

The History of Upper Hermosa

What began with the development of La Jolla Hermosa in 1923, known today as Lower Hermosa, continued to the east side of La Jolla Blvd. in 1927. Phase II of the tract, now known as Upper Hermosa, includes several original homes designed by tract architect, Edgar V. Ullrich. One of the first homes built in the neighborhood is the 1928 home of Hollywood artist, Norman Kennedy on La Canada - Historic site #965 that Ullrich designed in the English Tudor Eclectic style.



The Norman Kennedy House - Historic Site #965, was designed by architect Edgar V. Ullrich in the English Tudor Eclectic style.

After the critical acclaim he received for his Spanish/Mediterranean design of the Casa de Manana resort hotel, many of Ullrich's clients requested their homes be designed in a similar style. However, Ullrich is said to have favored the French Normandy and Tudor Eclectic styles and he designed his own Barber Tract residence in the French Normandy style. Ullrich used his Barber Tract home to try and persuade his clients to consider these styles of architecture.

Ullrich designed another home in 1929 on La Canada, but this time in the Spanish Colonial Revival style - The Adams Residence - Historic Site #502. Also on La Canada is the Esther Morrison House - Historic Site #624, which is believed to be an Ullrich, but no documentation has been found to support an Ullrich connection. Built in 1928, it too is one of the first homes built in Upper Hermosa. Other noted master architects including Thomas Shepherd and Ralph L. Frank, designed homes that still grace the streets of the neighborhood today.



The Esther Morrison House - Historic Site #624.
One of the first homes built in phase II of La Jolla Hermosa.



*The Cassuis & Kate Peck/Thomas Shepherd House - Historic Site #849
1948 - designed by architect Thomas Shepherd in the Modern Ranch style*

Gently sloping up the side of Mt. Soledad to the east, many of the homes on the upper portion of the neighborhood have beautiful ocean views. The neighborhoods tree lined streets and inviting gardens create a friendly community atmosphere and each 4th of July it has a neighborhood organized parade. Gardens in the neighborhood are often featured on the Secret Garden Tour of La Jolla.