

THE DOUBLE FRONT-GABLED BUNGALOW

by ROB SCHWEITZER

Bungalows are rather plain homes in comparison to the lavish Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style houses that preceded them. But compared to the houses of the 1930s Great Depression, and the post-World War II 1940s, and many later homes, they seem elaborate, almost elegant in nature.

One of the more elaborate bungalow types, from the late teens and early 1920s, was the Double Front-Gable variety. This type was named for its two front-facing gables, one on the porch, and one right behind it on the facade. It places the gable end of its plan facing the street, instead of at the end of the roof-ridge. The gables tend to have a low pitch to them, giving the house a ground-hugging, early 20th century, modernistic look.

The overall plan is usually narrow, around 30 feet wide — but long, ranging between 40 and 50 feet in ready-cut models. An effective design element, the gables themselves are not lined up directly behind each other, but slightly offset, giving the house the illusion of a wider facade.

The overall decoration of this house type tends to be more lavish than the common bungalow. Many models are

shown with good-sized cut-stone porch piers and chimneys, like the *Ward Dresden*. Some plans were stuccoed with fancy designs, as on the *Sears Clyde*. The gables themselves contain the large knee bracket supports under the roof, common to Arts and Crafts homes of this era—or stickwork, reminiscent of a late 19th century Victorian plan. The *Clyde* highlights a highly decorated chimney, stone pillars and flowerpot stand on a tapered pier. The *Lewis Valencia* is shown with striped awnings and a box bay window. Exterior siding was similarly more complex, often with specially shaped shingles and colored stucco. Double Front-Gable

plans often carry a wrapping porch or veranda, again a holdover from the Victorian age.

This style's popularity came in the post-World War I period when larger suburban lots were beginning to become popular. The *Valencia* plan takes advantage of this trend as its entrance is on the side of the house, with the porch only accessible from the living room.

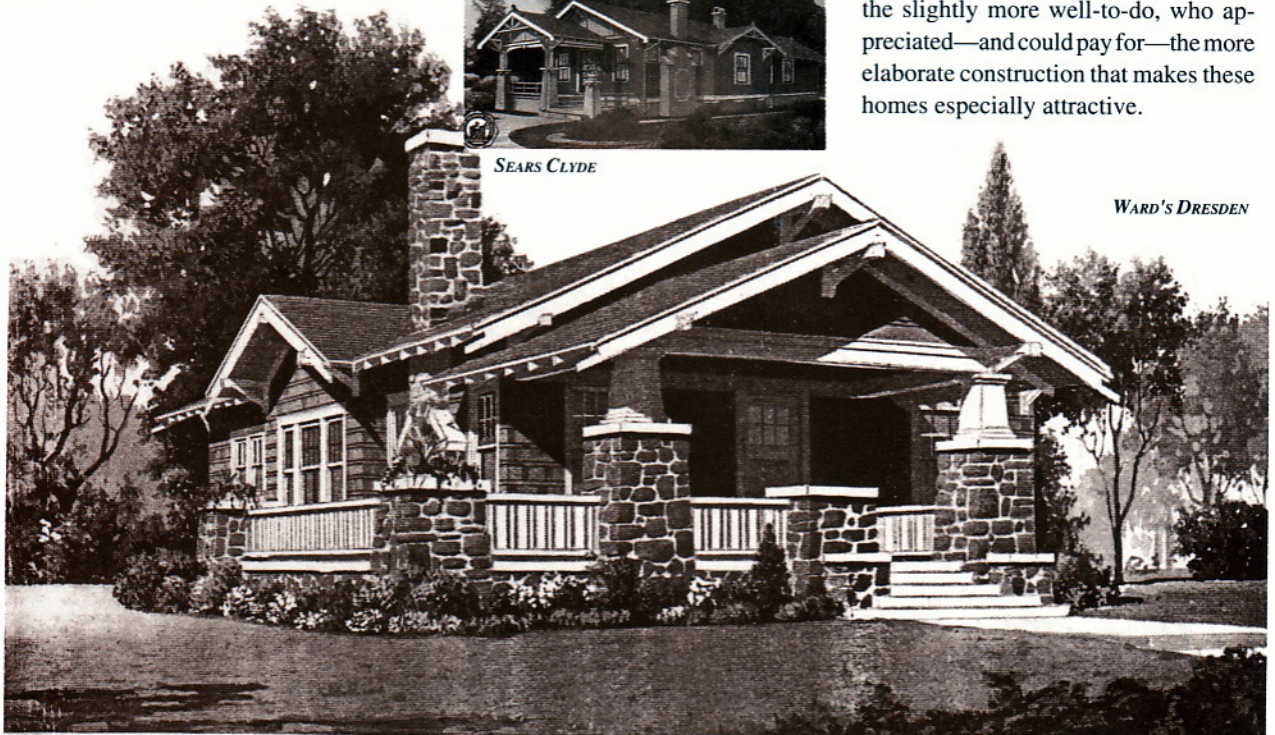
These models tended to be priced somewhat above average, the homes of the slightly more well-to-do, who appreciated—and could pay for—the more elaborate construction that makes these homes especially attractive.



LEWIS VALENCIA



SEARS CLYDE



WARD'S DRESDEN