

Bainbridge Island
to Gig Harbor

*Find Everything on
the Beautiful Kitsap Peninsula!*

WESTSOUND
HOME & GARDEN



*Premier
Issue*

Our Love Affair with Arts & Crafts Style Homes

Nurseries Take the Plunge to Organic • Farmers Markets

Design Tips from Area Experts • Men in the Garden

Indoor Playhouse • What's New in the Garden • and much more...

\$3.95 Fall 05
6 89076 83369 1

Arts & Crafts Movement homes on the Peninsula

TEXT BY KATE EASTON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOLLY SHURTLEFF

Timelessness connects the communities of Kitsap Peninsula. The timelessness of unity of architectural design and the sense of timelessness in the lush and green surroundings bonds the human and the natural path much like the architecture style known as Arts & Crafts Movement provides a unity and a diversity at the same time. In the same way that the communities of the Kitsap Peninsula provide a backdrop of rich cultural and ethnic history, the philosophy of the Arts & Crafts Movement links today with the past.

The Arts & Crafts Movement has its origins in mid-nineteenth century America and England as people became dissatisfied with the impact the Industrial Revolution was having on people and landscapes, the elaborate ostentation and separation (of class, indoor to outdoor) of Victorian society, and in the US, the settlement of the western frontier.

Richard Darke eloquently describes the social concern driving the Arts & Crafts Movement: "Industrial workers were losing an essential part of their humanity, if not their souls, in exchange for the assurance of low, but steady wages from high profit industrial concerns." Philosophers and social critics such as John Ruskin and Ralph Waldo Emerson encouraged the return to nature through their writings and friendships. Ruskin declared that "dreaming," "earthiness," and "sensuality," were the "glowing moments" of life that needed to be preserved. Emerson's beliefs that art is derived from nature and that living in harmony with nature found receptive



The beautifully restored homes on these pages are only a few of the Arts & Crafts style homes built on the Kitsap Peninsula in the early 1900's. Nearly every town on the peninsula boasts these crafted homes.

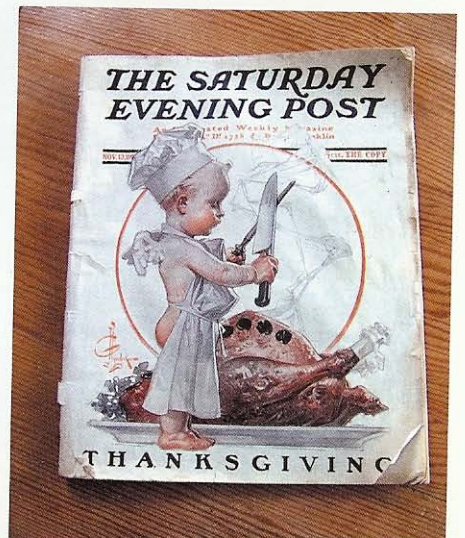
listeners in some of the most influential architects of the period.

The perspective that a society's moral health is reflected in its art and that good design depended on society's ethical system lead to the belief that society as a whole had an imperative to address the needs of the common man. One of the ways to do that was to build long-lasting, sturdy and affordable homes that

connected man with nature.

In an experiment to build a such a home, William Morris gathered together architects (Morris himself and Philip Webb), interior designers

During the restoration process, the above homeowner found a copy of a 1909 Saturday Evening Post. Workmen who constructed the original home left their reading materials stuffed in the walls of the attic.



Arts & Crafts

CONTINUED

(Ernest Gimson) and garden planners (William Robinson, Gertrude Jekyll) to design what is credited as the first Arts & Crafts Movement home, Red House, Morris' residence in England. The group established the starting principles of the Arts & Crafts Movement: unity of house and landscape, nature as inspiration, use of local materials, especially recycled ones; craftsmanship in construction methods; simple and beautiful materials provided subtle ornamentation and the marriage of formal garden layout with flowing, loose, 'wild' planting design.

The design of the home allowed the cycles of nature to become part of the interior through windows and skylights that aligned with dawn, sunset, the night sky and/or garden. Outdoor gathering places were linked to similar indoor places. These principles lead to built-in furniture and accessories such as bookcases, window boxes, and storage areas. The colors used reflected the colors of nature - rich earth tones such as

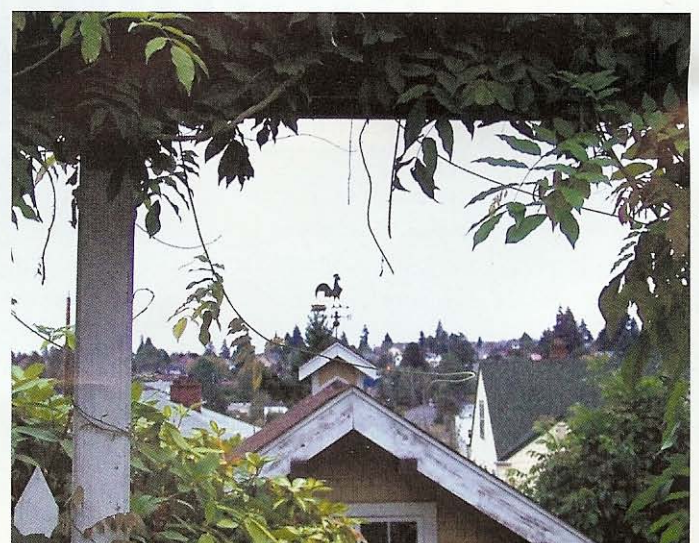
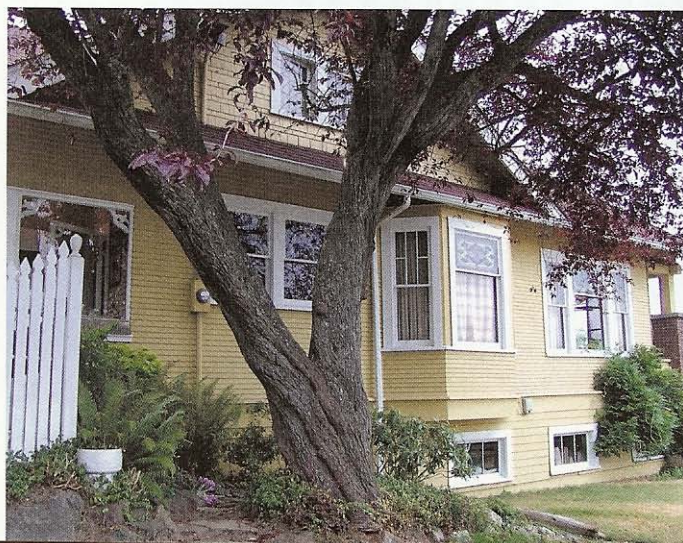
terracotta, dark mustard yellow, muted greens ranging from olive to sage, deep blues and deep crimson. Hammered copper and tin and natural stone and brick were used inside and out in complementary ways.

In short, the Arts & Crafts Movement incorporated a reverence for nature, a belief in the positive benefits of beauty and a holistic approach to building homes and gardens. Other notables in the Arts & Crafts Movement are C. R. Ashbee, Edwin Lutyens, M. H. Baillie Scott, George Walton, J. L. Pearson, C. F. A. Voysey, Edgar Wood, W. H. Brierley, W. Lethaby, Hugh Thackeray-Turner.

In the United States, architects such as William Price, Elbert Hubbard and

Charles and Henry Green introduced the Arts & Crafts ideals while Henry Chapman Mercer (a tile maker in Pennsylvania), Ernest Batchelder (a tile maker in California); Gustav Skickley (a furniture maker), and Dirk Van Erp (hammered copper work) became suppliers of the components.

Several Arts & Crafts communities (Roycroft, Birdclyffe, Arden, Rose Valley) were constructed where like-minded people practiced their crafts in homes built in the style. The lack of economic success of these communities led to their demise except for Mohonk Mountain House in New York and Pocono Lake Preserve in Pennsylvania that operate as a country inn and private community today.



Arts & Crafts

CONTINUED

In the 1920's and 1930's, Frank Lloyd Wright believed that "well designed architecture should provide a virtual window on nature." Wright built on the foundation of early Arts & Crafts design and coined the term 'Usonian,' meaning US own home and he adapted the Arts & Crafts designs to a more modest scale while creating the regional variation known as Prairie Style.

Green & Green are credited with defining the concept of American bungalow, another variation of the style intended to be affordable to the workingman. Other variations of the Arts & Crafts style in the United States reflect the wide differences in availability and use of local materials. Shingle Style and American Four Square were more prevalent in areas where wood resources were abundant and the landforms supported multi-level homes. Craftsman and Mission Style became synonymous with bungalow after they enjoyed success in southern California.

Many of the cities and communities that expanded rapidly at the turn of the last century relied on the architecture and design integrity of the Arts & Crafts movement. On the Kitsap Peninsula, excellent examples of the Craftsman Style homes are common in the older, more established areas of the communities.

True to the timelessness of the original design and function, these Craftsman homes are enjoying a revival. Many new homeowners are enjoying the craftsmanship of the original Craftsman homes and renovating them to meet



modern building standards and conveniences. At the same time, new construction is relying on some of the standards of the style: natural and recycled materials, harmony with nature by incorporating low impact development building practices, linking the home with the outdoors through the use of modern glazing (e.g., double-paned, low-e

windows). Timelessness of design lives on in these newly renovated and new homes constructed with the philosophy of the Arts & Crafts Movement in mind.

To come:

Garden elements common to A&C movement homes, an exploration of the design principles and techniques that create the unity of house and garden.

LIST OF RESOURCES

Websites:

<http://www.achome.co.uk/artsandcraftshome/artsandcraftshome.htm>

<http://www.e-restores.com/artsandcrafts>

Books:

The Arts and Crafts House, Adrian Inniswood

The Arts and Crafts Movement, Elizabeth Cumming and Wendy Caplan

The Arts and Crafts Home, Wendy Hitchmough

The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home,
Paul Duchscherer & Douglas Keister

Inside the Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Interior,
Paul Duchscherer & Douglas Keister

Outside the Bungalow, America's Arts & Crafts Garden,
Paul Duchscherer & Douglas Keister

In Harmony with Nature, Lessons from the Arts & Crafts Garden, Rick Darke