

The "Santa Fe Style" of

architecture was purposely created by Anglo Romanticism of Indians and Hispanics around the Southwestern USA. Immediately following the long and difficult struggle for statehood in 1912, the Santa Fe boosters noticed that their successful efforts to look "American" by importing a tapestry of architectural styles

from the east coast, with modern construction techniques and materials, was threatening to change the unique character of Santa Fe toward an "anywhere USA"...



Neoclassical Territorial Capitol



Romanesque Revival St. Francis Cathedral



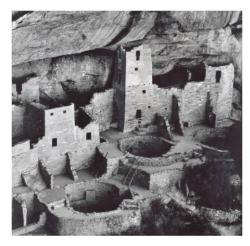
Neoclassical Executive Mansion

Victorian-Pitched-on-Brick Santa Fe High School

The reactionary movement away from the Americanization Period defined a unique Santa Fe Style. It intended to preserve the qualities of old Santa Fe and to attract tourism along with population growth.

Santa Fe Style includes three distinct architectural types:

Pueblo-Spanish Revival (aka Spanish-Pueblo or Pueblo Revival); Territorial Revival; and Santa Fe vernacular.



The most-romantic type of Santa Fe Style is **<u>Pueblo-Spanish Revival</u>** style. It is based upon the <u>blending</u> of Ancestral Puebloan stone ruins, such as in Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde...



...with the eroded adobe Spanish Mission Churches in the Pueblo villages, such as San Jose Mission at Laguna.

The Pueblo-Spanish Revival style was defined in 1912 by the "**New-Old Santa Fe Exhibition**" held in the Palace of the Governors and subsequently with the Palace's remodeling including replacement of the Victorian front portal with another portal in the new style (Jesse Nusbaum 1914)...





...and construction of the distinctive and definitive Fine Arts Museum (Isaac Hamilton Rapp 1917).



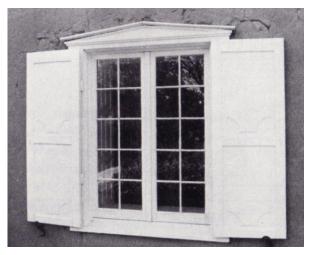
The <u>Classic Pueblo-Spanish Revival</u> style includes the following details: irregular human-scaled room-block massing with stepbacks on additional stories; flat roofs drained by canales projecting through parapet walls; battered and canted adobe or pseudo-adobe walls that lack strict verticality; uneven and rounded edges on massive wall corners and bull-nosed around slight window and door openings; uneven hand-applied mud plaster or cement stucco on walls; portals with bark-peeled round wooden viga posts, carved wooden corbels, and hand-adzed exposed wooden headers; and roof-supporting vigas with unevenly projecting tails that dramatically animate expansive wall surfaces with ever-changing shadows.



The **Territorial Revival** style is a result of the Americanization Period's effect on mud-plastered adobe-walled buildings using new methods of construction with commercially-prepared materials.

For example, weather-resistant firedbrick coping is applied to parapet tops in order to preserve the erodible mud finished walls below for longer periods of time. Courses of brickwork are often laid in a Neoclassical dental pattern. Square-cut posts and headers support

entry portals without corbels. Roof beams are cut back to the same front plane as the headers, rather than projecting beyond the header surface. Plaster or wooden fascia boards are applied to hide roof beam ends, resulting in weather-protection and simplification of visual impact.



Dimensional lumber is used for decorative balustrades, shutters, and window or door surrounds that often have a Neoclassical triangular pediment.



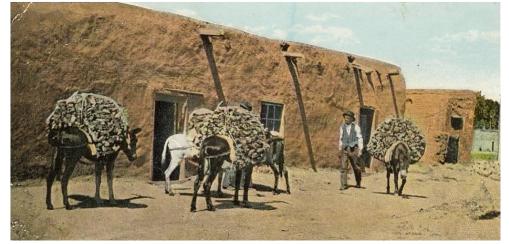


The <u>Classic</u> <u>Territorial Revival</u> style includes the following details: symmetrical design with blocky massing; vertical walls may be more than one story without stepbacks; sharper edges on wall corners; several courses of brick

coping on flat-roof parapet walls; and commercially-milled lumber woodwork throughout.

Northern New Mexico vernacular, while begun in the Americanization Period, is discussed in the next section.

The old **Santa Fe vernacular** manner of architecture is partially to blame for the troubles with our statehood request. Federal officials found Santa Fe's long and low mud huts to be un-American.



As rural villages gained ready-access to distant shipping centers, the flat-roofed adobe homes were converted to pitch-roofed masses, finished in large corrugated metal sheets, to better shed snow and rain.





The lack of decorative details in Northern New Mexico vernacular architecture was "improved" by the addition of milled lumber flourishes, especially at porches and front entry doors, creating a "**<u>Rural Territorial</u>**" style.

A <u>Regional Modernism vernacular</u> has evolved out of a simplified Santa Fe Style, showing little or none of the essential decorative details of Classic Santa Fe Style. There are no viga posts, no corbels, no exposed headers, no projecting vigas, no parapet coping, and no window or door surrounds...is this 21st century Santa Fe Style?



A "**Sustainable Pueblo Style**" of the 21st century should intend to achieve harmony with Santa Fe Style while striving to attain some Green initiatives, such as eliminating thermal bypass through exposed headers and replacing degradable wooden elements with more permanent materials like Corten steel and brushed aluminum. What will become of the historic little Eastside adobe with single-paned solid-wood windows?