

without doubt the houses would look better if they had single dormer windows like the window over the garage door in Fig. 20: However, the continuous dormer adds so much to the usability of the second story that in almost nine cases out of ten when the Dutch Colonial style is employed, the continuous dormer window also is used.

In both of the examples illustrated, the walls of the first story are of stone and those of the second story are finished with wood clapboards. In many cases, perhaps the majority, the walls of both

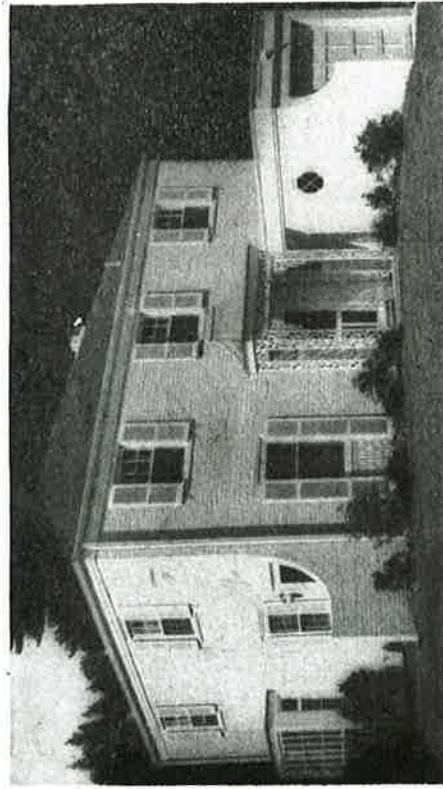


Fig. 21. Regency Style House
Courtesy of Samuel Cabot, Inc.

stories are of wood frame construction with either clapboard or shingle finish.

REGENCY STYLE. King George III, who reigned in England at the time of the American Revolution, after a long reign finally became totally unfit to act as the ruler of the nation and so his son was appointed as Regent by the Parliament, to act in the king's place during the remainder of his life. This state of affairs, known as the Regency Period, lasted nearly ten years and has given its name to a certain style of architecture and of furniture which was the fashion during that time.

The architecture was a development of the Georgian style, but the details employed were somewhat less formal and more refined. Fig. 21 shows a house designed in the spirit of the Regency period.

The curved roof over the entrance porch, the small octagonal window in the wall of the garage, the curved top surfaces of the walls at the corners of the house and garage, and the long shutters at the first-floor window are all characteristic of this style. The house illustrated has been built in brick painted white, but the design could have been carried out in stucco work. The delicate tracery in the ironwork at the front entrance is in keeping with the style.

ORIGIN OF FRENCH STYLES. The Americans who have traveled in France or in French Canada have been charmed by the quaint

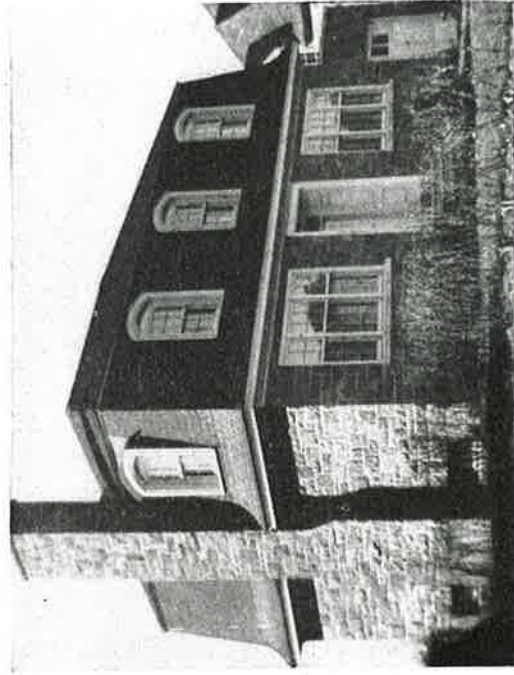


Fig. 22. House in French Provincial Style, with Recessed Doorway

dwellings which are to be seen in both these places; therefore some French influence was bound to find its way into American domestic architecture. Dwellings in whose design this influence is apparent are distinguished from other styles by such names as Formal French, French Provincial, French Chateau and French Canadian.

FRENCH PROVINCIAL OR FORMAL FRENCH. Reference has been made before to the work of the French architect, Mansard, and the type of roof which he invented and introduced into French architecture. This double-sloped roof, called after its inventor the *mansard roof*, was commonly employed for houses two-and-one-half stories high in certain parts of the country about 1880, but soon

after that it lost its popularity. It has, however, reappeared of late years, particularly on small and medium-sized dwellings of the story-and-a-half type and, combined with round-headed dormer windows, has marked them as Formal French or French Provincial.

Two examples of this style are shown in Figs. 22 and 23. The roofs in both cases are much the same. The one in Fig. 22 is somewhat steeper, but both types have the characteristic slight curve outward at the bottom of the slope where the eaves overhang the walls, nearly at the level of the first-floor ceiling. Fig. 23 shows

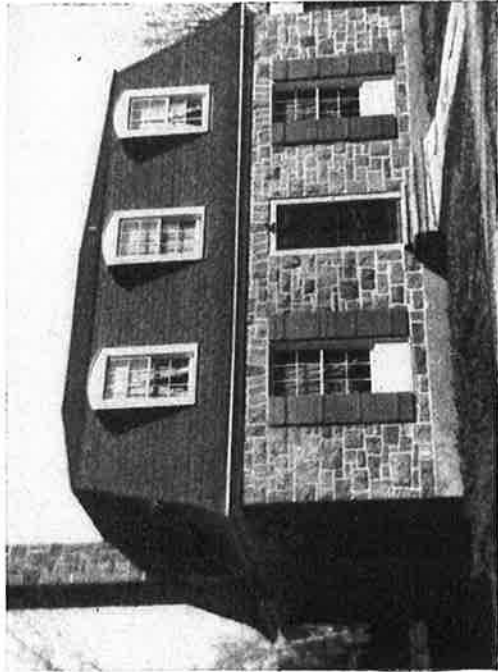


Fig. 23. French Provincial with False Sills and Shutters

false window sills at the level of the first floor in the stone exterior walls with the space between these false sills and the real window sills filled in with wood paneling. It also shows long wooden shutters for the windows extending down to the false sills.

A similar arrangement of windows and shutters is sometimes seen in Georgian work. The doorway in Fig. 23 has no shelter. The house shown in Fig. 22 has the door recessed so as to provide a wood-paneled niche into which a caller can step in bad weather to get a little protection while waiting for the door to be opened. The windows in Fig. 22 are not provided with shutters.

Fig. 24 shows a small French Provincial house somewhat along Dutch Colonial lines, insofar as the roof is concerned, but with the

lower slope much steeper and the house in other respects quite different in appearance. The entrance porch and the treatment above it, together with the detail of the stone trim around the entrance doorway, the stone quoins at corners, and the round-headed dormers give this house a French appearance which is entirely lacking in the Dutch Colonial houses, which are, as a rule, plain and simple. Other little details, such as the circular windows over the entrance

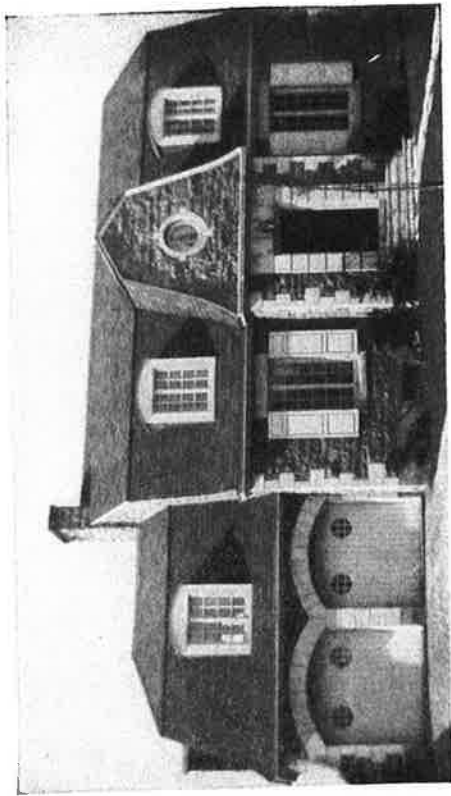


Fig. 24. French Provincial with Mansard Type Gables

door and in the garage doors and the arched heads to the garage doors, give character to this house.

FRENCH CHATEAU STYLE. Among the most interesting of the French country houses are the smaller chateaux—the residences of the people who own, but do not as a rule work, the farms. These dwellings have high steep roofs, usually rising from the eaves at the level of the first-floor ceiling. The larger houses of this type often have circular towers, also with high-pitched roofs, but in the smaller buildings these towers are omitted.

Fig. 25 illustrates a small house designed along these lines and built in the suburbs of a large city. The entrance doorway shows a refinement of detail not seen in some of the other styles, which are more rugged. Although the first-floor windows are of the double-hung type, as can be seen from the fact that they are partially opened at the bottom, they are designed so that when closed they will have

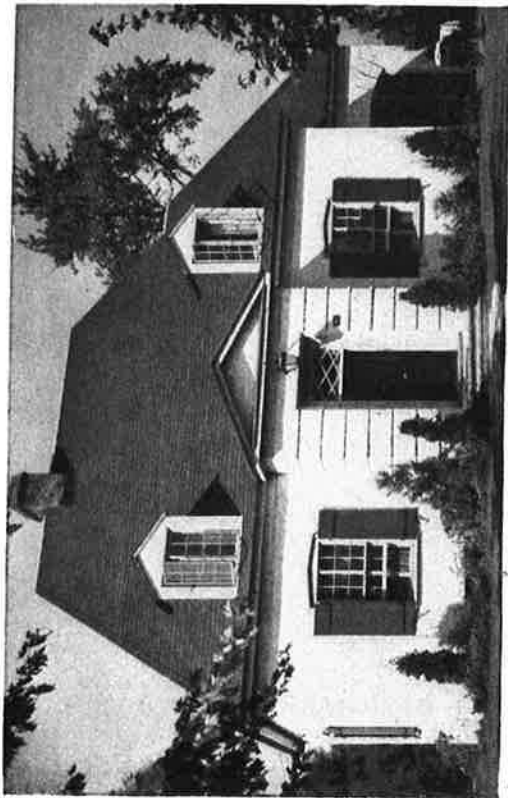


Fig. 25. House in French Chateau Style
Courtesy of Building Products, Ltd.

the appearance of casement windows which are in keeping with the style. Note the casement windows in the dormers. The exterior of this house is finished in stucco, and the roof is of asphalt shingles.

FRENCH-CANADIAN STYLE. Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River in 1535, some ninety years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth. He sailed away after a short stay near Quebec and it was seventy years before any white men really settled in this part of America. When they did come, they came from northern France and they came to stay and settle. After a while they built houses to live in which were like the French houses they had left behind at home. As more houses were built a distinctive French-Canadian style of house was developed which, while somewhat like the Cape Cod houses, had a character peculiar to itself, which is easily recognized and is pleasing.

Often the houses were built of stone masonry with wide joints of lime mortar. The roofs were high and steep and at the foot of the slope they curved suddenly out to form the overhanging eaves at the level of the first-floor ceiling. The windows were of the casement type, hinged at the side to swing in and were high in proportion to their width so that in appearance they differed sharply from the New England Colonial windows, which are of the double-hung type. The

chimneys were massive and often built in the outside wall at one end of the house.

Fig. 26 shows a house designed in the French-Canadian style with dormer windows inserted in the steep roof to give more light and air to the second-story rooms. It will be seen that the appearance of this house is different from that of the Cape Cod houses illustrated in Figs. 13 and 14, just as the French settlers were different in many ways from the Pilgrim Fathers. The most noticeable

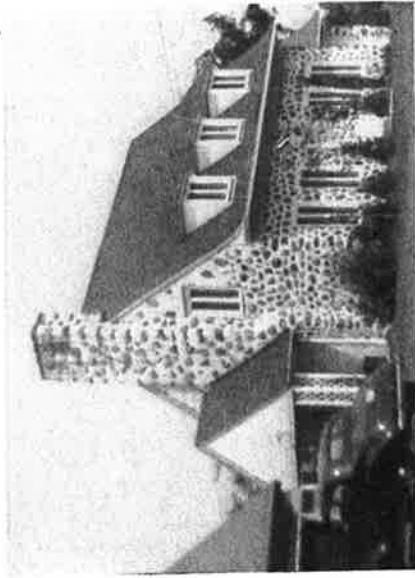


Fig. 26. French-Canadian Style

features about this type of house, which distinguish it from other types, are in the outward curve at the eaves of the steeply sloping roof and the high, narrow casement windows. Like other windows of the Colonial and Early English period these windows are divided up into small panes of glass. This style might well be called the French Colonial, since it belongs to the great period of French colonial expansion which has left its mark indelibly on eastern Canada.

MEDITERRANEAN STYLES. Bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, between Europe and Africa, are two countries which have contributed to American domestic architecture to a considerable extent, although not perhaps as much as the English or the French. These two countries are Italy and Spain, and because of their geographical position as neighbors on the shores of the great sea, the styles which have been developed as a result of their influence have been sometimes grouped together under the heading of the Mediterranean

A SMALL HOUSE IN THE CAPE COD TRADITION, WITH HEAVY HORIZONTAL SHADOW LINES.
Courtesy of Curtis Companies, Incorporated, Manufacturers of Curtis Woodwork, Clinton, Iowa



How to
a House

PLAN

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