

# Dingbat



The first Dingbat style apartment buildings were built in the United States in the mid to late 1950s in Los Angeles and were popular until the late 1960s to early 1970s.

The most character defining feature of the Dingbats are the decorative light sconces, sculptural pieces and fanciful signs mounted to the front facing stucco facades. Because of these elements the apartment buildings were dubbed Dingbats, a term borrowed from the graphic design industry used to describe starbursts and other decorative designs.



Dingbat structures are almost invariably rectangular and are typically two or three stories in height, with flat roofs, stucco siding, flush mounted aluminum slider type plate glass windows. Upper floors are supported by thin steel poles with recessed parking spaces below. Ornamentation consists of incandescent rear lit decorative metal light sconces, selectively applied textures and cladding, themed sculptural elements and facade mounted signs, sometimes rear lit with neon tubing.

Dingbat features can be found used in higher style architect-designed apartment buildings.



### Dingbat - Common character defining features

#### Windows (pg. 61)

- Large fixed pane
- Sliding glass usually with steel framing
- Casement
- Louvered
- No decorative moldings or framing

#### Porches (pg. 69)

- Front carport
- "Pole" supports

#### Doorways (pg. 66)

- Solid with no detailing
- Sliding glass

#### Roofs (pg. 73)

- Flat
- Hipped

#### Building Materials (pg. 79)

- Stucco

#### Architectural Detail (pg. 76)

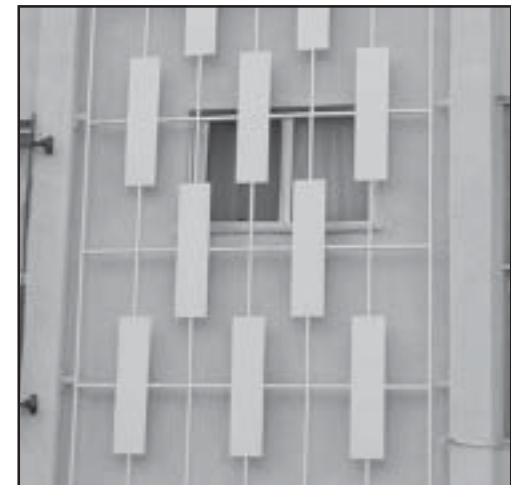
- Tile
- Starbursts
- Geometric
- Stylish Typefaces

### 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.*