

Post-war Bungalows (1945-1960s)



This brochure is one of a series of Housing Style Information Brochures based on the common housing styles in the Town of Vincent. The brochure provides details on the origins and distinct features of the housing types within Vincent. Other brochures in this series include: ■ Late Colonial Georgian Dwellings ■ Weatherboard Dwellings ■ Federation Bungalows ■ Inter-war Californian Bungalows

Background

Houses built after the post-war period represent a broad spectrum of diversity from the mundane to the extraordinary. Whilst some were content to continue the old tradition of pride in a comfortable and well-built bungalow, Australian avant-guard architects, like fellow architects the world over, were eager to cast off the shackles of the past and to promote a modern and progressive image and way of life. All Australian cities embraced this move towards modernity, with many original buildings being demolished to make way for the new. The modern style of architecture, embodied in the International and Regional styles of architecture, did not flourish in Vincent, with only a few examples extant throughout the suburbs.

This brochure assists residents in understanding the Conventional Suburban Bungalow.



Key characteristics of Post-war Bungalows include:

Outside

- Hipped/gabled roofs with a low-lying gable of around 30 degrees.
- Flat roofs introduced in more contemporary designs.
- Marseilles pattern tiles in conservative designs.
- Plain brick walls and chimneys with minimal exterior decorative elements.
- Asbestos cement sheeting for lining interior walls and ceilings.
- Double- or triple-room frontages.
- Plain timber or aluminium windows.
- Prominent window-walls.

Inside

- Open-planned for living areas, plain surfaces and minimal furniture.
- Well-lit, functional interiors incorporating space for 'new' technology/appliances and easily maintained surfaces.
- Breakfast nooks and stools along an 'island bench' incorporated into kitchen design.
- Cornices and central ceiling panels featuring waves, zigzags, sunburst and stylised plant forms.
- Linoleum, cork, terrazzo, ceramic tiles and vinyl flooring.
- Plastic laminates Laminex and Formica, bright, 'easy care' materials covering benches, table tops and walls.
- Windows dressed in curtains and venetian blinds.

Garden

- Low brick walls or letterbox delineating property from street.
- Large areas of buffalo lawn, beds of bright flowers and useful shrubs.
- Deciduous specimen trees such as flowering peach or plum and frangipanis.
- Informal lines in garden beds, crazy paving and veneered walls with flat stone.
- Concrete edging for garden beds
- One or two substantial sheds and space for a clothesline, often a rotary clothes hoist, contained within backyard.



Maintenance Advice

- Rising damp is a common cause of deterioration in stone and brick buildings and is recognised by fretting masonry, mould, peeling paint, a musty smell and a horizontal tide mark on internal walls.

To prevent rising damp remove areas for water catchment and dampness. Remove mounds of soil and debris adjacent to walls and maintain or replace gutters and downpipes to keep stormwater away from building foundations. It is important to consult an experienced professional on appropriate remedial works, such as the replacement of damp proof course, to prevent further deterioration.

- Some buildings have been painted which were not originally painted. For paint removal only gentle treatments should be used which will not damage the masonry.
- Generally painting of masonry is not recommended. However, should you wish to paint a masonry building proceed with caution as some paints can create problems by trapping moisture and salts behind an impermeable membrane.

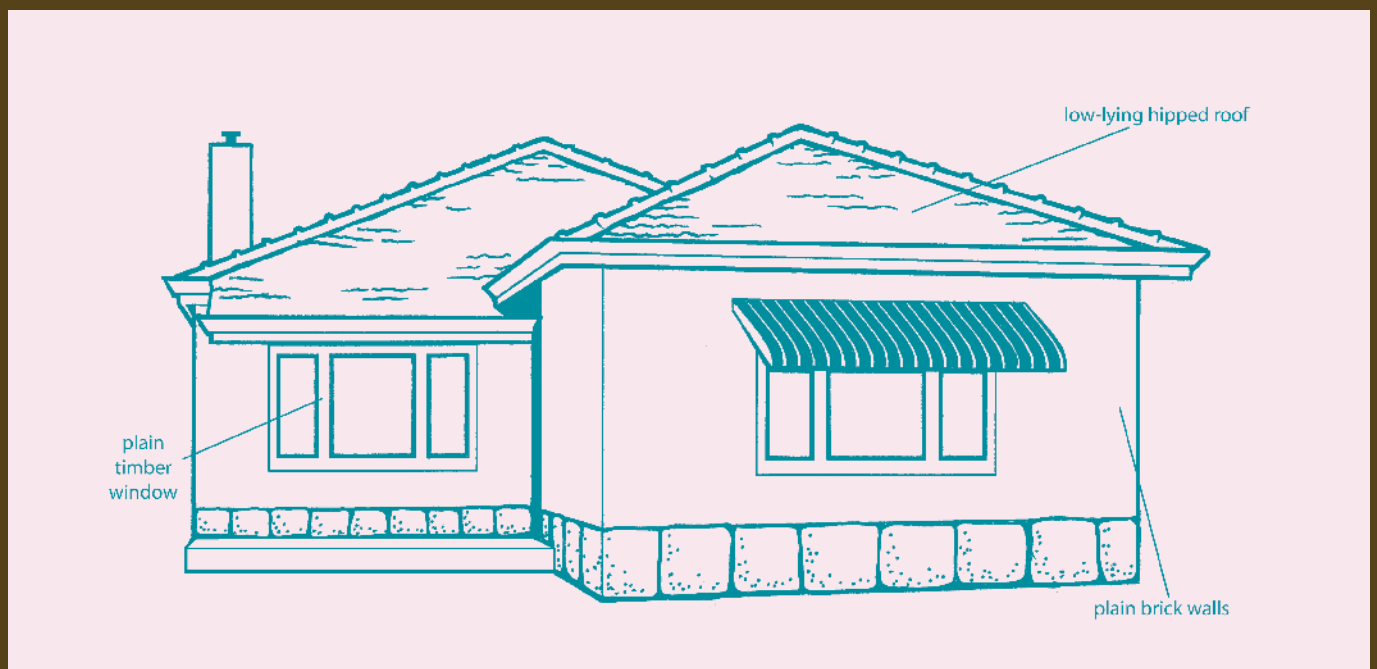


Renovation Advice

- Do as little as possible but as much as necessary.
- Additions should be carefully inspected to locate original parts before demolition occurs. It is not unusual to find original features stored in sheds or adapted for new uses.
- Before starting any physical works, research old records, photographs and plans/elevations to assist in an authentic restoration.

Health and Safety

- Asbestos was a widely used building material until the early 1980s. Prior to commencing any works on your home it is important you establish if there is any asbestos present in the existing building.
- Lead paints were also commonly used until the 1980s and can be toxic. Consult your local hardware supplier about the safest method of removal.



References

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- Stapleton, I and M (1997) *Australian House Styles*, The Flannel Flower Press
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