

# FRASER COAST BUILDING STYLES

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## POSTWAR / CONVENTIONAL

### Approximate years

1940s – 1960s

### Description

House construction slowed dramatically during World War II. After the war ended, house designs were much simpler than the typical Queenslanders because of austerity measures introduced by the Commonwealth government during the war.

The austerity measures were finally lifted in the early 1950s, but the newer house style remained as the demand for housing increased dramatically due to the post-war population boom. Many of the preferred styles were the same as those built in southern states, and from this time on the vernacular Queenslanders effectively disappeared as a preferred affordable house design.

Early Postwar, or Conventional, houses were typically lowset, double or triple-fronted with a hipped roof. Wall cladding included weatherboard and chamferboard, and Fibro cement became increasingly popular. Roofs consisted of corrugated fibro cement or tiles.

The postwar house was typically set on stumps and in both lowset and highset versions the understory was concealed with skirting. The most radical and transformative change in the postwar Queensland house was the disappearance of the verandah, although this process was already evident in the Interwar Queensland vernacular.

The style was never fixed and the basic design varied. The style was increasingly built in brick veneer by the 1960s and the first lowset houses with a built-in garage began to appear at this time, presaging the modern brick veneer house built all around Australia from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Another popular, simple style was the rectangular house with a gable roof (box or open), which also became more elaborate over time.

The lawn became the primary landscaping feature, due to the widespread availability of petrol mowers. Landscaping tended to be simple and fencing low if present at all.

### Elements

Simple design with a distinct lack of ornamentation.

Double or triple-fronted house with low-pitched hipped roofs common.

Roof cladding typically consisted of corrugated fibro cement or tiles. Gable roofs on late 1950s to 1960s houses.

Fibro and chamferboard common, brick veneer increasingly popular from the late 1950s.

Casement windows.

Early examples tended to include detached garages if needed. Built-in garages increasingly common from the 1960s.

Brick fences to match brick veneer houses.

Relative lack of vegetation, primacy of lawn over gardens.

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