

# Contemporary



The Contemporary style first emerged in the United States and Los Angeles after WW II and was popular in Los Angeles into the mid-1970s.

The Contemporary Style evolved from European Modernism and the International Style of the 1920s and 30s. In the post WWII years new architects re-invented Modern architecture creating a “contemporary” style, integrating ideas of the International Style with American domestic influences such as the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. They also utilized off the shelf industrial parts and experimented with new materials recently made available from the war effort, such as plate glass, concrete, stainless steel, plastic laminates, alloys, plywood and composites.

Contemporary structures generally have broad and extended overhanging flat or low pitched roofs with generous amounts of plate glass on exterior walls sometimes with steel or aluminum framing and mullions, solid wall panels, weathered or stained flush mounted or tongue in groove wood siding, clean building profiles, and exposed wood or steel support posts.

Features of the Contemporary style are often mixed with the Ranch style.

### Contemporary - Common character defining features

Windows (pg. 61)	Porches (pg. 69)	Doorways (pg. 66)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Large fixed pane</li> <li>▪ Floor to ceiling fixed “walls of glass”</li> <li>▪ Sliding glass with aluminum framing</li> <li>▪ Casement</li> <li>▪ Louvered</li> <li>▪ Clerestory</li> <li>▪ No decorative moldings or framing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Broad extended roof plane or canopy</li> <li>▪ Sometimes no porch at all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solid with no detailing</li> <li>▪ Sliding glass</li> <li>▪ Rectangular</li> </ul>
Roofs (pg. 73)	Accessory Structures (pg. 86)	Building Materials (pg. 79)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flat</li> <li>▪ Gently pitched</li> <li>▪ Exposed wood and steel beams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attached two car or attached car port</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Glass</li> <li>▪ Concrete</li> <li>▪ Stucco</li> <li>▪ Brick</li> <li>▪ Wood Laminate</li> <li>▪ Wood</li> </ul>

### Notes on styles section:

*This text may be customized to include information related to this architectural style that is unique to your HPOZ. Although you may use an alternate approach, you may wish to review the recommended five paragraph approach towards writing this section as outlined below:*

- *The first paragraph contains an overview of the period of development of the style. You might want to include information about the dates such styles were popular regionally and more specifically within your HPOZ.*
- *The second paragraph contains background information about the style’s development. It may include a description of the origin of the style and its relationship to other contemporary movements.*
- *The third paragraph includes information on the identifying hallmarks of the style. This is where you describe the main components of this style that differentiate it from others.*
- *You may wish to add a fourth paragraph to detail more specific examples of this style within your HPOZ, including a discussion of any prominent local architects who worked in this style. Other related information regarding your local HPOZ could be added. This paragraph will most likely be unique to your HPOZ only.*
- *The last paragraph discusses the styles with which this style is commonly found mixed. It is important to illustrate how styles are not necessarily exclusive of each other, and that elements of many different different styles may be found a single structure.*

### Additional graphics:



*Suggested graphics are included to help illustrate the text. They may be replaced or augmented by the graphics to the right, or you may wish to substitute local photos or other graphics illustrating buildings or styles within your HPOZ.*

*The chart to the left contains information to help identify buildings of this style in the community. There may be additional unique locally occurring features that characterize this style in your neighborhood which you may wish to add.*