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It's all in the details

THE BEAUTY OF CRAFTSMAN



By Jeffrey Givens



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Honor this classic style by mastering the details

Few residential architectural styles have stood the test of time as well as Craftsman. Emerging as a trend in home building about a century ago, it remains a popular style today, appealing across generations, demographics, and regions. Why is that? And furthermore, what can designers, builders, and home owners do to ensure they are successful when implementing this style in a new home or remodel?

Some of the biggest early proponents of the style—Frank Lloyd Wright, Greene and Greene, and the Stickley brothers, to name a few—are still recognizable names today. They all believed in the inherent beauty of

things that were crafted by hand, usually from wood or other pliable materials.

Their work, and Craftsman architectural work in general, rigorously carries this idea through to the details. This is what sets the Craftsman style apart from others that have not enjoyed the same success and longevity. It's all in the details, and designers and builders need to be well-versed in this style.

Various detail elements, both inside and out, are typical to Craftsman homes and can make or break any attempt at achieving success in this style. Some of the exterior details are columns, brackets and corbels, rafter tails, porch and gable beams, window boxes, and railings. Interior details can be incorporated in fireplaces and mantles, built-in buffets and bookcases, cased openings, staircases and railings, crown molding, and lighting fixtures.

Some or all of these elements may be present in a Craftsman home. If they are not employed properly (for example,



DESIGN TIPS

Here are some “dos and don’ts” that designers and builders would do well to consider when working on a new home or remodel in the Craftsman style:

« DO

« DON'T

if the scale or placement is off), home owners and visitors will notice, even though they may not be design experts.

Many new home clients like the Craftsman style, and many older Craftsman homes are being bought and remodeled in cities across the country. This trend will likely continue for the foreseeable future, so let's honor this style by paying attention to the details. 🏠

Jeffrey Givens is a home designer and marketing coordinator for Alexander Design Group Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has a master's degree in architecture from Iowa State University.

