

**OUR STYLE GUIDE TO
OLD QUEENSLAND
HOUSES**

The Woodworkers Company aims to make joinery that blends comfortably with the traditional styles of Queensland architecture. We've spent hours measuring and recording the fine detail of old Queensland houses and we hope this summary will prove useful to renovators, architects and builders who have inherited houses that have been tormented by earlier modernisation efforts. Increasingly we see property markets handsomely rewarding authenticity and the thoughtful approach to renovation, and this style guide should assist these endeavours by providing an easy reference to the main eras of Queensland dwelling construction. The guide intends to be informative and not constrictive. Knowing a building's architectural style provides a framework for renovation or restoration and permits consistency of detailing. Ultimately however, the success of such work depends on the skill of the designer and artisan. We believe we have a responsibility to the increasingly scarce timbers we use to be disciplined about our work. As a component manufacturer, we hope our work can make it that much easier for our clients to preserve our unique architectural heritage...

**1850-1880 The Colonial Victorian
Period**

Housing Characteristics

Design

Houses set low (200mm to 1 metre above ground) with brick fireplaces

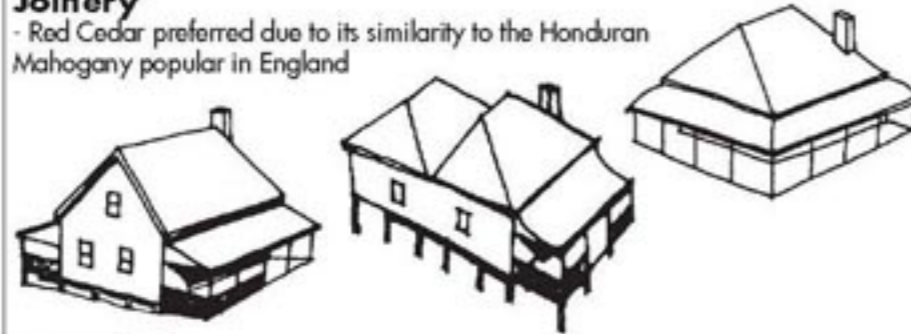


Roofs

- Steep shingle and corrugated iron in simple skillion or hipped designs
- Curved iron verandah roofs usually separate from main roof
- No eaves overhangs

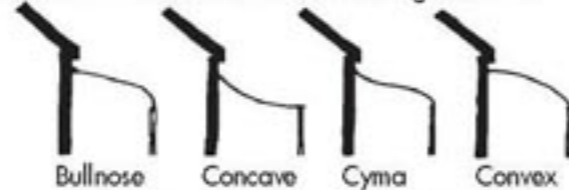
Joinery

- Red Cedar preferred due to its similarity to the Honduran Mahogany popular in England



Verandah

- Crow's Ash or Beech Flooring ex 150 x 25.
Various curved roof forms used in addition to straight skillions.



Columns

- Square columns and newels with simple stop chamfers



Walls

- Deep timber weatherboards and timber chamferboards ex. 200 x 25mm
- Soft bricks or stone occasionally

Floors

- Wide Hoop Pine internally (ex 200 mm)

Ceilings

- Boarded Hoop (lath and plaster in grander residences)

Hoods

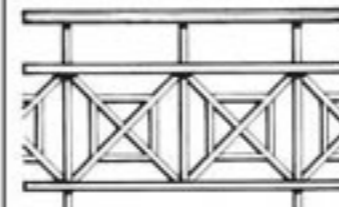
- Window hoods not common.

Brackets

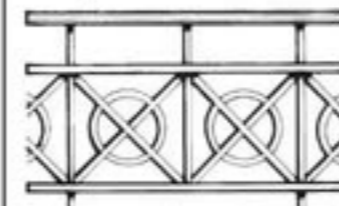
- Decorative brackets not common. Occasionally eaves brackets used between junction of main roof and verandah roof.

Balustrades

- Diagonal Cross and Union Jack balustrade popular in first decades of settlement



Diagonal Cross Balustrade



Diagonal Ring Balustrade

Doors

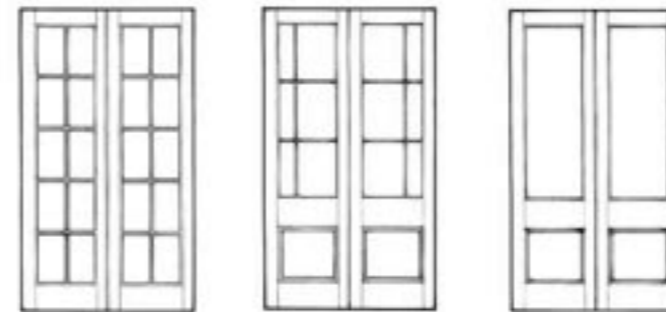
- Victorian doors typically contained four flat panels with lightly moulded surrounds. Grander houses often used six or eight panel doors however. Front doors did not contain glazed panels and were usually double doors or a single very wide door occasionally of double margin construction.



Double Margin Entry Door

Six Panel Bollection Door

Colonial Double Door Entry Portal



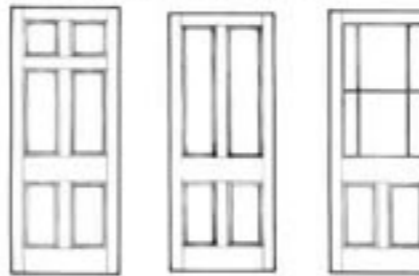
Ten Light Fully Glazed French Doors

Margin Light Panelled French Doors

Single Light Panelled French Doors

Internal Doors

- Internal doors were four or six panel, or simple ledge and brace construction on simpler houses. Single margin light doors used for secondary entrances.



Six Panel Door

Four Panel Door

Margin Light Door

Gates

- Dowel or square palisade style designs popular on grander properties.



Carriage Gate



Pedestrian Gate

Windows

- Multiple light double hung sashes made up of 10" x 8" (255x204mm) panes or 12" x 10" (305 x 255 mm) were common initially as these were the glass sizes available. Glass panels were always slightly higher than they are wide, with very thin timber glazing bars dividing the sashes into six, nine, twelve or more panes. After 1860, two pane and then single pane sashes appeared as plate glass became available.



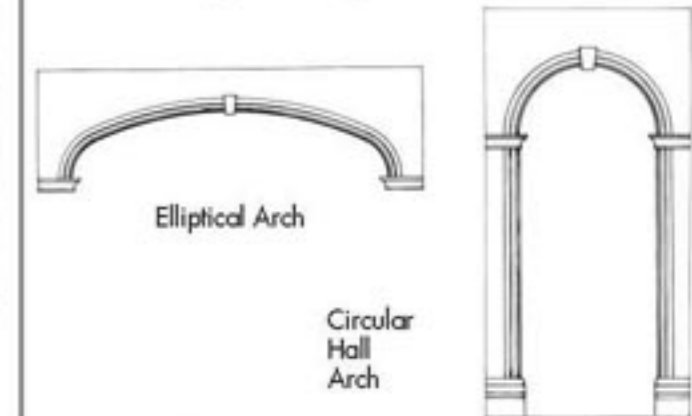
Twelve Light Double Hungs

Arch Head Double Hungs

Single Light Double Hungs

Fretwork & Arches

- Georgian circular and elliptical arches in grander houses. Little decoration in simpler dwellings.



Elliptical Arch

Circular Hall Arch

Skirtings and Architraves

- Cedar mouldings preferred with restrained curvilinear forms. Skirtings generally ex 200 mm in main rooms ex 100 mm elsewhere. Architraves ex 125 mm generally.



Architraves

Skirtings

1880-1900 The High Victorian Period

Housing Characteristics

Design

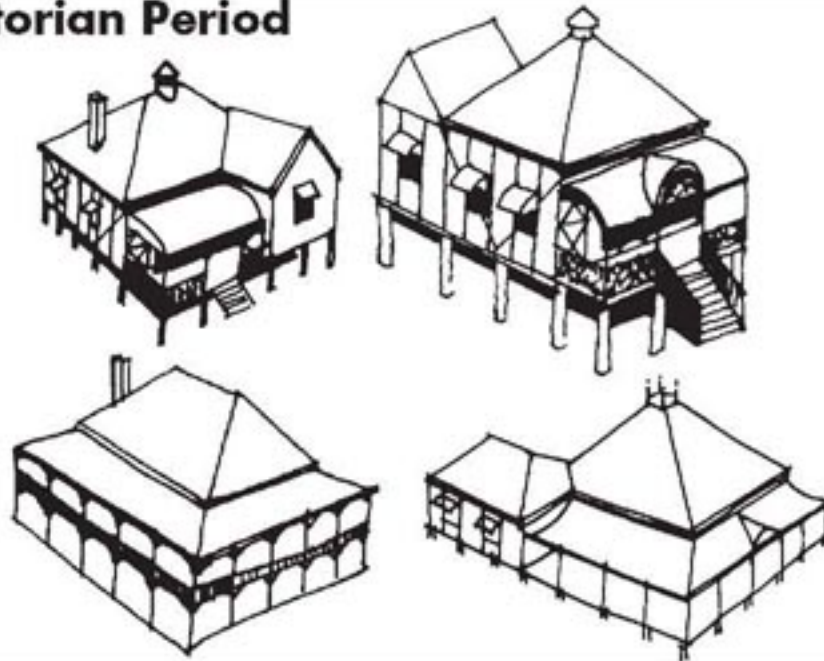
Houses set higher (2 metres above ground)
Kitchens detached from main volume of house with chimney often replaced by metal stove recess

Roofs

- Corrugated iron on Hoop Pine softwood framing
- More ornate pyramid and hipped roofs common
- Verandah roof detached from main box roof
- Ridge ventilators popular
- Entrance porticos set into curved verandah roofs
- Decorative metal trimmings and timber gable and barge fretwork

External Joinery

- Red Cedar preferred



Walls

- External studding fashionable with 150mm VJ T&G. Hoop Pine internal cladding and cross bracing exposed externally

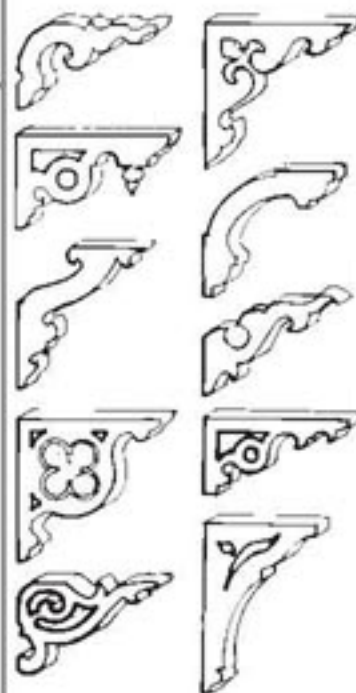


Verandah

- Hardwood frame and boarding
- Crow's Ash or Beech flooring

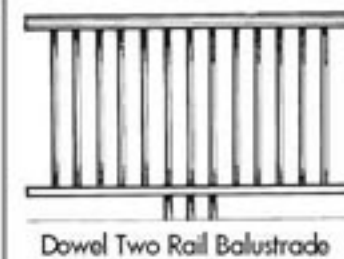
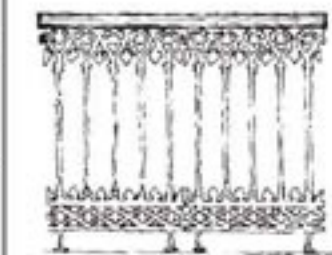
Brackets

- Timber decorative verandah brackets very popular in conventionalised foliage designs and classical forms



Balustrades

- Cast iron balustrade and filigree work on expensive houses
- Dowel handrail elsewhere originally as two rail but evolving to three rail



Doors

- The four panel door was typical with the mouldings on important doors becoming more ornate and raised (bollection moulding). The outside face of the entry door was often fielded with 'cricket bat' shaped panels while the inside remained flat. From 1890's the upper half of the domestic front door was often filled with leadlights. French doors with four glazed panels opening outwards on to verandahs were 2100 x 1000 wide - often used for all external openings except front doors. Entrance portals were common (even in simple houses). In grander residences elaborate portals were also used internally to all the principle public rooms.



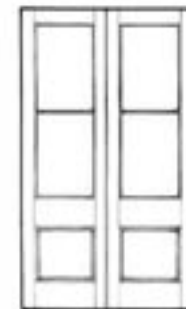
Cricket Bat Four Panel



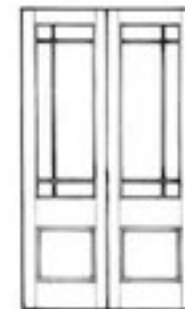
Arch Top Four Panel



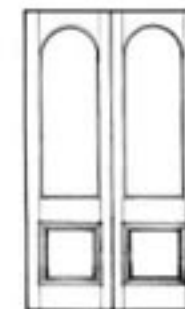
High Victorian Portal Entrance



Twin Light Panel French Doors



Double Margin French Doors



Arch Top Panel French Doors

Windows

- Double hung sashes used universally, not usually counterbalanced but rather simply supported on swinging brass stays when raised. Limited range of patterns available: two, four and twelve panes most usual, 1400 mm high and 850 mm wide with sill height 850 mm. Full height single pane counter balanced sashes were popular to the verandahs of larger houses, and venetian windows containing three sash pairs were common on the front gable of workers' cottages.



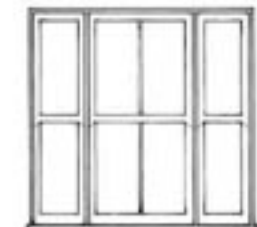
Twin Light Double Hungs



Arch Top Double Hungs



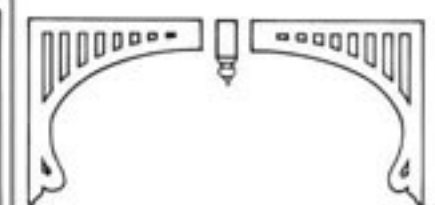
Double Margin Lights



Venetian Window

Fretwork & Arches

- Breezeway and ceiling ventilation fretworks popular in stylised foliage designs in small and large houses.
- Timber arches become popular to compartmentalise interiors.



Cottage Hallway Arch



Breezeways



Floors

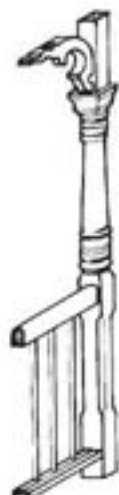
- Hardwood floor framing and 150mm T&G Hoop Pine flooring most common

Ceilings

- Boarded Hoop T&G ex 150mm

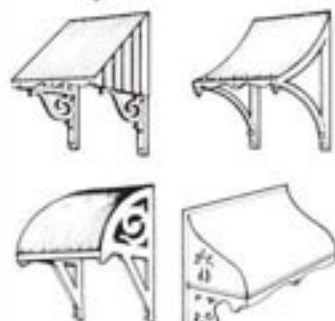
Columns

- Half turned half square popular



Hoods

- Timber and tin shades added to all external windows at end of century



Internal Doors

- Internal doors generally from panel construction 2000 x 800 mm



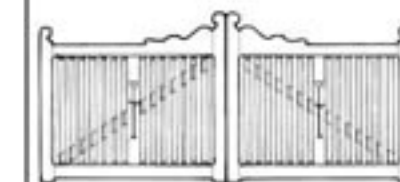
Four Panel Door



Double Margin Light Door

Gates

- Solid mortise and tenon gates popular



Carriage Gate



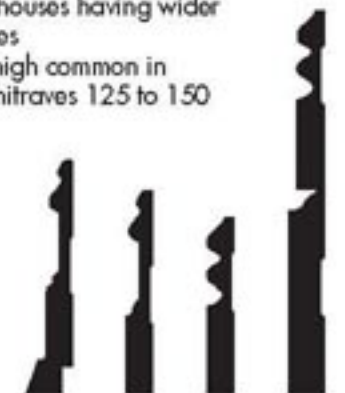
Pedestrian Gate

Skirtings and Architraves

- Cedar mouldings in heavily profiled designs preferred, with larger houses having wider mouldings than cottages
- Skirtings to 360mm high common in component form. Architraves 125 to 150 mm wide.



Architraves



Skirtings

Federation Style Guide

1900-1918 The Federation Period

Housing Characteristics

Design

Houses set higher with sub-floor space being battened in and used as lower floor. Main bedroom projection at front with separate gable roof more popular.

Roofs

- Corrugated iron with hardwood framing replacing softwood
- Separation between verandah and main roof less common
- Pyramid roofs typical with ridge vents built into apex and fretwork entry gables or extensions common

Joinery

- Red Cedar supplies dwindle and are replaced by Silky Oak.



Walls

- External cross braced exposed framing still common
- Boarding becomes smaller as timber stocks diminish (140 x 25 mm). VH T&G 110 mm most common with asbestos cement sheets and tiles from France appearing after 1910

Verandah

- Hardwood frame integral with main roof

Floors

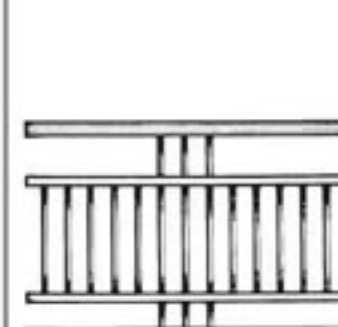
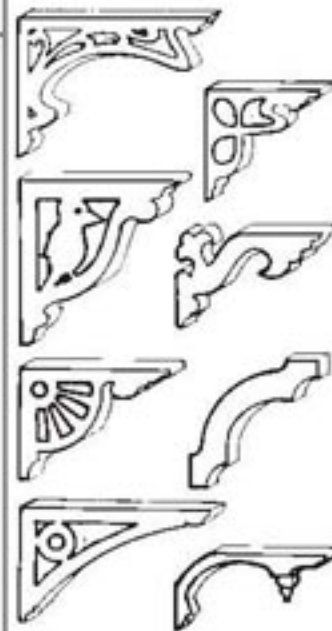
- Smaller profile softwood floors on hardwood framing
- Hardwood shot edge verandah floors
- Decorative underfloor picket valences common

Brackets

- Geometric forms popular with art nouveau influenced designs and turned spindle decorations on more adventurous houses. Timber arches linking columns introduced.

Balustrades

- Dowel handrails with three rails most popular. Cast iron out of favour. Batten infill between stumps becomes common.



Dowel Three Rail Balustrade

Ceilings

- V.J. T&G in smaller profiles still, with pressed metal and fibrous plaster ceilings appearing after 1910.

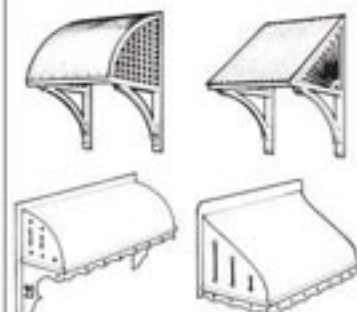
Columns

- Turned columns popular until 1910 then reverting increasingly to square forms with ornate arising.



Hoods

- Timber and tin hoods used on most windows.



Doors

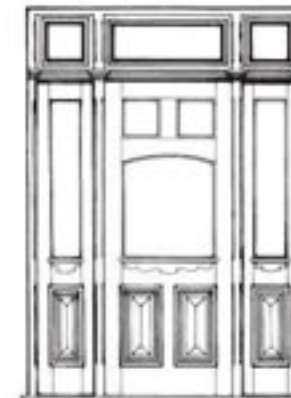
- Higher waist panelled doors increasingly popular with bollection moulds and ornate sills being sought after
- Coloured glass very popular
- More ornate entrances generally
- High waist panelled internal doors most popular



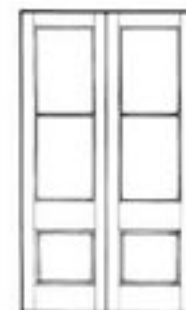
Four Panelled Bollection Door



Queen Anne Five Panel Leadlight Door



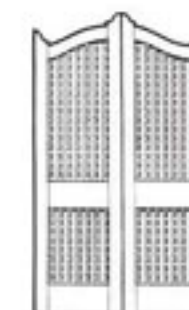
Queen Anne Leadlight Entrance Portal



Twin Light Panelled French Doors



Queen Anne Panelled French Doors



Batwing Lattice Verandah Doors

Internal Doors

- Four panel internal doors remain most popular



Gates



Carriage Gate



Pedestrian Gate

Windows

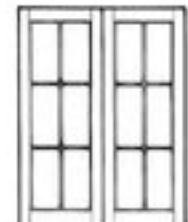
- Casements start to replace double hungs from the turn of the century with market domination achieved by 1920. Small glass panes revived. Leadlight glazing often used throughout with casements grouped into threes, and surmounted by small fanlight sashes. Bay and venetian window features very popular. Sliding Yorkshire light windows at rear and sides of house become popular.



Twin Light Double Hungs



Queen Anne Double Hungs



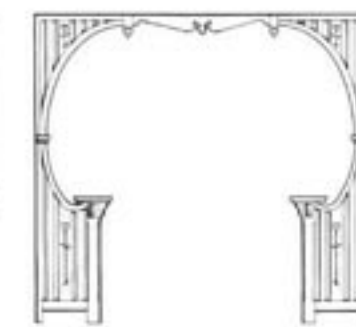
Six Light Casements

Fretwork & Arches

- Breezeway panels still common in more stylised designs and motifs.
- Hallway and Room Division arches very popular with design choice increasing.



Foliage Hall Arch



Federation Pedestal Arch



Lotus Pattern Breezeway

Skirtings and Architraves

- Mouldings become less ornate and reduce in size. Skirtings to 150mm common with architraves ex. 125mm.



Architraves



Skirtings

1918-1939 The Inter-War Period

Housing Characteristics

Design

Verandahs often partially enclosed as part of original design due to consumer demand for more space. Double gabled front becomes common. Houses still raised off ground but weatherboard fake columns replace stumps to formalize two storey appearance.

Roofs

- Hardwood framing throughout
- Wunderlich terracotta roof tiles (1914) and corrugated asbestos cement sheeting (1927) locally manufactured
- Roofs become larger and less ornate

Joinery

- Silky Oak most popular



Walls

- Timber cavity wall construction popular with flush finishes being preferred to VJ T&G.
- Increasing use of weatherboards as good chamferboard material disappears.

Verandah

- Patio entries replace large perimeter verandahs
- All hardwood construction

Floors

- Hardwood flooring most used

Brackets

- Timber arches linking columns very common. Brackets become larger and more vertical where used, although trend is to eliminate them late in period

Balustrades

- Slat style balustrades replace dowels from 1920 with feature fretwork panels in centre

Ceilings

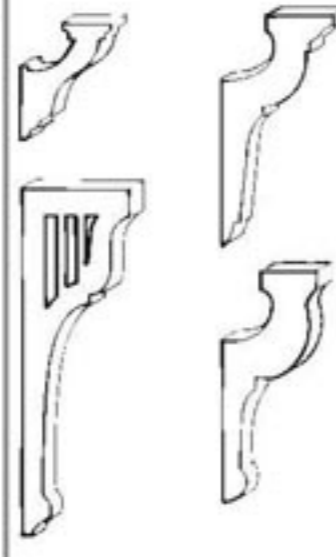
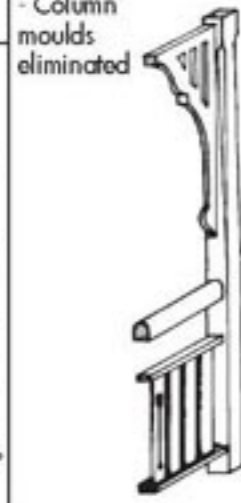
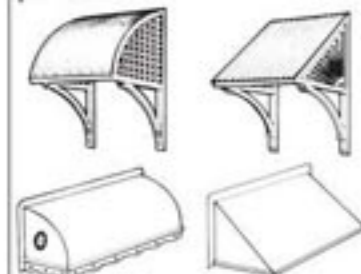
- Pressed metal, fibrous plaster and asbestos cement sheets most common

Columns

- Square columns with tapered stop chamfers preferred
- Column moulds eliminated

Hoods

- Still popular although projection increases to accommodate casement swing.
- Pitch flattens out late in period.

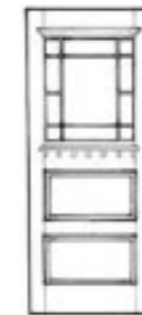


Doors

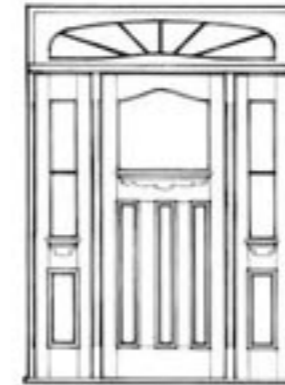
- Entry doors typically same size as internals, usually high waisted.



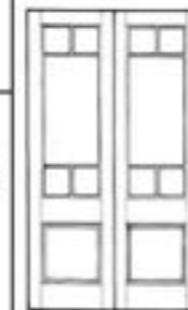
Rose Leadlight High Waist Door



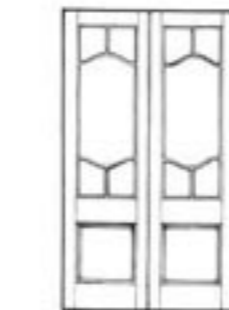
Bungalow Applique Door



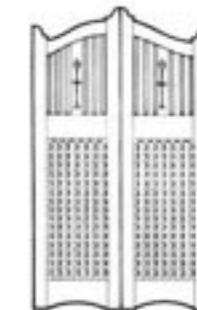
High Waisted Entrance Portal



Five Light Panelled French Doors



Coathanger Panelled French Doors



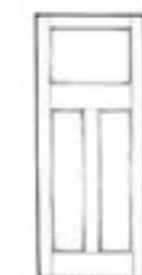
High Waisted Batwing Doors

Internal Doors

- Fully glazed doors commonly used for internal applications with opaque glass



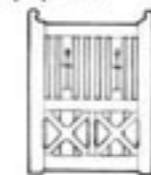
Eight Light Glazed Door



High Waisted Three Panel Door

Gates

- More decorative "romantic" gate styles most popular



Braced Dado



Coathanger top



Sunrise

Windows

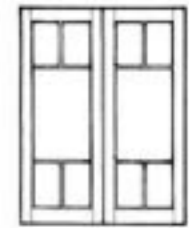
- Casements most popular
- Frosted and painted glass prevalent
- Clear geometric 'romantic' leadlights popular, or decorative coathanger or diamond glazing bar patterns. Five light hopsotch design with coloured arctic glass most popular early in period.
- Porthole shaped windows popular in 1930's.



Diamond



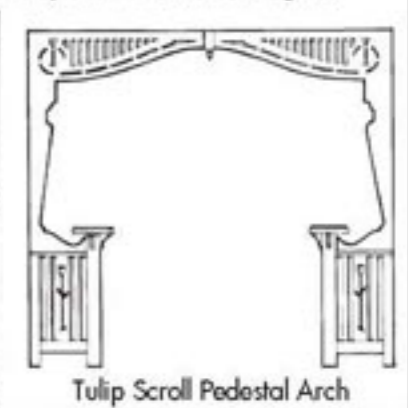
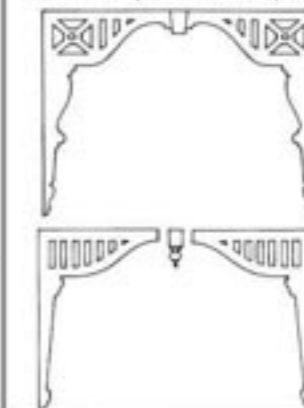
Coathanger Casements



Hopsotch Five Light Casements

Fretwork & Arches

- Hallway and room division arches very popular with styles becoming less curvaceous with time
- Breezeway fretwork replaced by slats and transom lights.



Tulip Scroll Pedestal Arch

Skirtings and Architraves

- Simple geometric shapes preferred reflecting the economy of the time. Skirtings (splayed or lambstongue design) were commonly ex 125mm with architraves ex 100mm



Architraves



Skirtings

1939-1950 The Post-War Styles

Housing Characteristics

Design
- Pattern books bring a large diversity of housing styles
- Skilled labour and materials in short supply in decade following World War Two resulting in house sizes being restricted. Austere details become fashionable.

Roofs
- Terracotta tile and asbestos cement roofs most common
- Verandah and wide roof overhangs all but disappear

Joinery
- Hoop Pine common due to Silky Oak shortages



Walls
- Brick construction increases as considered more prestigious than timber.
- Plaster or asbestos cement wall cladding preferred with timber cover moulds sometimes featured

Floors
- Hardwood T&G floors most common although concrete floors on the increase

Ceilings
- Asbestos cement or fibrous plaster preferred. Flush finishes in vogue.

Column
- Square with simple arrising

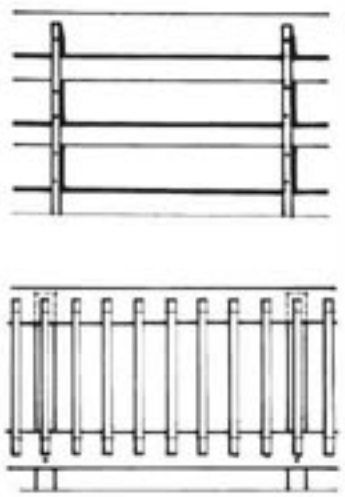


Hoods
- Uncommon, where used often small cantilevered flat roof instead of full skillion

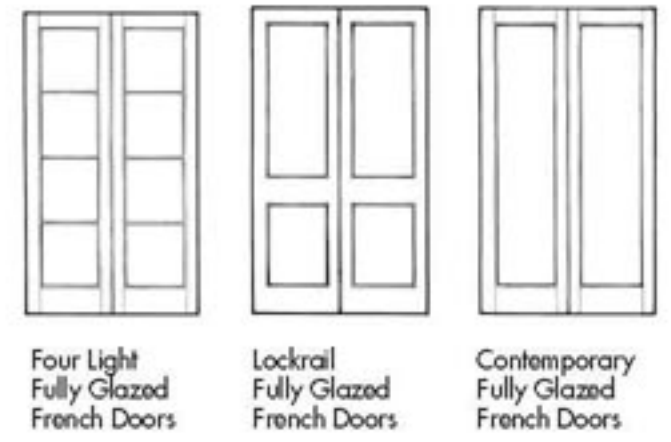
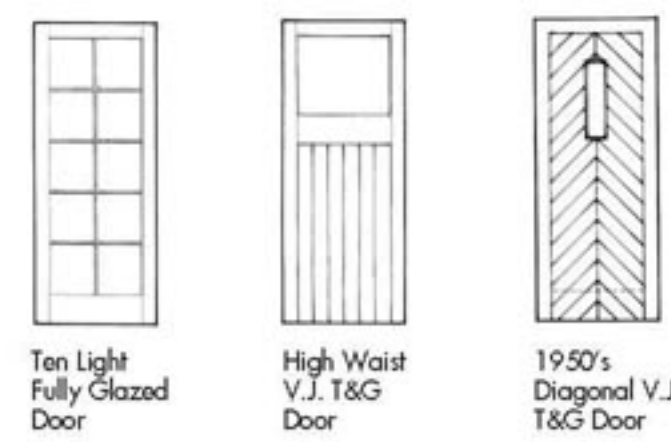
Verandah
- Replaced by small entry patio or eliminated entirely

Brackets
- Not common

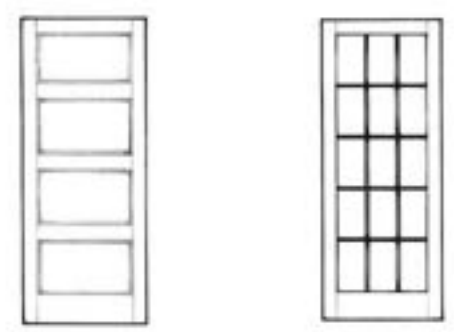
Balustrades
- Metal bar balustrading in repetitive designs favoured.
- Very simple batten or rail balustrades become common.



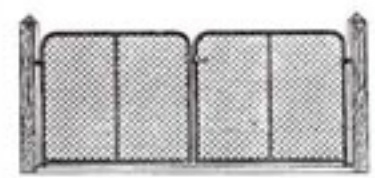
Doors
- Flush doors increasingly preferred to panelled designs
- Entry doors simplified to a single T&G sheeted door without sidelights



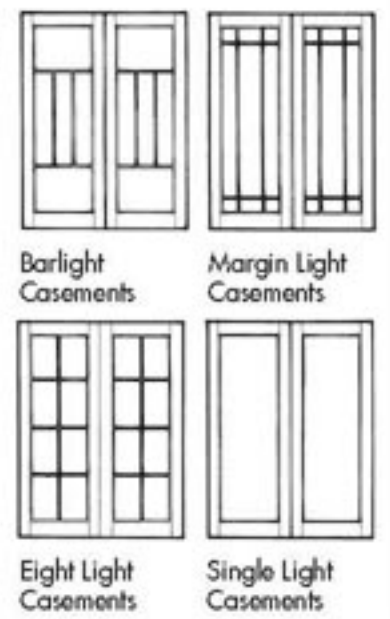
Internal Doors
- Panelled doors grow more adventurous in design but are gradually replaced by flush doors. Hoop Pine generally used



Gates
- Metal gates replace timber generally



Windows
- Timber casement windows are used universally until the advent of the aluminium sliding sash. Increasing use of obscure glass as urban density increases.



Fretwork and Arches
- Archways become simpler with Art Deco influences. Transome fanlights and breezeways eliminated as ceiling heights diminish.



Skirtings and Architraves
- Small simple dressed rectangular sections preferred ex. 100 mm skirtings and ex. 50 mm architraves.
- Cornices eliminated.

