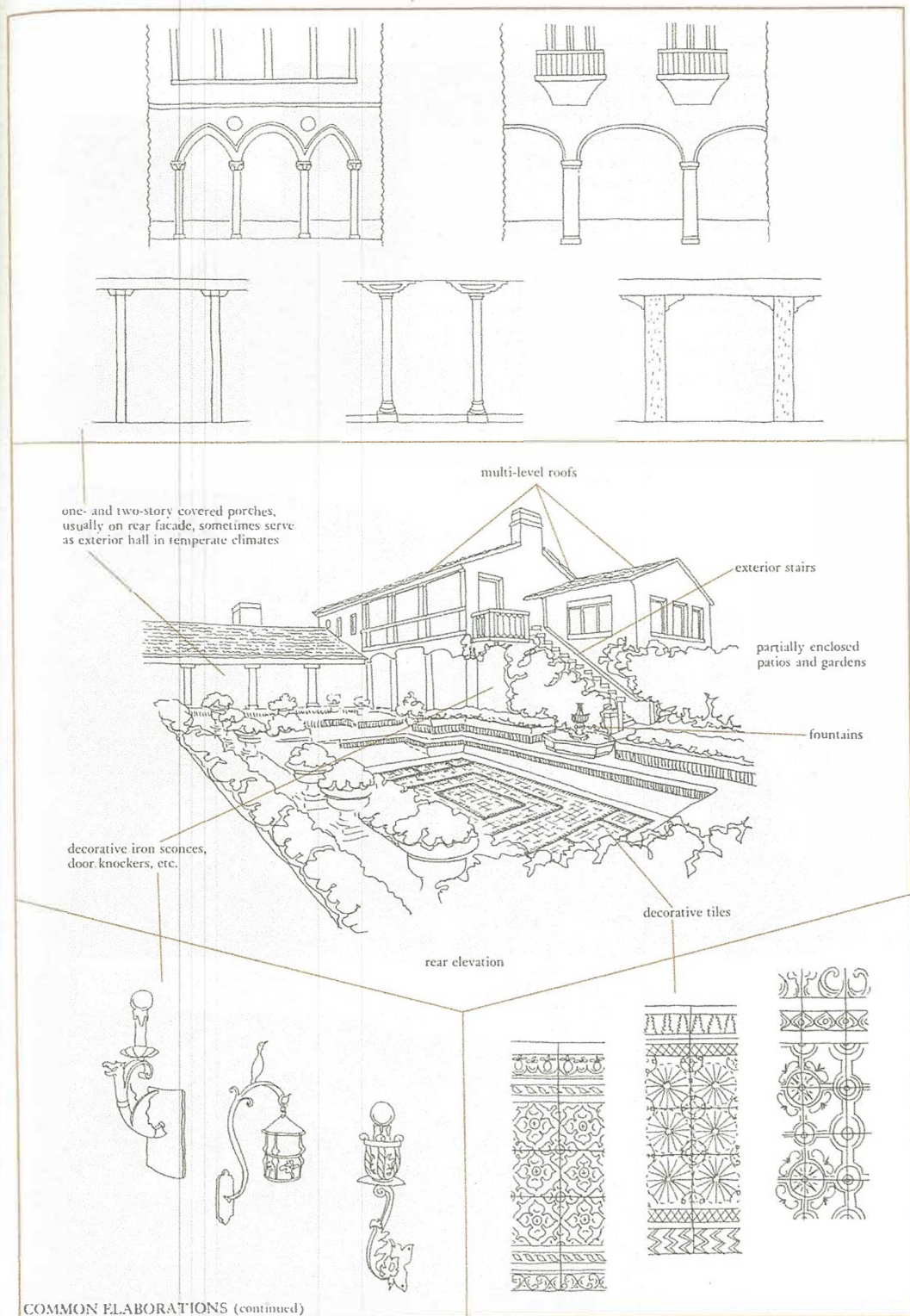
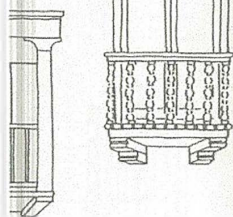
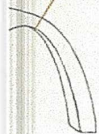
*Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*



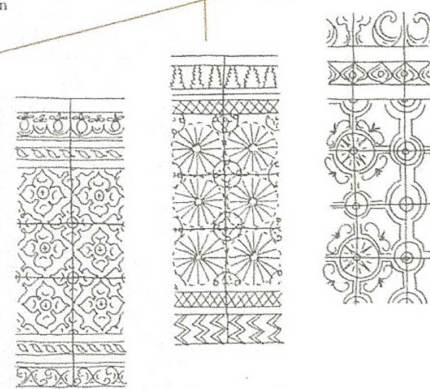
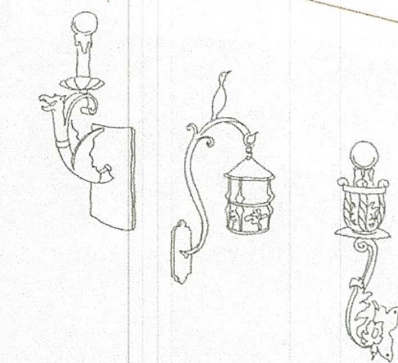




arcaded wing wall



COMMON ELABORATIONS (continued)

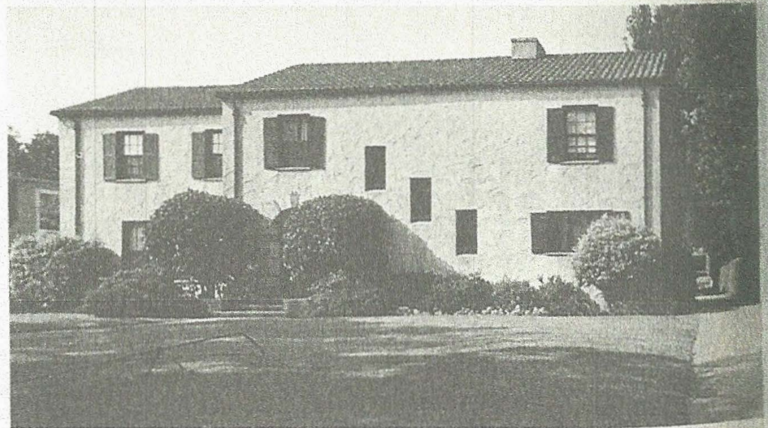
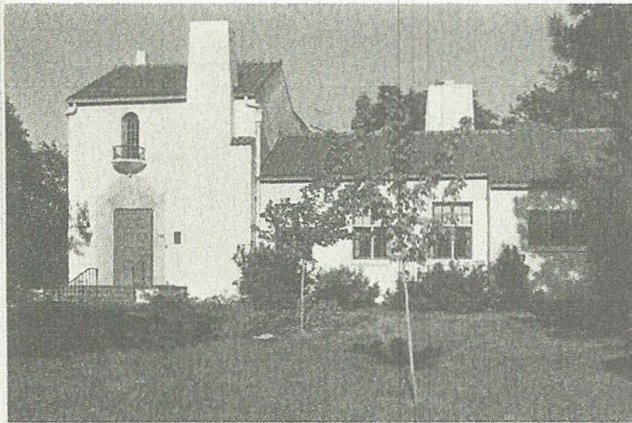




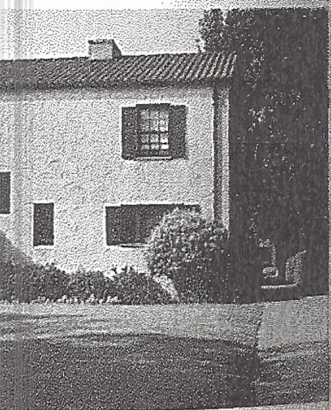
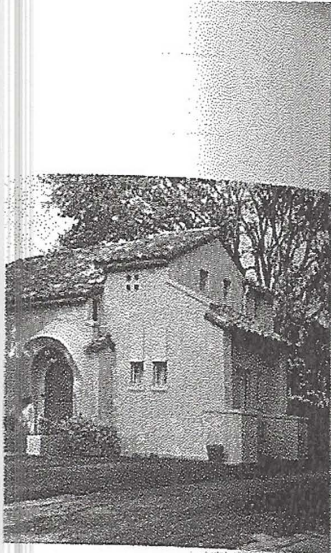
### *Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*

#### SIDE-GABLED ROOF

1. Wichita, Kansas; 1930s. The projecting door surround is atypical.
2. New Orleans, Louisiana; 1920s. The doorway is surrounded by low-relief carving of Plateresque inspiration. Note the elaborate window grills.
3. Wichita, Kansas; 1930s. The unadorned main block, with its short broad chimney and paucity of windows, resembles a smaller version of Figure 4.
4. Santa Barbara, California; 1916. El Hogar; George Washington Smith, architect. Inspired by the houses of southern Spain, this example presents an austere facade to the world (few windows and little ornamentation) but opens into an elaborate garden behind.
5. Dallas, Texas; 1930s. Note the spiraled columns beside the entry and the lower-story windows.
6. Dallas, Texas; 1932. Shurtz House.
7. Dallas, Texas; 1926. Green House; Thomson and Swane, architects. Although similar to Figure 4 in basic form, this example adds numerous double-hung windows to the front facade, giving it a less authentic look. Note the strongly textured stucco walls.
8. Mission Hills, Kansas; 1920s. This house shows symmetrical Renaissance influences in its centered doorway with quoined door surround.





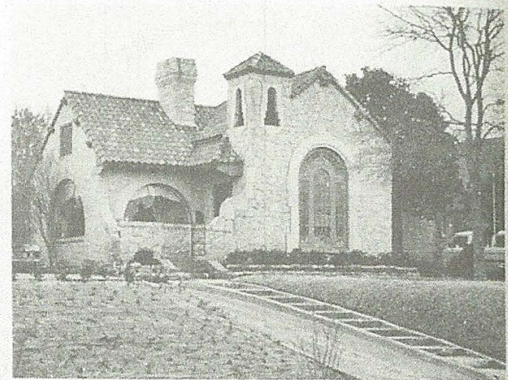
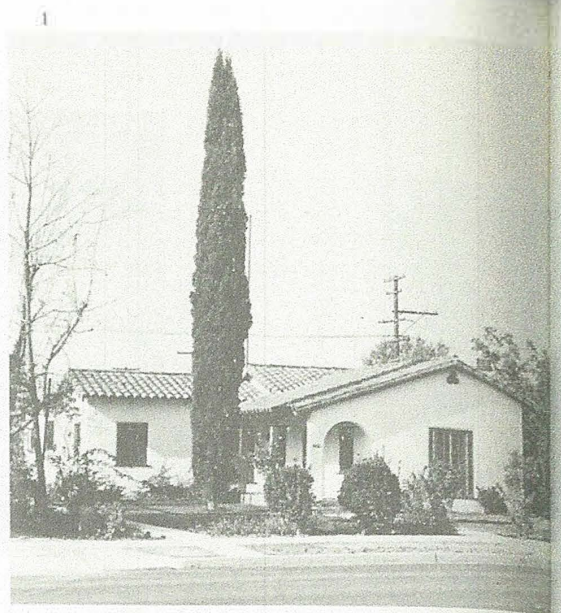




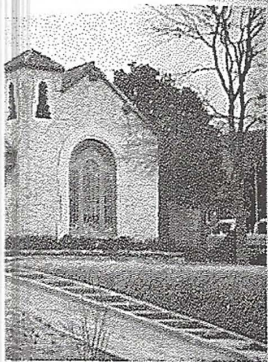
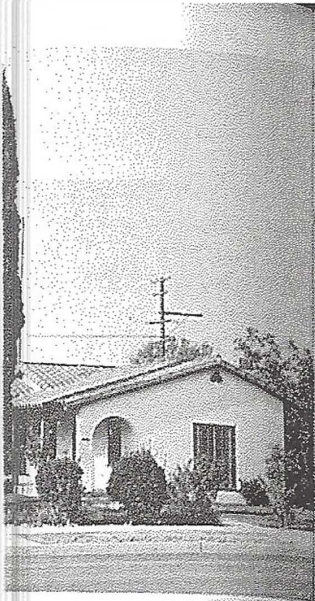
### *Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*

#### CROSS-GABLED ROOF

1. Delano, California; 1930s. Simple one-story examples similar to this dominate many 1930s neighborhoods in Florida and California.
2. Santa Barbara, California; 1923. Burke House; George Washington Smith, architect. Note the restrained façade with large expanses of windowless wall. The small house-shaped chimney capping at the right is a favorite Spanish Eclectic detail.
3. Louisville, Kentucky; 1930s. Note the strong textured pattern of the stucco walls.
4. Dallas, Texas; 1936. Baty House. This small example is complete with a bell tower, a focal window with stained glass, and a front entry court enclosed by a low stone wall.
5. St. Louis, Missouri; 1930s.
6. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 1930s.
7. Dallas, Texas; 1947. Cox House. This late example illustrated the trend toward the sprawling one-story Ranch style, which was inspired by Spanish Colonial prototypes.
8. Dallas, Texas; 1934. Cohn House. Note the recessed arcaded porch and the tiny roof extensions over the upper-story windows to the right.





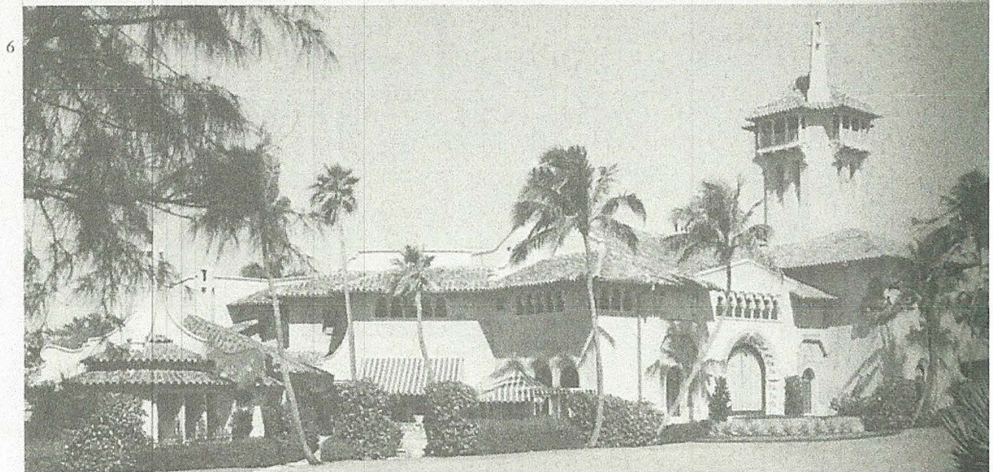
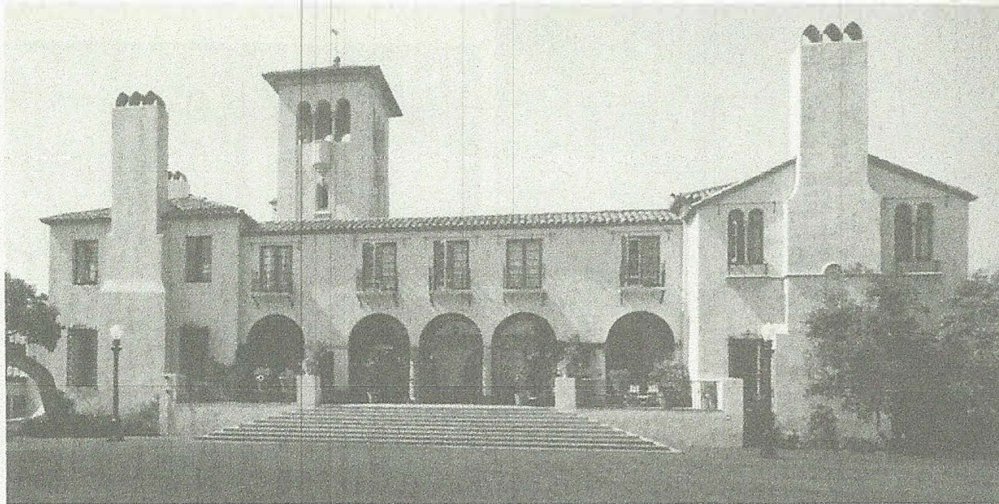
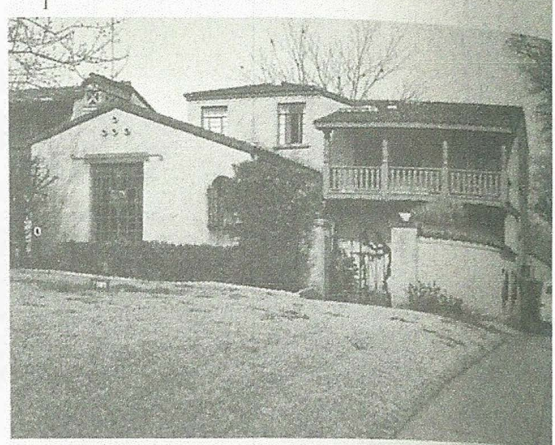




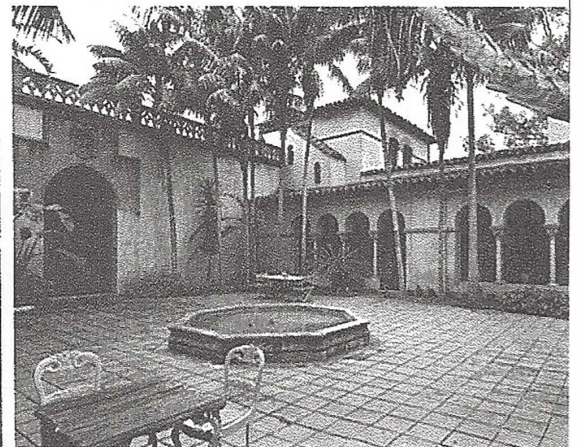
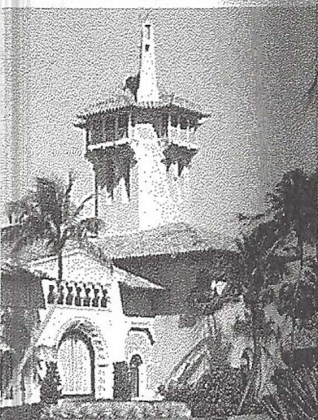
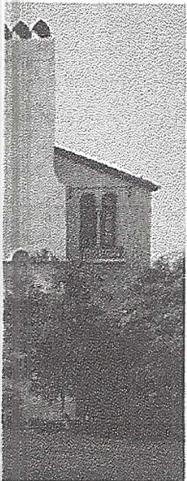
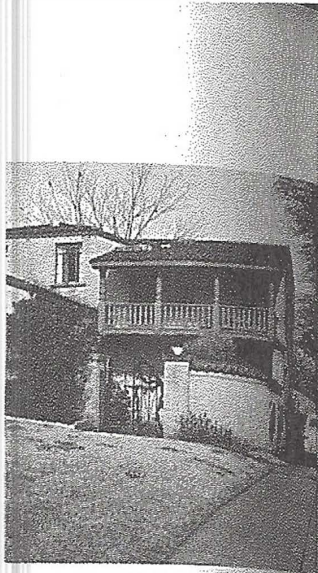
*Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*

COMBINED HIPPED-AND-GABLED ROOFS

1. Dallas, Texas; 1938. Turner House. Note the overhanging balcony and enclosed entry court.
2. Dallas, Texas; 1932. Kaufman House. This house combines hipped-, gabled-, shed-, and flat-roofed units.
3. Montecito, California; 1916. Bliss House; Carleton Winslow, Sr., architect. Note the bell tower and multiple-arched chimney crowns.
4. Santa Barbara, California; ca. 1930. Villa Escanado. Note the ornate Renaissance-inspired entryway and the differing roof heights of the three wings, which enclose an interior courtyard.
5. Santa Barbara, California; 1925. Dreyfus House; W. Maybury Somervell, architect. This landmark example, with its varying roof forms, resembles an entire block of a Spanish village.
6. Palm Beach, Florida; 1927. Mar-A-Lago; Addison Mizner, architect. A major landmark of the style.
- 7., 8. Montecito, California; 1930. Dieterich House; Addison Mizner, architect. These photographs illustrate the elaborate courtyards found in most landmark examples. Figure 7 shows an automobile entry court and Figure 8 an interior courtyard. Note the fountain, arcaded gallery, and decorative paving.





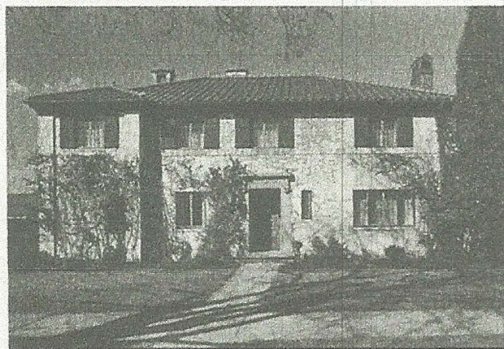
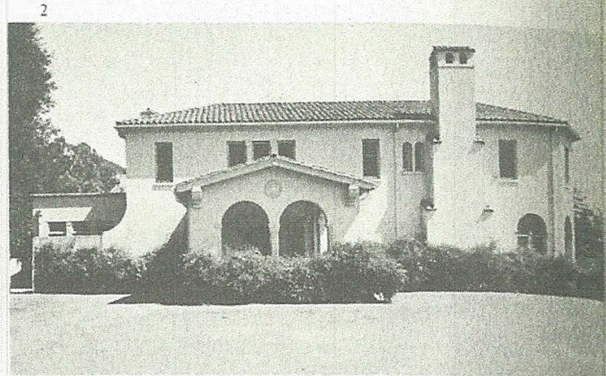
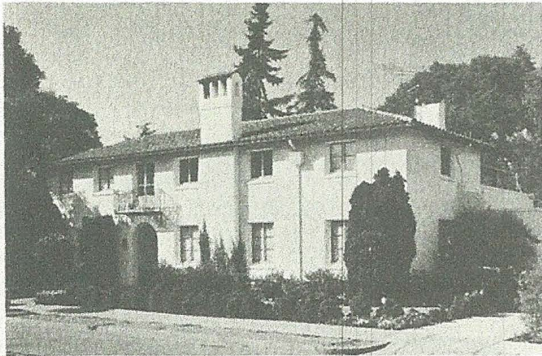




*Eclectic Houses: Spanish Eclectic*

HIPPED ROOF

1. Palo Alto, California; 1930s. Kennedy House.
2. Morgan Hill, California; 1930s. Fountain Oaks.
3. Corning, New York; 1930s.
4. Dallas, Texas; 1942. Luse House. Note the elaborate door surround, the two focal window areas, and the corner quoins.
5. Dallas, Texas; 1932. Bounds House. Note the roof-top cupola, centered visor roof echoed on the porte cochère, and massive door surrounds with spiraled columns.





# FLAT ROOF

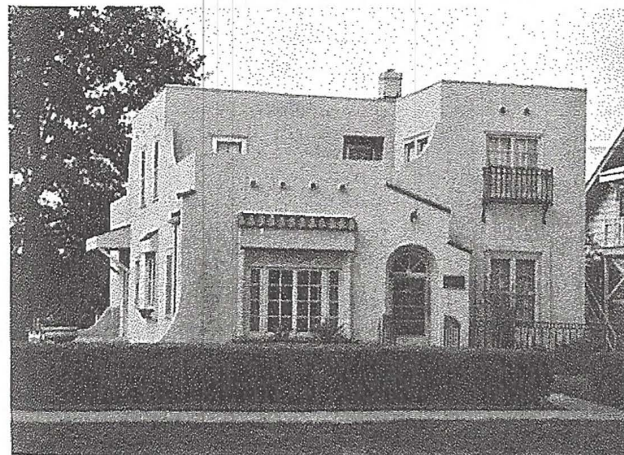
1. Santa Barbara, California; ca. 1930. Figures 1 and 2 are typical of smaller examples built by the thousands in California suburbs during the 1920s and '30s. The flat roof with decorative tiles along the parapet is typical, as is the arched entryway with either gabled or flat roof.

2. Santa Barbara, California; ca. 1920.

3. St. Louis, Missouri; 1930s. Figures 3, 4, and 5 combine both one- and two-story sections. Note the small shed roofs over the windows and the shed-roof entryways.

4. Durham, North Carolina; 1930s.

5. Independence, Missouri; 1930s.





# FLAT ROOF

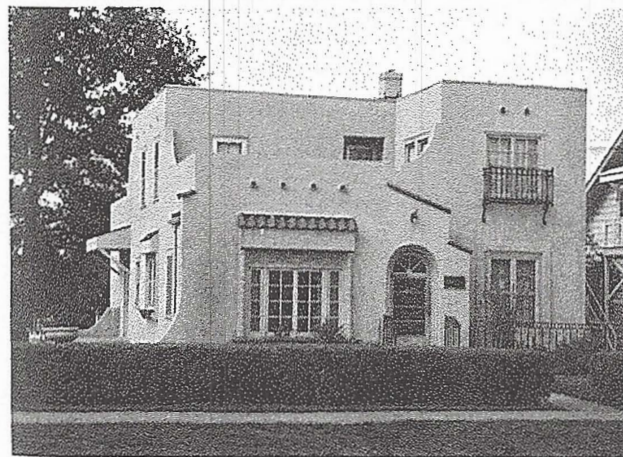
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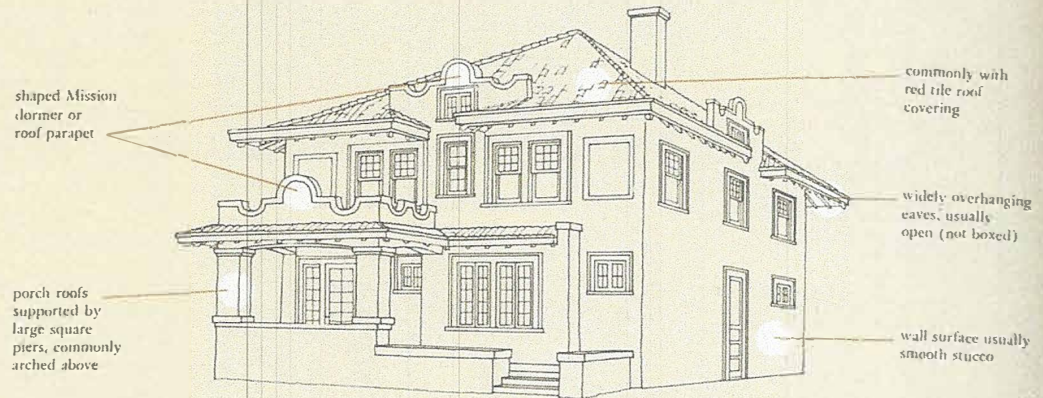
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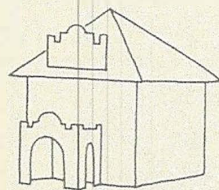
5. Independence, Missouri; 1930s.





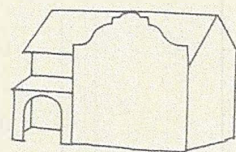


SYMMETRICAL



pages 412-13

ASYMMETRICAL



pages 414-15

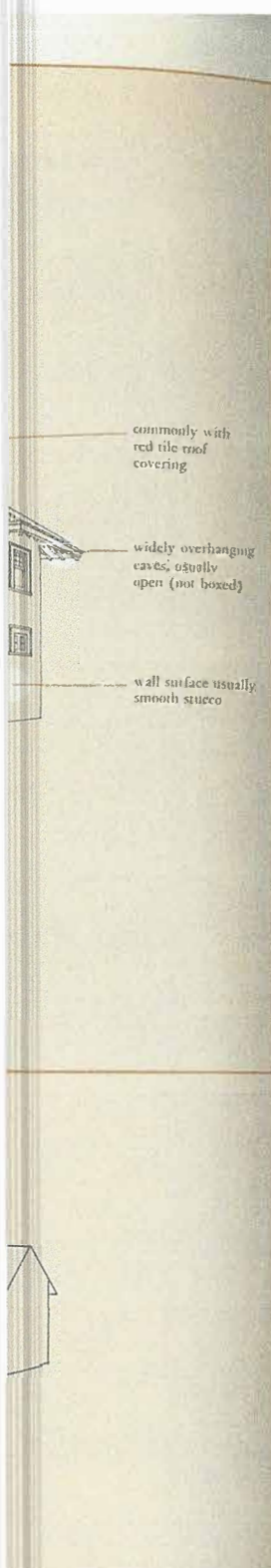
PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES



## ECLECTIC HOUSES

## Mission

1890-1920



commonly with  
red tile roof  
covering

widely overhanging  
eaves, usually  
open (not boxed)

wall surface usually  
smooth stucco

## IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Mission-shaped dormer or roof parapet (these may be on either main roof or porch roof); commonly with red tile roof covering; widely overhanging eaves, usually open; porch roofs supported by large, square piers, commonly arched above; wall surface usually smooth stucco.

## PRINCIPAL SUBTYPES

Two principal subtypes can be distinguished:

**SYMMETRICAL**—About half of Mission houses have balanced, symmetrical facades. These are most commonly of simple square or rectangular plan with hipped roofs.

**ASYMMETRICAL**—The remaining half of Mission houses have asymmetrical facades of widely varying form. Most typically the facade asymmetry is superimposed on a simple square or rectangular plan. Elaborate, rambling compound plans are found on some landmark examples.

## VARIANTS AND DETAILS

A great variety of shaped dormers and roof parapets mimic those found on some Spanish Colonial mission buildings. Few are precise copies of the original models. Most examples have prominent one-story porches either at the entry area or covering the full width of the facade; these sometimes have arched roof supports to simulate the arcades of Hispanic buildings. Mission-like bell towers occur on a few landmark examples. Quatrefoil windows are common; decorative detailing is generally absent, although patterned tiles, carved stonework, or other wall surface ornament is occasionally used. Some examples have unusual visor roofs. These are narrow, tiled roof segments cantilevered out from a smooth wall surface (similar to the pent roofs seen in some Georgian or Queen Anne houses). They most commonly occur beneath the parapets of flat roofs.

## OCCURRENCE

California was the birthplace of the Mission style and many of its landmark examples are concentrated there. The earliest were built in the 1890s; by 1900 houses in this style were spreading eastward under the influence of fashionable architects and national builders' magazines. Although never common outside of the southwestern states, scattered exam-

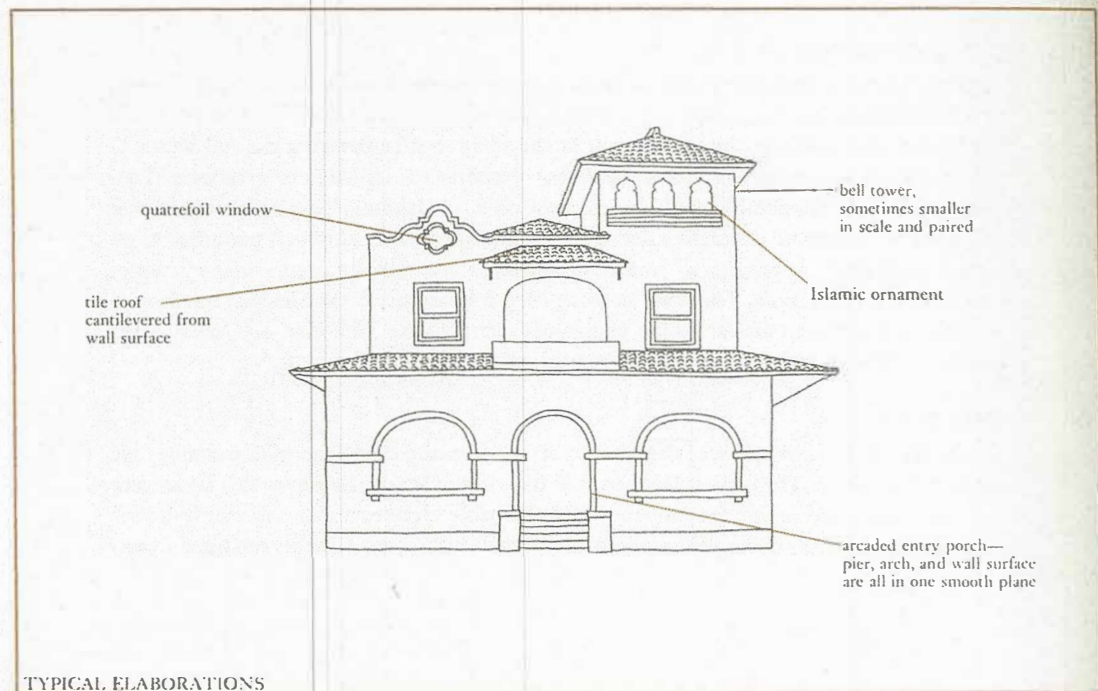


*Eclectic Houses: Mission*

ples were built in early 20th-century suburbs throughout the country. Most date from the years between 1905 and 1920.

**COMMENTS**

One scholar has noted that the style "is the Californian counterpart" of the Georgian-inspired Colonial Revival that was then gaining popularity in the northeastern states. Rather than copy the East's revival of its own colonial past, California turned to its Hispanic heritage for inspiration. Several California architects began to advocate the style in the late 1880s and early 1890s. It received further impetus when the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railways adopted the style for stations and resort hotels throughout the West. Most commonly, typical Hispanic design elements (shaped parapets, arches, quatrefoil windows, etc.) were borrowed and freely adapted to adorn traditional shapes. In a few landmark examples, however, the forms of the early missions, including twin bell towers and elaborate arcades, were faithfully followed in domestic designs. In still other examples, innovative architects designed Mission buildings with many features borrowed from the contemporary Craftsman and Prairie movements; some even anticipate the simplicity of the subsequent International style. The style quickly faded from favor after World War I as architectural fashion shifted from free, simplified adaptations of earlier prototypes to more precise, correct copies. From this concern grew the Spanish Eclectic style which drew inspiration from a broader spectrum of both Old and New World Spanish buildings.





Most date from

of the Georgian-  
rtheastern states.  
turned to its His-  
ocate the style in  
e Santa Fe and  
ls throughout the  
pets, arches, qua-  
ional shapes. In a  
cluding twin bell  
gns. In still other  
eatures borrowed  
nticipate the sim-  
from favor after  
tations of earlier  
Spanish Eclectic  
and New World



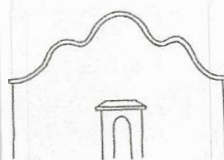
TYPICAL REVIVAL DORMERS & PARAPETS

bell tower,  
sometimes smaller  
in scale and paired

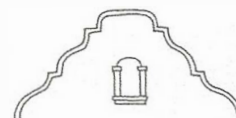
Islamic ornament

W

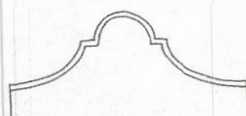
arcaded entry porch—  
pier, arch, and wall surface  
are all in one smooth plane



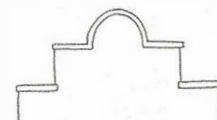
Mission San Diego Alcalá



Mission San Luis Rey de Francia



Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo)

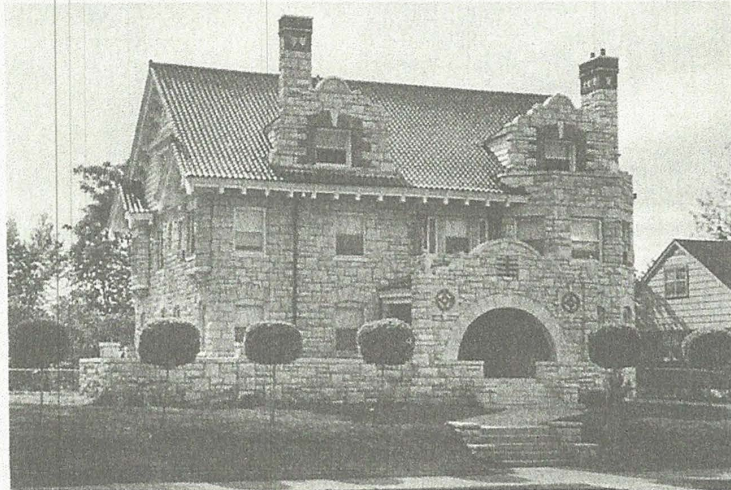
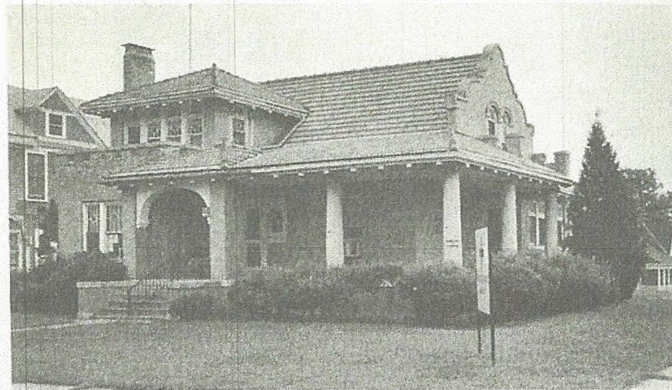


Mission San Juan Capistrano

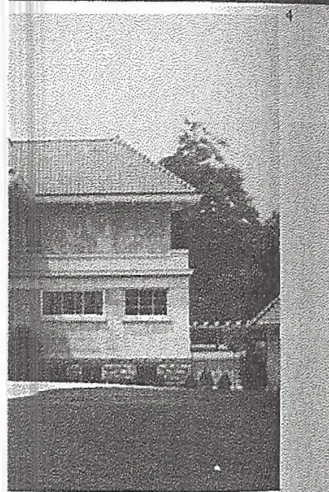
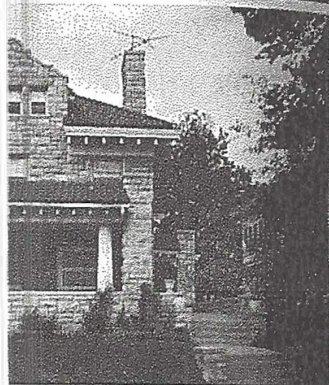
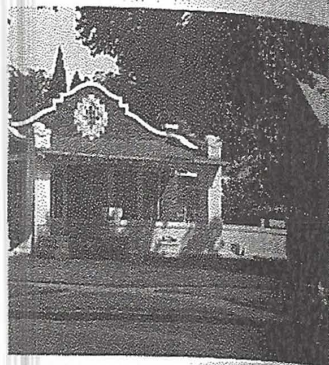
PARAPETS OF ORIGINAL MISSIONS Most are restorations



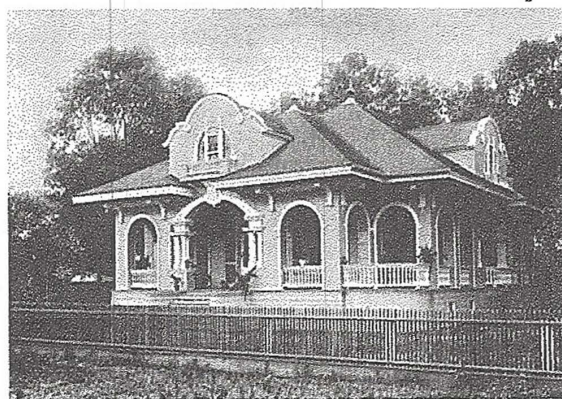
*Eclectic Houses: Mission*







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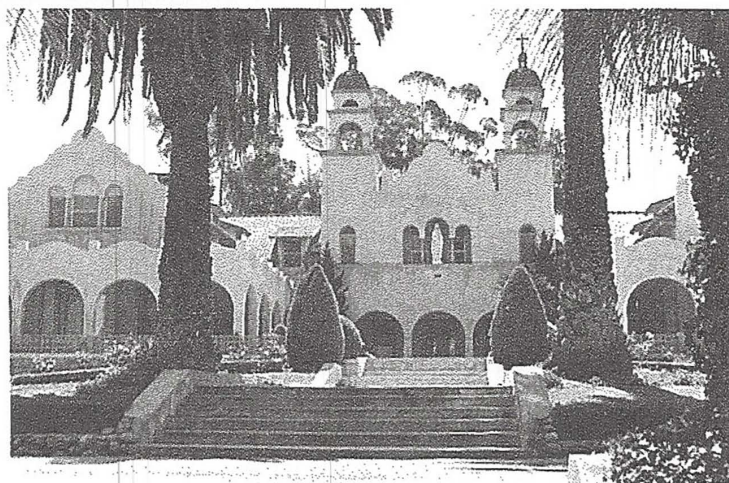
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6



8

Mission 413



*Eclectic Houses: Mission*

## SYMMETRICAL

1. Dallas, Texas; 1912. Bianchi House.
2. Hammond, Louisiana; ca. 1910. Preston House. The wood wall cladding is unusual. Although open eaves are most common in the style, boxed eaves also occur, usually with brackets below as seen here and in Figure 3.
3. Dallas, Texas; 1913. Harris House. This house originally had a second shaped parapet above the two central piers.
4. Kansas City, Missouri; ca. 1910. This house shows the four-square shape that was popular in various styles built from about 1900 to 1915.
5. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; ca. 1910.
6. Washington, District of Columbia; 1902. Barney House; Waddy B. Wood, architect. A rare example of a Mission town house.
7. Louisville, Kentucky; ca. 1910. Caperton House.
8. Redlands, California; 1901. Burrage House; Charles Bingham, architect. This landmark house is a full-scale copy of a Spanish mission, complete with bell towers and arcaded side wings.

