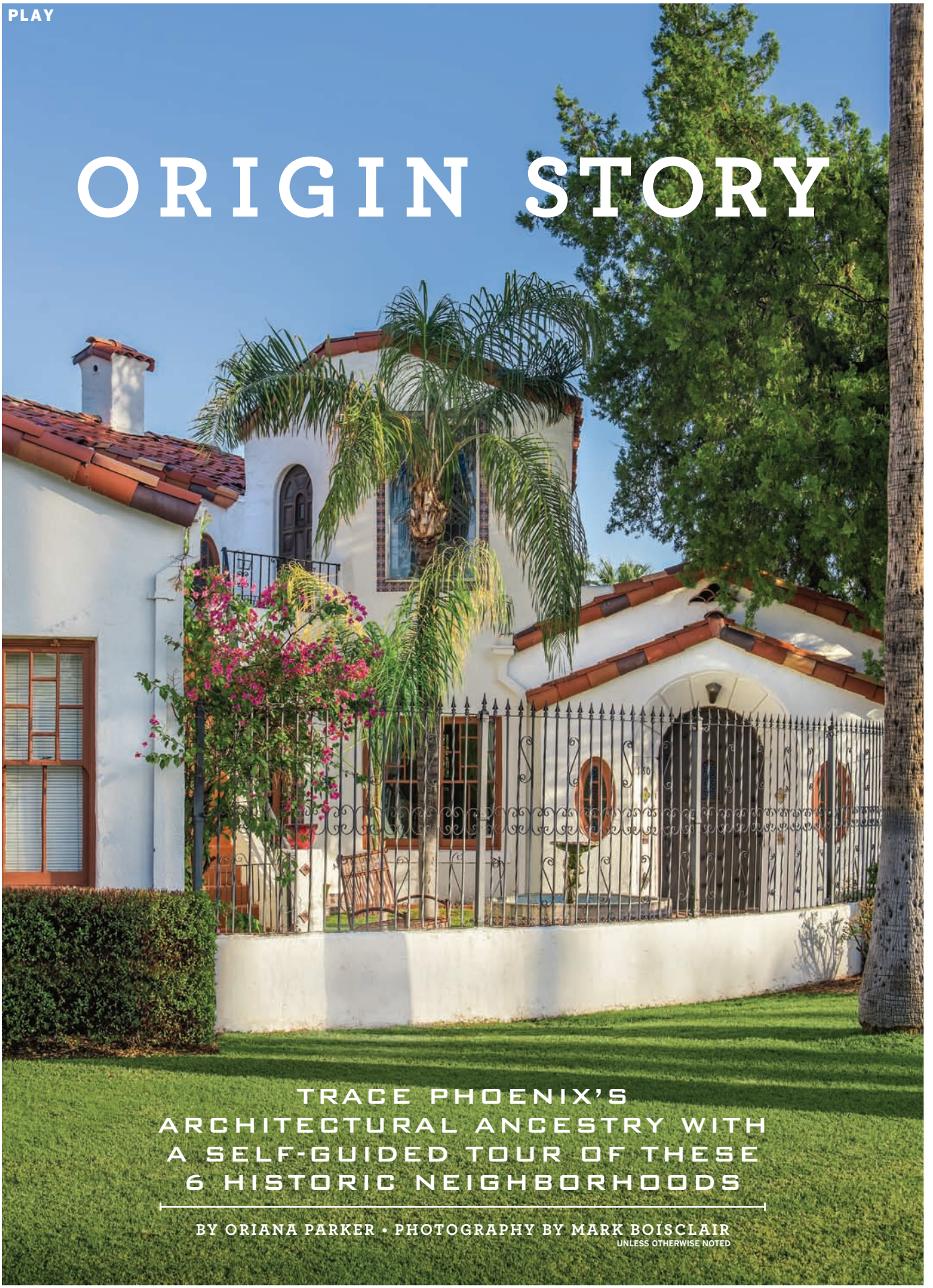
ORIGIN STORY



TRACE PHOENIX'S ARCHITECTURAL ANCESTRY WITH A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THESE 6 HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

BY ORIANA PARKER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK BOISCLAIR
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WIKIMEDIA

The stately Ellis-Shackelford House, in Roosevelt, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

It took time for Phoenix to become America's sixth-largest city. What is now a booming metropolis was once a collection of humble neighborhoods. Today, interspersed among the skyscrapers, restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and museums, these original neighborhoods remain. Hop in your car for a journey to discover where it all began.

Editors' note: Neighborhood and district boundaries are approximate.

To get your bearings, see the map on page 33.

In Encanto-Palmcroft, this Spanish Colonial Revival showcases a cozy courtyard—a signature element of the style.

ROOSEVELT

The Roosevelt neighborhood started developing in 1895. It was one of the earliest sites in Phoenix to grow, and also the first neighborhood to be designated a historic district by the City of Phoenix's Historic Preservation Office. As you travel through this now burgeoning arts district, you'll see homes designed in Craftsman Bungalow style, characterized by wide front porches, attics, and oh-so-charming breakfast nooks.

Stop at the Ellis-Shackelford House at 1242 N. Central Ave. Built in 1917 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this home blends elements of Craftsman with Prairie style. Think horizontal, clean lines and a lack of ornamental elements.

From the mid-1910s through the 1930s, the Ellis-Shackelford House stood among dozens of mansions on what was called "Millionaire's Row." These homes, which once stretched along Central Avenue, have since been modified or torn down. The Ellis-Shackelford House is the only unaltered survivor of the early mansions.

Another outstanding example of the Craftsman Bungalow style is the 1919 Winship House, located at 216 W. Portland St. Check out its multiple peaked gables and geometrically patterned green and white facade.

WIKIMEDIA

Note the geometric patterns on the Winship House, in Roosevelt.

BOUNDARIES: from McDowell Rd. to Fillmore St., from Central Ave. to 7th Ave.

LIGHT RAIL STOP: Central Ave. and Roosevelt St., as well as Central Ave. and McDowell Rd.

INFORMATION: rooseveltneighborhood.org

ENCANTO-PALMCROFT

The lovely and charming Encanto Park was the site of Phoenix's first public pool and golf course—desirable amenities both now and in the 1930s and 1940s, when many of the homes in this neighborhood were constructed. Some say Encanto Park was inspired by San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

The Encanto-Palmcroft district includes a variety of home styles, including Spanish Colonial, Tudor Revival, Monterey Revival, Ranch, and more. Each is connected by wide sidewalks shaded by towering palm trees—hence the name Palmcroft (croft is an English term meaning "little garden"). The signature architectural style is Spanish Colonial Revival, characterized by courtyards, balconies, elaborate wrought iron window fixtures, painted-tile staircases, and red-tile roofs. Beautiful examples are the homes at 1801 Palmcroft Dr. NE and 1102 W. Palm Lane.

And the story behind those towering palm trees? They were planted by Dwight B. Heard in 1927. A friend of Theodore Roosevelt, Heard was instrumental in the creation of the Roosevelt Dam. He was also one of Greater Phoenix's largest landowners and the founder of the nearby Heard Museum, considered one of the largest repositories of American Indian art in the US.

Find interesting details, such as unusually shaped windows and fence doors, in Encanto-Palmcroft.

BOUNDARIES: from 7th Ave. to 15th Ave., from Thomas Rd. to McDowell Rd.

LIGHT RAIL STOP: Central Ave. and McDowell Rd.

INFORMATION: encantopalmcroft.org

DENISE RUFER

Many homes in F.Q. Story boast original brick masonry.

F.Q. STORY

A showcase for an exciting variety of architectural styles, the F.Q. Story district's construction began in 1920. You'll see early Ranch homes (characterized by long, low-to-the-ground profiles) along the 1100–1300 blocks of W. Willetta Street and W. Lynwood Street. The 900 blocks of these same streets showcase delightful Tudor homes with brick masonry, steeply pitched roofs, and dormer windows.

One of the biggest attractions to this neighborhood was the nearby Kenilworth Elementary—attendees included future Senator Barry Goldwater. (The school is now the oldest in Maricopa County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.) As Phoenix grew, the need for transportation infrastructure did, too. When construction of Interstate 10 encroached upon this community, the F.Q. Story Neighborhood Association worked to save these handsome homes and prevent the demolition of Kenilworth Elementary. Their efforts paid off—today, F.Q. Story is one of the most desirable neighborhoods to call home in downtown Phoenix.

BOUNDARIES: from 7th Ave. to 17th Ave., from Roosevelt St. to McDowell Rd.

LIGHT RAIL STOP: Central Ave. and Roosevelt St., as well as Central Ave. and McDowell Rd.

INFORMATION: fqstory.org

Cottage homes line the streets of Willo, one of the area's most desirable neighborhoods.

COURTESY OF CORONADO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Porches signify the Classic Bungalow style that abounds in Coronado.

CORONADO

The variety of architectural styles in the Coronado district shows how national historical events shaped the growth of Phoenix.

During the early 1920s, Classic Bungalows were built between 7th and 12th streets. Characteristics include large front porches and deep eaves with exposed rafters outside, and built-in cabinetry, beamed ceilings, and fireplaces surrounded by shelves inside.

Join the February 28 homes tour for an inside look at the varied architectural styles of the Coronado district. Visit the Coronado district's website for more info.

The Depression of the early 30s stopped construction in Coronado, and by the time it resumed at a brisk pace in the late 30s and early 40s, the architectural preference had shifted to Period Revival, such as Spanish Colonial, as seen in Encanto-Palmcroft, and Tudor, similar to the F.Q. Story homes. Coronado is the ideal neighborhood in which to see a variety of architecture. View a Classic Bungalow at 2226 N. 12th St. (the porch is perfect), then head to 1825 N. Mitchell St. for a Tudor with a classic pointed roof.

BOUNDARIES: from Virginia Ave. to McDowell Rd., from 7th St. to 14th St.

LIGHT RAIL STOPS: Central Ave. and McDowell Rd., as well as Central Ave. and Encanto Blvd.

INFORMATION: greatercoronado.com

WILLO

One of the largest historic districts in Phoenix, Willo was developed between 1910 and 1942. In light of the huge population influx and subsequent demand for housing in the 1920s, the city wanted to simultaneously control and accommodate this growth. The local zoning movement proved beneficial to Willo, as it earned designation for residential use only—a charming neighborhood gem tucked in the heart of the bustling city.

The efforts to preserve the Willo district's character didn't end in the 20s. In 1986, the residents and city officials prepared a plan that addressed quality-of-life issues, including creating a buffer between Willo and nearby Central Avenue, as well as encouraging the development of similar housing throughout the district.

To peek inside the homes of Willo, join a tour. Dates are February 13 and February 14. Visit the Willo Historic District's website for more info.

Today, past preservation has reaped numerous rewards, including *Cottage Living Magazine* voting Willo "one of the top 10 Cottage communities in the country." Cottages—single-story homes modest in size and made out of stone, wood, brick, and stucco—are a surprising find in Phoenix, considering that they're most popular in heavily wooded areas. A good example: a Cotswold Cottage at 51 W. Windsor Ave., which includes an eyebrow entry and French doors. Look for homes with casement windows with diamond-patterned panes that can be opened wide.

BOUNDARIES: from Thomas Rd. to McDowell Rd., from 1st Ave. to 7th Ave.

LIGHT RAIL STOP: Thomas Rd. and Central Ave.; Central Ave. and Encanto Blvd.; and Central Ave. and McDowell Rd.

INFORMATION: willohistoricdistrict.com

A Classic Tudor in Windsor Square shows off its peaked roofs.

WINDSOR SQUARE

As former Windsor Square resident Karen Olson points out, "Windsor Square is a neighborhood whose development was interrupted by forces of history." Construction that started in the 1920s was brought to a halt by the crash of 1929, followed by the Great Depression. Building began again, only to be stopped by World War II. The returning GIs instigated another building boom, and Windsor Square finally became a completed subdivision by mid-century.

The layout of Windsor Square—despite its name—ignores Phoenix's grid system. Its elliptical design contributes to a feeling of intimacy in this district. At 248 E. Orange Dr., compare the sharp roof of this Classic Tudor built in 1929 to the neighboring homes' roofs. Check out a Classic Spanish Adobe home, which is nearly 100 years old, at 225 E. Pasadena Ave. Some streets are closed to cars, so find a parking space and stretch your legs on a leisurely stroll.

A century-old Spanish Adobe home in Windsor Square

See the charming interiors of these houses for yourself during the April 3 homes tour. Visit Windsor Square's website for more info.

To create your own self-guided homes tour of these neighborhoods, pick up a copy of *Historic Neighborhoods of Phoenix: Self-Guided Driving Tour,* published by the Phoenix Historic Neighborhoods Coalition. E-mail phxhnc@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/phxhnc.

Oriana Parker has enjoyed living near several of these historic districts for almost 15 years.

BOUNDARIES: from Central Ave. to 7th St., from Pasadena Ave. to Oregon Ave.

LIGHT RAIL STOP: Central Ave. and Camelback Rd.

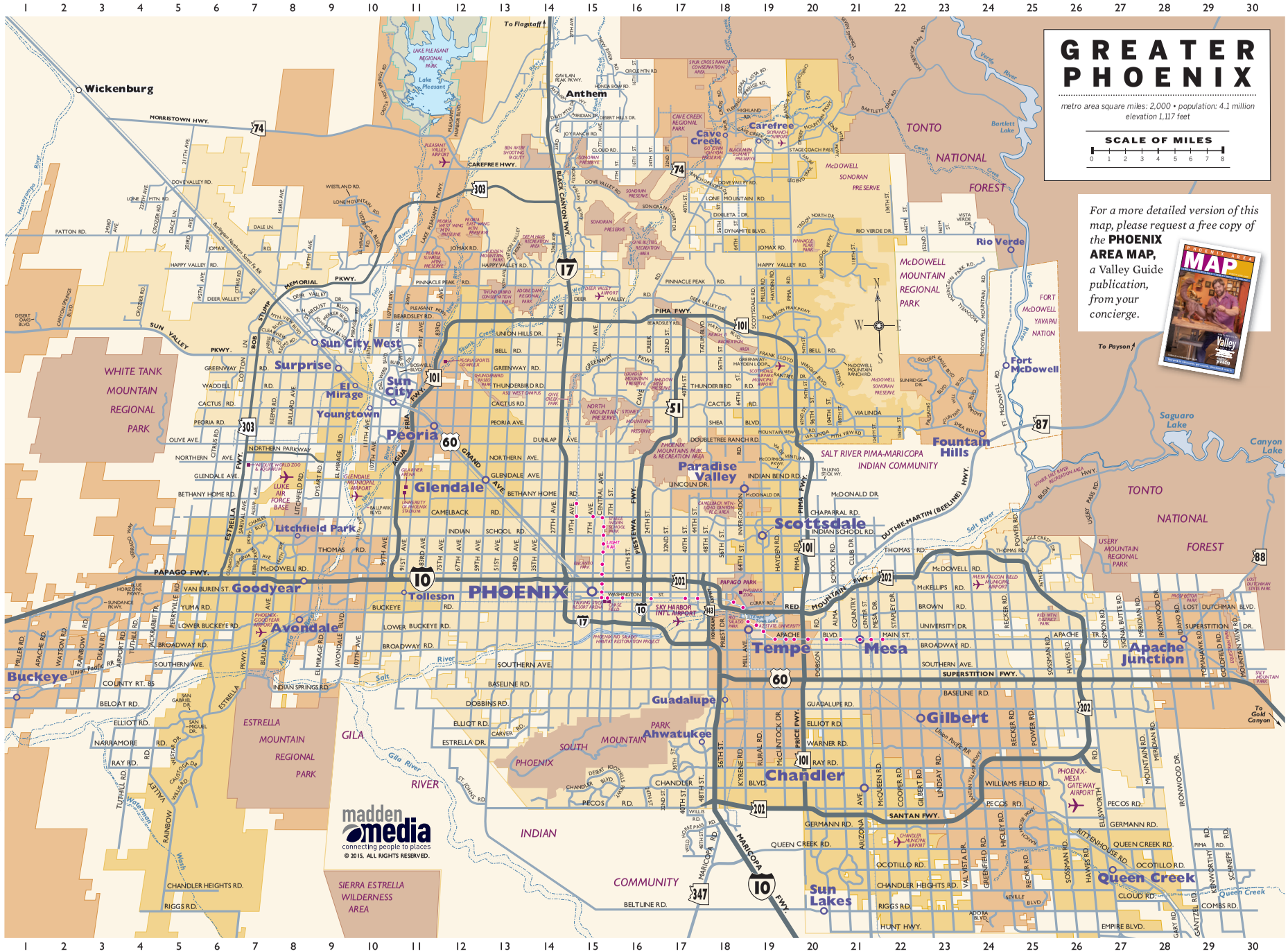
INFORMATION: windsorsquarephoenix.org

ARCHITECTURE 101

BUNGALOW, 1905–1925
Usually one or one-and-a-half stories built on a rectangular or square plan, low-pitched roofs, and massive pillars of stone, brick, or wood.

PERIOD REVIVAL, 1915–1940
Spanish Colonial Revival characteristics include tiled roofs; plastered walls; arched arcades, doors, and windows; and decorative ironwork trim. Tudor Revival homes embody the more simple aspects of Tudor architecture with a few classic characteristics, such as high chimneys and herringbone brickwork.

RANCH, 1935–1960
Low, long, and usually one level. Ranch style, at one time, meant hardwood floors, double brick, and adobe. Post World War II, from 1960 on, Ranch came to mean "stick and stucco" homes that were built quickly. Inexpensive materials, such as plasterboard and pressed wood, kept home prices down.


GREATER PHOENIX
metro area square miles: 2,000 • population: 4.1 million
elevation 1,117 feet
SCALE OF MILES
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
For a more detailed version of this map, please request a free copy of the PHOENIX AREA MAP, a Valley Guide publication, from your concierge.
Wickenburg
Anthem
Carefree
Cave Creek
Rio Verde
Fort McDowell
Fountain Hills
Sun City West
Sun City
Surprise
El Mirage
Youngtown
Peoria
Glendale
Litchfield Park
Goodyear
Avondale
Tolleson
PHOENIX
Paradise Valley
Scottsdale
Tempe
Mesa
Gilbert
Chandler
Sun Lakes
Queen Creek
Apache Junction
Buckeye
Guadalupe
Ahwatukee
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK
WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK
SIERRA ESTRELLA WILDERNESS AREA
SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK/PRESERVE
Saguaro Lake
Canyon Lake
Salt River
Gila River
To Flagstaff
To Payson
To Gold Canyon
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