

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
108 -- HOW TO DECORATE A PERIOD VICTORIAN
HOUSE -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 108... TODAY, WE
WILL BE DISCUSSING HOW VICTORIAN
HOUSES ARE DECORATED...



ALTHOUGH THE VICTORIANS ARE REMEMBERED FOR
BEING AUSTERE AND A LITTLE STRAIGHT-LACED...



*...VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE SEEMS TO TOTALLY
CONTRADICT THAT NOTION.*



SOME OF THE LOVELIEST HOMES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE BUILT IN THE VICTORIAN ERA...



...WHEN QUALITY WORKMANSHIP AND CRAFTSMEN'S SKILLS ALLOWED FOR INDIVIDUAL DETAIL AND BESPOKE DESIGNS ON EACH VICTORIAN HOUSE.



A TYPICAL VICTORIAN HOUSE WAS BUILT OF RED BRICK AND HAD A SLATE ROOF...



**...WITH DECORATIVE STONE DETAIL IN THE
BRICKWORK AND MODEST DECORATION ON
THE OUTSIDE.**



**SASH WINDOWS, HIGH CEILINGS WITH ORNATE
PLASTERWORK, TILED HALLS, STEEP STAIRCASES
AND COLORFULLY TILED IRON FIREPLACES WERE
TYPICAL OF THE 1830s TO 1900s.**



*AS THE VICTORIAN ERA PROGRESSED,
ARCHITECTURAL STYLES DEVELOPED.*



IN THE 1840s AND 50s THE ITALIANATE STYLE
WAS POPULAR, PARTICULARLY IN THE INTERIOR...
THESE WERE INSPIRED BY 16TH CENTURY
PALLADIAN MANSIONS.



**HOUSES AT THIS TIME TENDED TO BE BUILT WITH
HIPPED ROOFS, PEDIMENTED WINDOWS AND
DOORWAYS, TALL GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS WITH
LARGER PANES OF GLASS...**



**...AND DECORATIVE CUPOLAS AND BALUSTRADES
WERE ADDED PARTICULARLY AT ROOF LEVEL...
STUCCO WAS WIDELY USED TO ADD A DECORATIVE
FINISH TO PLAIN WALLS.**



BY THE 1880s A HEAVY GOTHIC STYLE WAS MORE EVIDENT AND LATER STILL THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT TOOK HOLD, EMPHASIZING THE WORK OF CRAFTSMEN.



WILLIAM MORRIS WAS A CENTRAL FIGURE AND HIS HOME, RED HOUSE, AT BEXLEYHEATH TYPIFIES THIS STYLE.



IT HAS A STEEPLY PITCHED ROOF, DEEP PORCH, POINTED WINDOW ARCHES AND BRICK FIREPLACES WITH A HOST OF HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK WITHIN.





BY THE END OF THE VICTORIAN ERA HOUSES WERE LIT BY GAS LAMPS AND CELLARS WERE BEING USED FOR STORING COAL FOR HEATING.





SANITATION STANDARDS WERE RAISED WITH EITHER AN OUTSIDE 'PRIVY' WITH PROPER DRAINAGE OR AN INSIDE WATER CLOSET, WHERE THE TERM 'WC' COMES FROM.



*SMALL VICTORIAN HOUSES FOR WORKERS WERE
COMMON IN CITIES... AROUND MANCHESTER
TERRACED STREETS OF 'TWO-UP, TWO DOWN'
HOUSES STILL SURVIVE.*



THEY OFTEN HAD A SHARED BACK YARD WHICH
LED OUT TO A SERVICE LANE AT THE REAR.



IN WEALTHIER AREAS, FINE DETACHED FAMILY HOMES WERE BUILT WITH BAY WINDOWS, GINGERBREAD TRIM AROUND THE EAVES AND STEPS UP TO AN ORNATE ENTRANCE PORCH.



*THESE FINE HOMES WERE OFTEN DECORATED
EXTERNALLY USING DIFFERENT COLORS TO PICK
OUT THE DETAIL.*



**DARK BLUE, RED, GREEN AND RICH BROWN WERE
POPULAR COLORS.**





BRILLIANT WHITE WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME AND THOSE WISHING TO DECORATE A PERIOD VICTORIAN HOUSE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER CREAM WHICH WAS MORE AUTHENTIC TO THE PERIOD.



**IN THE LATTER PART OF THE VICTORIAN AGE,
GLOSS PAINT BECAME POPULAR AS IT WAS MUCH
EASIER TO KEEP CLEAN.**



*BLACK GLOSS WAS POPULAR ON DOORS, WINDOW
FRAMES AND EXPOSED BEAMS.*



**FENCE POSTS AND FINIALS WERE PAINTED GREEN
TO BLEND IN WITH THE FOLIAGE...**



**...OR PAINTED WITH A BRONZING POWDER TO
GIVE A HIGH-CLASS FINISH WHICH CAN EASILY
BE REPLICATED TODAY.**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 108 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 109, WE WILL BE LOOKING POVERTY DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



AboutBritain.com

ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.ABOUTBRITAIN.COM/ARTICLES/DECORATE-PERIOD-VICTORIAN-HOUSE.ASP](http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/decorate-period-victorian-house.asp)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
RUSTY MASON
&
STEVE MASON

