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*The lark flies up,
Into a sky glowing with the light
Of a fair spring day,
And I alone stand here to feel it
Bring such gladness to the heart*

Roofs tell story

(Continued from Page 6)

boards called clapboards and wood roof shingles.

To expand the simple one room cottages, lean-tos were built onto the rear of houses. This resulted in the saltbox house, so named because the shape of the house resembled the wooden saltboxes used in those days.

The gable roof expresses the efficient arrangement of roof framing members in a triangular shape. Early roofs were framed of heavy timbers notched into each other and fastened with pegs.

Today most of our house roofs are constructed of long span trusses with two-by-four inch or two-by-six inch lumber and metal connectors.

Many early American houses had roof pitches as high as 15-in-12, a 15-inch height for every twelve inches on the horizontal. Attic spaces were used for storage or sleeping.

Late in the seventeenth century, the Cape Cod house developed along the windswept coastal areas of Massachusetts. The 8-in-12 to 10-in-12 pitch roofs were carried down to just above the window heads.

In the early Virginia colonies, the steep pitched gable roof became common. Space under the roof was made more usable with windows in gabled dormers. Large gables at right angles to the main roof also expanded attic space.

House widths increased and roofs with steep pitches were too high to be practical. This led to development of the gambrel roof with two additional ridges parallel to the main ridge and outer slopes as steep as sixty degrees.

With the classic influence in the first half of the eighteenth century, balustrades were often placed along the front and back ridges and the flat top roof between the ridges became known as the "captain's walk."

The gambrel roof in some ways resembles the mansard roof which became popular during the classic revival period. The French architect Francois Mansart — at the time of the French second empire — reduced the apparent height of buildings by forming the upper story with the lower slopes of the roof.

Classic revival styles also used the hip roof with all four sides sloping up from the walls. In the southeastern states, the hip roof was used with columned porticoes on one or more sides of large mansions. The wide eaves of hip roofs also sheltered the galleries and balconies of many southern houses.

The later development of the California style was based almost entirely on low pitched roofs with wide overhangs to shade the house walls and long verandas — the heritage of the Spanish hacienda tile roof.

Much later, contemporary house designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries adopted the low pitch roof.

Today, contemporary residential architecture borrows the basic lean-to or shed roof to give variety of building shapes. Also the Cape Cod roof, in mod dress, is returning to the scene.

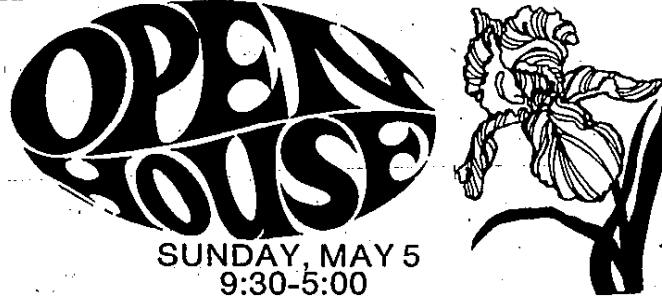
Eventually, as new structural and material technologies evolve, dome, cylindrical, and free-form curved roofs may begin to appear.



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