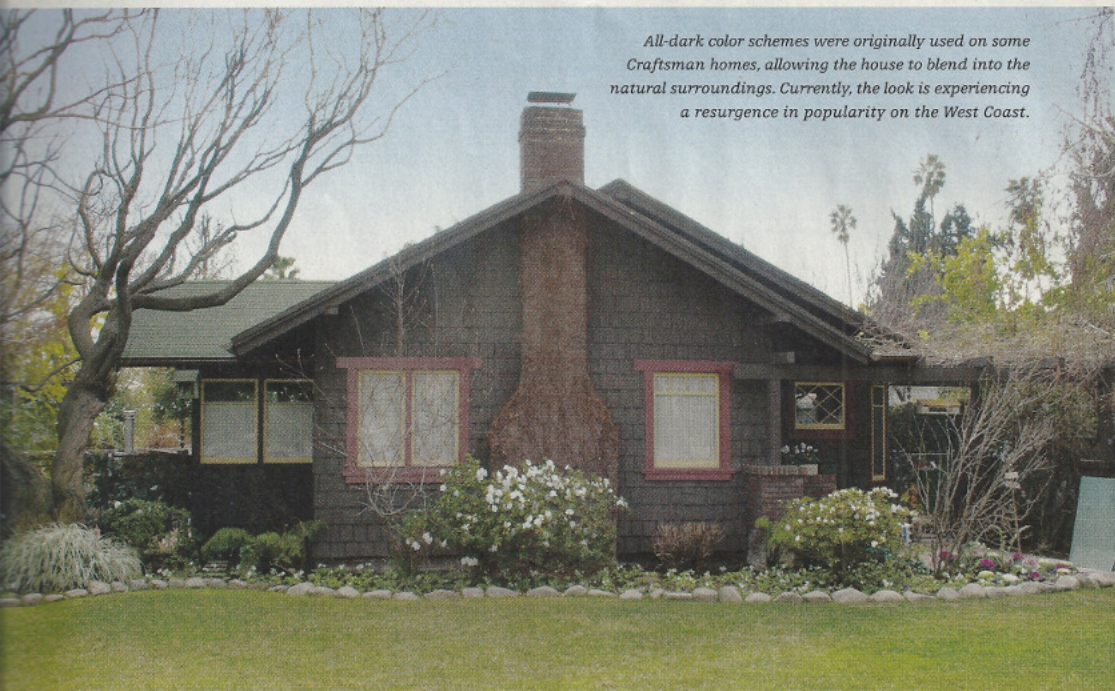


All-dark color schemes were originally used on some Craftsman homes, allowing the house to blend into the natural surroundings. Currently, the look is experiencing a resurgence in popularity on the West Coast.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL LOGAN

Never use bright white paint anywhere on, in or near your Craftsman bungalow.

The Great Outdoors

The typical 1914 home's exterior color schemes were just two colors, and fewer details were accented than today. There was some use of a third color, but it was limited to doors and windows, as it should be today.

Avoid using more than three colors on your Craftsman bungalow's exterior, and keep it simple. One exception for a fourth color would be a two-story home with shingles on one level and clapboard siding on the other.

Go ahead and accent those attic vents and knee braces, but keep them all one main trim color. Cape Cod blue, white trim and a fire-engine red front-door

color combination has had a good run, but it is now time to retire it in the archives of 1980s design history.

House Detective

Finding your original exterior colors is a little harder than interior ones due to weathering, so go to areas the sun has not bleached out, like the north side or under eaves. Careful scraping with a scalpel or X-Acto knife may reveal the original paints and when dampened will show the color in a fresher state. If you remove a trim board, such as around a window, you may find some examples intact.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAIMEE ITAGAKI



above
A very effective early-1920s color combination is close to the original.

right
These brushes are Craftsman-era tools of the trade.



You will have better luck finding original colors inside. Grab your X-Acto knife and scrape behind switchplates. Light fixture canopies are also great sources as few painters bother to remove them. If you ever remove a window casing board to rebuild a window you will most likely discover the original color in mint condition. When sanding through layers of colors on painted trim, the second to last one is pay

dirt (the last one that has no sheen is the primer).

Inside Scoop

Original Craftsman interior colors would probably surprise most people, as they were bold statements compared to today's wimpy varieties. On restoration job sites, I can never resist taking out the X-Acto knife to go on a

above, left to right

Interior color schemes don't include bright white. (See Resources, page 94.)

below

If you could go back in time to 1912, you would see color combinations much like this on many Craftsman bungalows: a chocolate-brown body and creamy, off-white trim.



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