

Architectural Styles Found in “30 Architectural Gems in Nebraska”

Greek Revival (1820 to 1860)

The Greek Revival style emphasizes the form and proportion of building elements, and is characterized by cornice lines with wide bands of trim. Other features include moldings emphasizing building corners and floor lines, transoms and sidelights around door openings, and triangular pediments above windows.

Italianate or Italian Villa (1850 to 1890)

The Italianate or Italian Villa style is characterized by advancing and receding planes, low pitched roofs, wide roof overhangs supported by large decorative brackets beneath the eaves, elaborate window crowns, tall narrow windows, square cupolas, square towers, wrap around porches supported by elaborate double columns.

French Second Empire (1860 to 1890)

The French Second Empire style incorporates many of the details of the Italianate Style with mansard roofs, dormer windows, square towers, decorated brackets, molded cornices, and outward projections on the building's front or sides. The mansard roof crest was often topped with an iron trim.

Richardsonian or Romanesque Revival (1870 to 1900)

The Richardsonian or Romanesque Revival style is characterized by round arches and short columns that frame window and door openings, deep set entryways, rough textured masonry walls that express a heavy, horizontal look, and rounded towers with conical roofs. Facades are asymmetrical, and often include stone and brick in contrasting colors and textures.

Chateausque (1880 to 1900)

The Chateausque style is typically built on an asymmetrical plan and includes elaborate, broken rooflines, and stone masonry façades composed of advancing and receding planes. The style features elaborate towers, turrets, spires, shaped chimneys, and steep pitched mansard roofs

Scottish Baronial (1880 to 1915)

The Scottish Baronial style draws upon stylistic elements and forms from medieval castles including towers, busy rooflines with dormers extending through the cornices, and crenulated battlements broken by stepped gables. Massive stone walls, porches, porticos and porte-cocheres provide the full castle treatment.

Beaux Arts (1893 to 1929)

Beaux Arts style emphasized classical (Greek) forms and styles, elaborate detailing, massive plans, and heavy masonry walls. Mostly used for grand public and institutional buildings. The primary inspiration for this style was Chicago's Columbian Exposition (known as the Great White City) in 1893. Thus, many of the early, prominent examples of Beaux Arts can be dated to within a decade of the turn of the 20th century.

Spanish Renaissance Revival (1900 to 1940)

The Spanish Renaissance Revival style includes symmetrical plans and facades, smooth limestone walls, red clay tiled roofs, and elaborate domed cupolas, niches and gables. Smooth wall surfaces contrast with decorative carvings and moldings.

Spanish Colonial Revival (1900 to 1940)

The Spanish Colonial Revival style is characterized by low pitched, red-tiled roofs, colorful, contrasting brick and stucco walls, wide overhanging eaves, and a sheltering arcade with exposed rafters.

Neo-Classical (1895-1940)

The Neo-Classical style was an attempt to return to a perceived “purity” of architecture and includes symmetrical facades, full height porches, classical columns, and classical ornament such as dentil courses.

Moorish (1910 to 1940)

The Moorish style features lavishly colored and decorated vaults, domes, arcades, courtyards, and rectangular moldings which frame circular or horseshoe shaped arched openings creating an exotic, polychrome fantasy utilized as a design theme for stage and movie theaters during the period.

International (1930 to 1980)

The International style incorporates modern structural principles of construction, exposes its structure and rejects non-essential decoration. Wall surfaces are smooth and unadorned. Ribbon windows, corner windows, and large glass paneled curtain walls set flush with the outer wall surface are a hallmark of the style. Flat roofs, and placement of buildings on a pedestal or raised terrace are also common design elements found in this style.