



# Housing Style

## Interwar Houses

### Middle Class Bungalow ('Ashgrovian') – 1930's

By the late 1920's and early 1930's the Queensland First World War Service style home was overtaken by influences from southern states and larger gable roof construction. The hip roof had disappeared giving rise to this bungalow style featuring two or three gable constructions facing the street frontage.

According to architect Ron Tanton this modern affordable bungalow incorporated a style that appealed to the 1930's Queensland middle income earners.

Externally a prominent timber staircase generally connected front garden entry path to a verandah with security in gated lattice and timber slatted blinds or lattice infill. Where a verandah was not part of the front design a simple porch entry became dominated by roofs constructed with timber gable front end walls and a series of smaller verandahs were sometimes opened off individual rooms of the house.

Prolific in numbers these homes displayed a new era heralding many other sophistications. They were no longer just the result of building in Queensland for purely Queensland conditions.

#### **Positive Features**

Projecting 'Bay', 'Oriel' or 'Window Box Seat' windows became new additional features visible at the front of these houses.

Grand Gables feature decorative painted battens on fibro. 'Port Hole' windows in entry ways and timber work as picture rails internally were introduced. 'Lead light' or decorative designed obscure glass casement windows became more widely used.

Mr Tanton records that architects and history have turned the name 'Ashgrovian' to these homes as they were very popularly built in the Brisbane Ashgrove and inner suburban areas in the period.

#### **Renovation Potential**

Sometimes darker internal spaces can be modified with modern roof light systems and convenient indoor outdoor renovations. Bi-fold glass doors can be effective to open up walls from interior rooms and link new protected indoor outdoor entertaining environments. All the benefits of timber frame construction provide for uncomplicated changes as does the elevated floor provide for economical plumbing and electrical renewal.

Decks, verandahs, new family areas, kitchen and bathrooms are generally priority areas to enhance the function and provide for casual living as formal living and dining generally already exist internally.