

Don't Bungle a Bungalow

Part IV: Paint and Colors

Ways to maintain your home's value during restoration.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY HILLARY BLACK

NOTHING CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOUR VINTAGE-HOME RESTORATION EFFORT as much as the paint colors you select. You'll want to ensure the colors you choose will be the ones that you, your neighbors and guests will enjoy for many years.

Here we will explore the paints and colors used historically on Craftsman bungalows in particular, how you can discover original colors on your home and what works today.

above

A remodeled bungalow à la Greene and Greene is in keeping with the brothers' dark color palette. However, the author's preference to maintain a home's value is to keep history intact (meaning any vintage restoration should stay true to the original). Still, some enthusiasts will appreciate this home's look.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HILLARY BLACK

Back to Nature

Determining the popular Craftsman bungalow colors of yesteryear is not foolproof since photographic records of the day are black and white. But we have a pretty good idea thanks to paint catalogues and samples, and original colors on existing homes. As a general rule, Craftsman colors harmonize with nature's. Most exterior wood siding or shingle body colors were in medium to dark tones, usually browns and muddy greens, with the accent trim being light, typically a cream color. Stucco varieties were usually the exact opposite: light body and dark trim. Exceptions can be seen occasionally in old photos of bungalows with medium/dark wood body colors and even darker trim. This color scheme is currently a popular trend in Pasadena, California.

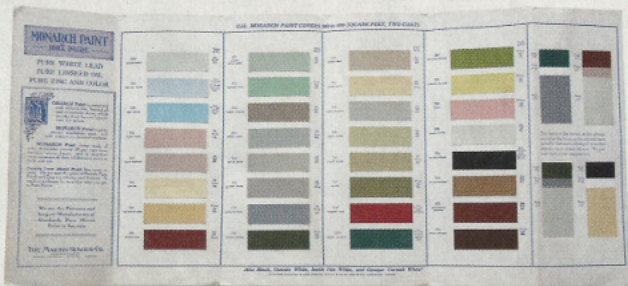


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Earth-tone colors are the right choice for Craftsman bungalows.

right

A Monarch Paint brochure and a vintage fan deck show original colors of the late teens and early 1920s.



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