

Mediterranean/Italian Renaissance Revival



The first Mediterranean/Italian Renaissance Revival buildings were built in the United States starting in the early 1900s. These styles became popular in Los Angeles in the nineteen-teens.

The Mediterranean Revival style is loosely based on Italian seaside villas from the sixteenth century. The style was particularly prevalent in Southern California, because of a popular association of the California coast with Mediterranean resorts.

The Renaissance Revival style is loosely based on Italian palazzos of the sixteenth century. It was usually used in particularly grand homes where an imposing style was required. Part of the popularity of the Renaissance Revival style grew out of the vogue at the turn of the last century for the distinction and "polish" of familiarity with European architectural and artistic styles. These styles were usually mixed together, creating a hybrid style.

Mediterranean/Italian Renaissance Revival structures tend to be relatively massive, with symmetrical primary facades, a rectangular floorplan, Classical, Spanish or Beaux Arts details, and gardens.

Elements of the Mediterranean/Italian Renaissance Revival style can be found mixed with the Beaux Arts and Spanish Colonial Revival styles.

Mediterranean Revival - Common character defining features

Windows (pg. 61)

- One-over-one, or two-over-two
- Rectangular tops

Porches (pg. 69)

- Relatively restrained porticos
- Piazzas
- Arcades

Doorways (pg. 66)

- Paired or single
- Large pane glazing
- Arched or rectangular

Roofs (pg. 73)

- Tile
- Flat
- Very low-pitched
- Hipped
- Carved brackets

Building Materials (pg. 79)

- Stucco
- Iron details

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.