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fishing expedition for old colors. Though not conclusive, my findings show a very colorful past. Public rooms (living rooms, dining rooms) were frequently a bold gold. Lemon yellow was popular in bedrooms along with cream ceilings. Surprisingly, battleship gray was found in kitchens and service porches. Baths ran the gamut of colors. Painted woodwork was typically a deep cream, called buff.

Rise and Shine

In days of old, high gloss was likely the norm for kitchens, baths and interior trim, with a few enamels sold in eggshell. The high-gloss paints were advertised to be capable of being rubbed down to eggshell. Today, you can save yourself the trouble by using most the practical satin enamel. I have never found any period "white" in or on a bungalow. This is not to say that it was never used, because I may have stumbled over some badly faded examples, but I believe its usage was rare.

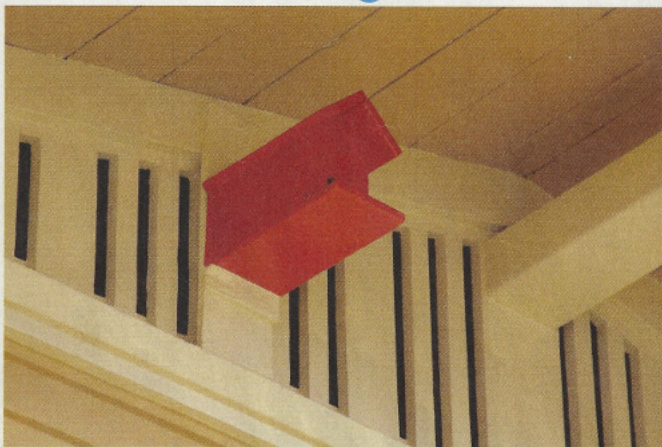
top

It is refreshing to see that this classic bungalow is not painted white on white.

left

Original color cards and brochures are useful resources for painting a vintage home.

Painted woodwork was typically a deep cream, called buff.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAIMEE ITOGAKI

above

Although personal expression may extend to your front door, fire-engine red is not historically accurate. However, a red birdhouse adds whimsy under an attic vent.

below

Contemporary earth tones convey a vintage appearance on this bungalow.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HILLARY ELICE

My most important tip: Never use bright white paint anywhere on, in or near your Craftsman bungalow. It is not historical. If you have any white, then start your white abatement program. The only exception would be in baths or kitchens and limited to incised plaster faux tile walls and it would be more of an antique white like the real tiles.

Finishing Touches

If you have a picture rail that is set at the top of the windows and door frames, paint the ceiling and upper wall space (frieze) from the rail

