



Housing Style

Spanish Mission Style mid 1920's to mid 1940's

An imported Spanish Mission Revival style came to Queensland courtesy of the Southern Californian movies and various home magazines. This period is important as an era which marked the beginning of Australians discovering and being tempted by different architectural styles often from overseas where different design conditions prevailed.

Ron Tanton architect says this style particularly suited Mediterranean conditions and was probably excusable in semi Mediterranean climates. The style remained popular from the mid 1920's up until past World War II and during this time has revealed itself to be an adaptive style incorporating new influences and new imported materials suitable for this construction and décor in the period.

Floor plans varied to suit local architects' interpretation of client requirements and borrowed features include distinctive ochre coloured 'Cordova' tiled roofs. These imported 's' shaped tiles in their cross section gave the roof a rippled look effect.

Positive Features

Arches and arched colonnades featuring solid 'twisted columns' in support sometimes cleverly integrated house and garden courtyard, privacy, and landscape water features.

Arched doorways, windows, entrances and gates extend the theme.

Mr Tanton suggests this style remained popular among some relatively 'well to do' home owners for two to three decades and so have enjoyed relative maintenance. With their Spanish influence they directly contrasted with the Queenslander timber and tin homes and their use of solid masonry construction finished with ochre or white stucco render relieves our urban housing palette and is a reflection of a new time of architectural temptation in Queensland.

Adobe style chimneys emerged from roofs and up the sides of masonry walls and provide an 'uncommon' feature in Queensland's sub tropical urban roof landscape.

Painted timber window shutters appeared on the outside of some window and door openings and served as either decoration or as extra hinged weather protection and security.

Renovation Potential

Mr Tanton notes that as these homes are few in number and often different by design, much potential lies in individual custom renovation and upgrading, maintaining or enhancing a strong sense of the style for best value.