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# Arts & Crafts Architecture

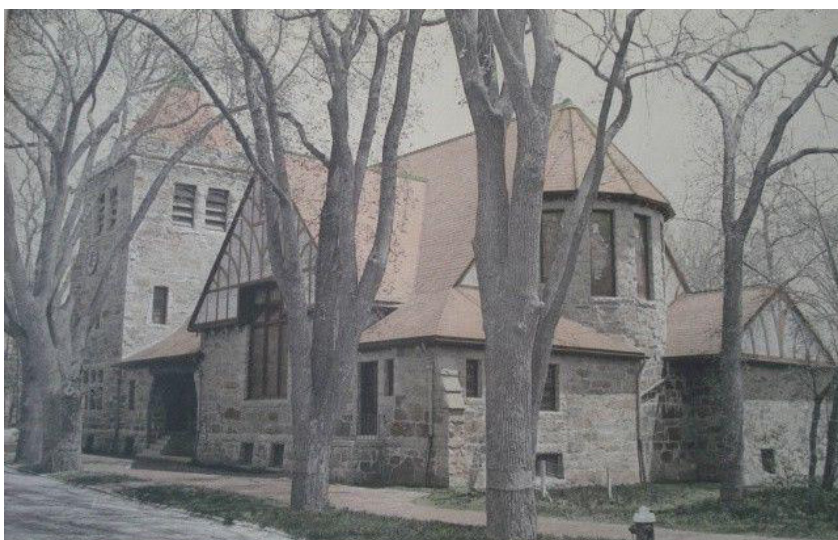
In both the US and in England, the Arts and Crafts movement celebrated handcraftsmanship, partnerships between architects and artisans, local and regional design inspiration, and a reverence for history and heritage.

By the end of the 19th century, Boston architects had developed a unique New England style of Arts and Crafts, which was decidedly different from the English Arts and Crafts aesthetic, and was also distinct from that of the Prairie School architects, like Frank Lloyd Wright (see Wright's Robie House below, built between 1908 and 1910).

The New England Arts and Crafts style embraced the Gothic Revival and Colonial aesthetics, which can be seen across the region's libraries, town halls, college campuses, and churches built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Robie House, Chicago, IL. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.



All Souls Church, Roxbury, MA. Designed by J. Williams Beal & Sons.

Private residences also were built in these styles, as exemplified by Lucknow, designed by Boston architect J. Williams Beal who had studied at MIT and worked with some of the region's most prominent Arts and Crafts architects.

Among New England's Arts and Crafts architects of this era, the use of restraint prevailed, especially in architectural ornamentation. Many designs were "unassuming," rather than over-the-top, lavish, or ostentatious. It can be assumed that this ideal appealed to Thomas Plant and J. Williams Beal while planning the design of Lucknow. Beal himself designed a variety of municipal buildings, churches, and private residences during his lengthy career.

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## The New England Tradition

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Boston architects were heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, which had originated in England earlier in the 19th century. The Anglo heritage of Bostonians practicing in the visual arts at that time, as well as a natural “Yankee” tendency towards reserve and conservatism, contributed to this interest in English heritage, design, and architecture.



The English Arts and Crafts movement celebrated the gothic and vernacular building styles of Britain’s Middle Ages. New England architects copied these styles too, but also incorporated an appreciation for their region’s unique colonial heritage. They also preferred to use local materials when possible.

Above: Lucknow.

Right: Red House, home of William Morris, in Bexleyheath, England. Built in 1860 and inspired by medieval English architecture.



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# Arts & Crafts Architecture

Can you pick out the Arts and Crafts elements of Lucknow? Here are some examples:



## Half-timbering

Decorative, for a medieval effect, and sharp side gables



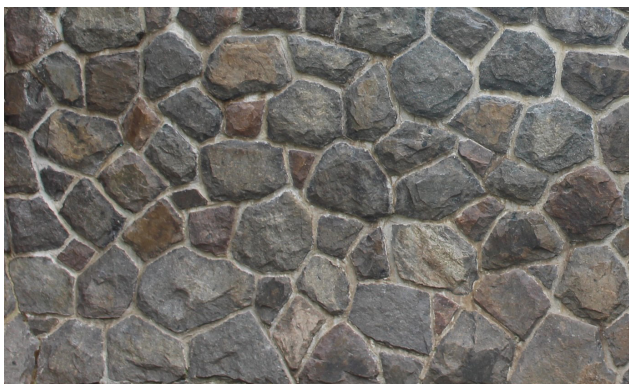
## Dormers

Shed dormers, gable dormers, as well as eyebrow dormers (seen on the Carriage House) are all representative of Arts and Crafts architecture.



## Casement windows

Leaded glass, hinged on one side and designed to swing outward. Lucknow's windows were made in England by the George Wragge Company.



## Use of local materials

Conway granite and other types of regional stone used on the estates' buildings and walls may have been blasted and cut from the property during construction.



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Can you pick out the Arts and Crafts elements of Lucknow? Here are some examples:



## Handcrafted details

Hand carving on furniture and woodwork, visible dowels, butterfly joints.



## Traditional English Inglenook (or chimney corner)

A medieval symbol for hearth and home, with built-in benches flanking a fireplace.



## Japanese decorative influence

The original roof ridgepole, as well as artworks chosen by the Plants for this home were inspired by traditional Japanese designs.



## Elements of gothic design

Arched woodwork, decorative wood paneling and metalwork seen throughout the home.