

The Open Suitcase Series – Program Description

House and Home – Architectural Styles on Prince Edward Island

This program explores the different architectural styles found on Prince Edward Island by examining their origins, development, and changes over time. Discover what designs were popular in what decades and what inspired these styles. Students will gain a greater understanding of the communities in which they live. The program is presented in a colourful PowerPoint presentation for easy classroom use. Also included is a complete list of questions for critical thinking about the subject.

The written material covers the following topics:

The definition of a home

Factors to consider when building a home

Settlers of the Island

Architectural Styles including:

Georgian Style	1759-onward
Greek Revival	1820 to 1860s
Gothic Revival	1830s to 1880
Italianate	1850 to 1890
Second Empire	1860 to 1880
Romanesque	1870to 1900

Vernacular Architecture (local tradition)

Center Dormer	1800 to 1840
Center Gable	1840 to 1900
Island Ell	1870s to early 1900s
Queen Anne	1880s to early 1900s
Shingle House	1880 to 1900
Stick House	1890 to 1910
Colonial Revival	1900 to 1939
Prairie House	1900 to 1939
Craftsman Bungalow	1918 to 1930
Rancher and Split Level	1950 to present

PowerPoint Presentation

The program is comprised of a PowerPoint presentation, allowing students to have a visual representation of the different architectural styles found on the Island. Open the For Teachers and Students section to access the presentation.

Questions for Critical Thought and Ideas for Further Exploration

Introduction

- Do you define house and home differently? If so, what would you say is the difference?

- What sort of skills would you need to be an architect?
- Art often tells a story. Architecture is a form of art. What kind of story might it tell?
- There are several factors to consider when building a house. Can you think of any not listed in the program? Which factors do you feel are most important?
- Carpenters were trained through apprenticeship. Has training changed any today? How would shipbuilding have helped develop skills for building houses?
- What makes brick such a strong building material? Research and explore the process of brick making.

Georgian Style: 1795-onward

- Why were shutters popular in the 1800s? What was their purpose? What is their purpose today?
- Why was it important for the roofs on the Island to be sloped?

Greek Revival: 1820sto 1860s

- Greek Revival is a symbol of stability. Why might that be?
- Why did people desire houses and other building in this style? What do you think made them popular?

Gothic Revival: 1830s to 1880s

- One goal in Gothic Revival architecture is to make the eye look upward. Why would this be a desired goal?
- Why is wood a popular building material?

Italianate: 1850 to 1890

- Why would people have wanted to protest formal earlier styles with informal and spacious farmhouses? Which do you find more desirable, formal or informal homes?
- Why would a flat styled roof not be common on the Island?

Second Empire: 1860 to 1880

- Why was this style of house considered a status symbol?
- What sort of professionals would have been doing well financially during this time period to have these unique houses?

Romanesque: 1870 to 1900

- Public buildings are often made with brick. Why was this building material more popular for public or commercial building than it was for houses?
- Which style of house do you find more impressive – those which are wider rather than higher like Romanesque houses, or higher rather than wider?

Vernacular Architecture

- What might be some of the features taken from the various styles and combined to form a new one?
- If you were a Vernacular architect, what features would you include in your design? Why?

Center Dormer: 1800 to 1840

- Why might this design be known as “Center Dormer”?
- The Center Dormer was a cheaper version of the Georgian style home. What are some of the differences between the two?

Center Gable: 1840 to 1900

- How do the Center Dormer and Center Gable homes differ?
- The Center Gable was a cheaper version of the Gothic Revival style home. What are some of the differences between the two?

Island Ell: 1870s to early 1900s

- The wing with the kitchen was usually the warmer wing of the home. Why would this have been the case?
- Many Island Ell homes have been altered over the years making them unbalanced in style. Why is balance appealing in the appearance of a home?

Queen Anne: 1880s to early 1900s

- This style of home represents freedom, as it does not conform to any one pattern or design. In what other ways do we represent freedom today?
- Do you think this style would have been more popular in rural or urban settings?

Shingle House: 1880 to 1900

- Shingle homes differ from other styles due to roof design. Why were people always looking for ways to change and modify their homes? Are we still doing that today?
- Try to visualize what sort of designs and patterns they might put on a roof using shingles.

Stick House: 1890 to 1910

- How could you use cladding or sheathing on the outside of a home to show the inside?
- Was this an easy task? Were they successful?
- Try designing the outside of where you live to show the interior

Colonial Revival: 1900 to 1939

- Why might these homes also be known as Four Square homes?
- Why were they also known as Fox Houses?
- What was the fox industry?
- The Colonial Revival homes often had more windows than earlier styles as glass was more available and people now wanted more light in their homes. What would be the pros and cons of having more windows in homes? Think of heating, lighting, storms, etc.

Prairie House: 1900 to 1939

- What made Prairie Houses popular considering that they were so simple in design?
- These homes could be purchased in a catalogue. Can that still be done today?
- What would be some of the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing a home from a catalogue company?

Craftsman Bungalow: 1918 to 1930

- No more than thirty percent of your income should go towards your housing costs. Why is that a good guideline?
- The Craftsman Bungalow was designed to invite the outside inside. How would this be achieved? Was it successful?

The Rancher and Split Level: 1950 to present

- Which do you think is more popular today – the Rancher or the Split Level home?
- What makes these house styles so different from earlier designs?

Items in the suitcase

PowerPoint presentation

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, Heritage House Notes

Binder with 23 photographs of house styles