

Newsletter

November 2003

Name That Style!!!



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Cheryl Morgan sketching for Birmingham Homes. Courtesy The Birmingham News

About the Illustrator of the New BHS Book ...

Cheryl Morgan directs the Auburn University Center for Architecture and Urban Studies studio in Birmingham. Professor Morgan has taught architecture at Auburn (from which she graduated with highest honors in architecture in 1974). Also trained as an engineer, Morgan received her MA in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1976. Prior to joining the faculty of her alma mater a decade ago, she taught at the Georgia Institute of Technology, California College of Arts & Crafts, and Oklahoma State University and practiced architecture in San Francisco.

Since 1998, Morgan and the Auburn studio students have worked with neighborhoods and communities across the city and state — Brighton, Ensley, Jasper, Lanett, Lineville, Marion, Montevallo, Oak Ridge, Rosedale, Sayre, Springville, Sylacauga, Winfield, Woodlawn, and Valley — providing design and planning assistance.

BIRMINGHAM ILLUSTRATED

THE TOP FIVE

most frequently found styles in the 99 City of Birmingham neighborhoods are based on a BHS 2001 field survey. The incidence of these styles reflects booms in residential construction.



No. 1 Minimal Traditional

Built immediately following World War II, this is the starter house for returning veterans and their families. Found in 94/99 neighborhoods



No. 2 Bungalow

Built in the 1910s and 1920s of local materials, bungalows feature built-in furnishings to ease the housewife's work. Found in 92/99 neighborhoods

From Farm to Factory-The Rural to Urban Transition

From across the South during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, folks flocked to find employment in Birmingham mines and mills. In agricultural settings, the ubiquitous two-room house had provided space for households to grow by adding a porch on the front, or rooms to the rear.

On narrow urban lots, rooms extended one behind another, "shotgun" style, maximizing available land area. And when "country cousins (such as the I-House shown here)" came to town, they gussied up by adding a trendy porch. Framing, siding, roofing, and flooring — all was built of Southern pine.



Two Room



Shotgun



I-House

Architect Designed vs. Contractor Built

From the Manor to the Mini

During Birmingham's first century, architects in the Northeast, California, and the Midwest designed the trend-setting homes. Through publications, manuals, pre-fabrication and kits, increasing numbers of American home owners and builders copied them, keeping up with the "Jones."



A "Proper" Tudor Manor



A Tudor Revival Cottage

Neighborhoods with the greatest stylistic variety

Forest Park-South Avondale (40 different styles in this neighborhood); Arlington-West End and Redmont Park (28 different styles in each of the neighborhoods); Ensley (27 styles); Ensley Highlands (26 styles); Five Points South, North Birmingham and South East Lake (24 styles); Highlands Park, Oakwood

Place, Wylam (23 styles); Belview Heights, Bush Hills, Glen Iris (22 styles); Central Park, East Lake, Fairview and North East Lake (21 styles), College Hills, Jones Valley, Rising-West Princeton, and Woodlawn (20 styles). Source: BHS 2001 Survey of City of Birmingham Architectural Styles.

THE VARIETY OF STYLES IN THE MAGIC CITY

from the founding of the city through post-World War II



No. 3 Ranchette

Drive right in to this 1950s classic with its hip roof and iron-columned porch. Found in 90/99 neighborhoods; Ranches found in 72/99 neighborhoods



No. 4 Split Level

The separation of autos and T.V. from family living and sleeping quarters defined this 1960s and 1970s era home. Found in 79/99 neighborhoods



No. 5 Classical Cottage

Popular in the 1900s, this cottage features a high hipped roof, front gable, and heart pine inside and out. Found in 73/99 neighborhoods; L Cottages found in 69/99 neighborhoods



Old English ...

Englishmen settled the American colonies along the eastern seaboard in the 17th and 18th centuries, bringing with them medieval building traditions, including versions of this many gabled, half-timbered house dating to the 1500s. Many call it "Tudor" in style.

The Persistence of Traditions

In our city, traditional styles remain popular. On the inside, this translates to the more moldings the better. On the outside, it remains fashionable to be:



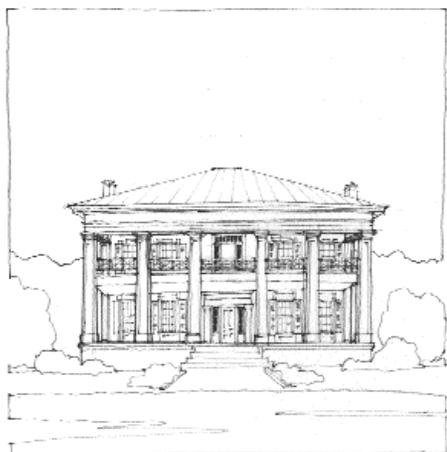
Colonial Revival ...

In New England, Englishmen also built these cottages of clapboard and shingles. Brick and dormers (the windows that cut into the roof) were favored in the Southern colonies. Such "Early American" houses had little detail until the 18th century, when the "classical" influence arrived to adorn roofline and entrance.

or Classical — preferably with a monumental portico (a columned porch)

The Classical (of or pertaining to ancient Greek and Roman style and usually painted white) style arrived in the 1850s to stay. Columned porticos provide a shaded, sheltering, and

impressive entrance. "We just kept finding them," says Peggy Balch who with Anayi Reynolds drove every city street assessing house styles.



Greek Revival • "Arlington" 1850s



Classical Revival • Loveman House 1905



The Traditional • 1950s

"Those columns just make you feel grander than you are," says David Shelby, owner of the Loveman House.

Quick. How many house styles can you name in the Birmingham area?

For the best clue — not to mention intricate pencil drawings of each type — turn to *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes* (\$29.95, Birmingham Historical Society). The new release contains descriptive narrative on each of the 45 important house types in the Magic City, written by Marjorie White, director of the Birmingham Historical Society. The drawings, skillfully created by Cheryl Morgan, professor of architecture at Auburn University, provide a concrete look at the nuances of such styles as Bungalow, Cottage, Ranch, Split-Level, Classical Revival, Shotgun, Tudor, Prairie and Craftsman.

“When Birmingham was founded in 1871, cottages and the Queen Anne style were most prevalent as people moved from rural areas to the emerging city,” explains White, who oversaw a street-by-street survey of styles, conducted by college interns. A crew of architectural historians reviewed the field data, defined the major styles, and recommended the best local examples for the volume.

Opening November 2 at the Birmingham Public Library, the *Birmingham Illustrated* exhibit features the book’s original pencil sketches. Labels with the pertinent architectural features accompany each. Other exhibit components include maps that chart residential growth from 1871 to the 1950s, and a study of the College Hills/Graymont neighborhood.

Author White and illustrator Morgan will autograph books at the exhibit opening from 3-5 p.m.

Related activities include “Your House Has a History” sessions, which aid local residents in researching their homes. Archivist Jim Baggett leads the effort November 12 at the Birmingham Public Library (noon); November 13 at Springville Road Library (10 a.m.); November 17 at North Birmingham Library (noon); November 18 at Avondale

Library (10:30 a.m.); and November 19 at Five Points West Library (11 a.m.).

For a hardback copy of *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes*, visit Books-a-Million, Birmingham Public Library, or contact the Birmingham Historical Society, (205) 251-1880 (\$35 postpaid; BHS members \$32).

Notice to BHS Members: Your softback copy of *A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes* will be mailed to you on November 5, 2003, if you do not pick it up Nov. 2.

Special Events

November 2, 3-5 P.M.; Remarks: 3:30 P.M.

Exhibit Opening & Autograph Party

Featuring the author Marjorie White & illustrator Cheryl Morgan
Birmingham Public Library Gallery
2100 Park Place

November 1-December 31, 2003, Daily

Birmingham Illustrated Exhibit

Birmingham Public Library Gallery

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| November 12, Noon | Arrington Auditorium, 3rd Floor |
| November 13, 10:00 A.M. | Springville Rd. Library |
| November 17, Noon | North Birmingham Library |
| November 18, 10:30 A.M. | Avondale Library |
| November 19, 11:00 A.M. | Five Points West Library |

Your House Has a History

Archivist Jim Baggett gets you started finding it.

November 5, Noon

Birmingham Public Library, Arrington Auditorium, 3rd Floor

Faces of Birmingham – The Evolution of Our City’s Skyline

Historian Marvin Whiting takes you on a slide tour.



A Guide to Architectural Styles featuring Birmingham Homes

From the founding of the city to post-World War II

A quick and comprehensive look at the variety of styles in the Magic City

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

___ 1-9 copies: hardback book (\$35 postpaid, BHS members \$32) \$ _____

___ 10 or more copies (\$25 per copy postpaid) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Return to:
Birmingham Historical Society / One Sloss Quarters / Birmingham, AL 35222 with your check.
For credit purchasers: fax 205-251-3260; telephone 205-251-1880.

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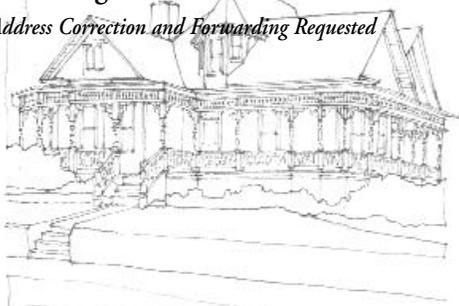
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Birmingham Historical Society is a private nonprofit dedicated to celebrating the history and heritage of our community. For more information: www.bhhistorical.org.



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Birmingham, Alabama 35222**

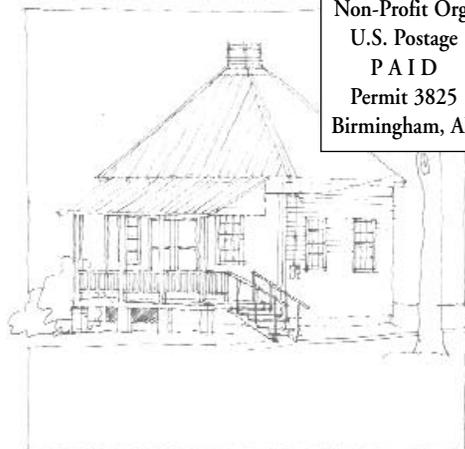
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Queen Anne Cottage



Craftsman



Pyramidal Roof or “Square Top”

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