

Why are fences important?

Fences make a significant contribution to the character of a street. They help to conserve and enhance the neighborhood character of specific areas in Mosman.

Mosman Council encourages sympathetic repair or reconstruction of traditional fences. This brochure gives examples of some typical traditional fence styles and lets you know where you can find further information and assistance in choosing the appropriate style of fence for your property.

The historical periods addressed in this brochure are:
Victorian 1840 - 1900 Inter-War 1920 - 1940
Federation 1890 - 1920 Post-War 1940 - 1970

PICKET

Picket fences are made by light timber pickets fixed to timber rails at regular spacing over a timber plinth with intermediate timber posts. Decorative profiles are usually formed at the top of each picket.

Picket fences are associated with timber cottages and small houses.



Prince St.

WIRE FENCES

Wire fences are characterised by open weave fabric formed of fine gauge wire strands, twisted at their junction in a diamond pattern.

Wire fences are commonly associated with timber cottages and small houses.



Avenue Rd.

PALISADE

Palisade fences are characterised by a sequence of vertical elements, which can be either timber or metal, penetrating rails over a masonry plinth, generally capped with spearheads and intermediate posts.

Palisade fences are commonly associated with Victorian houses and terraces.



Raglan St.

POST AND RAIL

Post and rail fences are characterised by timber or metal tubing generally consisting of top, intermediate and/or bottom rails between regularly spaced posts. Post and rail fences are commonly used with houses from the beginning of the 20th century up to the end of World War 2.



Glover St.

FREESTANDING WALL

There is a range of styles of freestanding walls in Mosman. Typical examples include masonry walls with capping and low masonry walls.

Freestanding walls are commonly associated with freestanding and semi-detached houses and with Inter-War houses and flats.



Glover St.

PALING

Paling fences are characterised by a thin timber close boarding which has been split or sawn, fixed to a timber frame.

Paling fences are commonly used with large Federation houses and bungalows.



Avenue Rd.

PIER AND INFILL

Pier and infill fences are characterised by masonry or stone piers with various infill panels.

Pier and infill is a popular style of fencing within Mosman and is commonly associated with Inter-War and contemporary houses.



Avenue Rd.

RETAINING WALL

Retaining walls in Mosman area are made from a variety of materials. Typical varieties identified include sandstone ashlar retaining walls and random rubble walls.

Retaining walls are common in Mosman for all periods.



Ruby St.

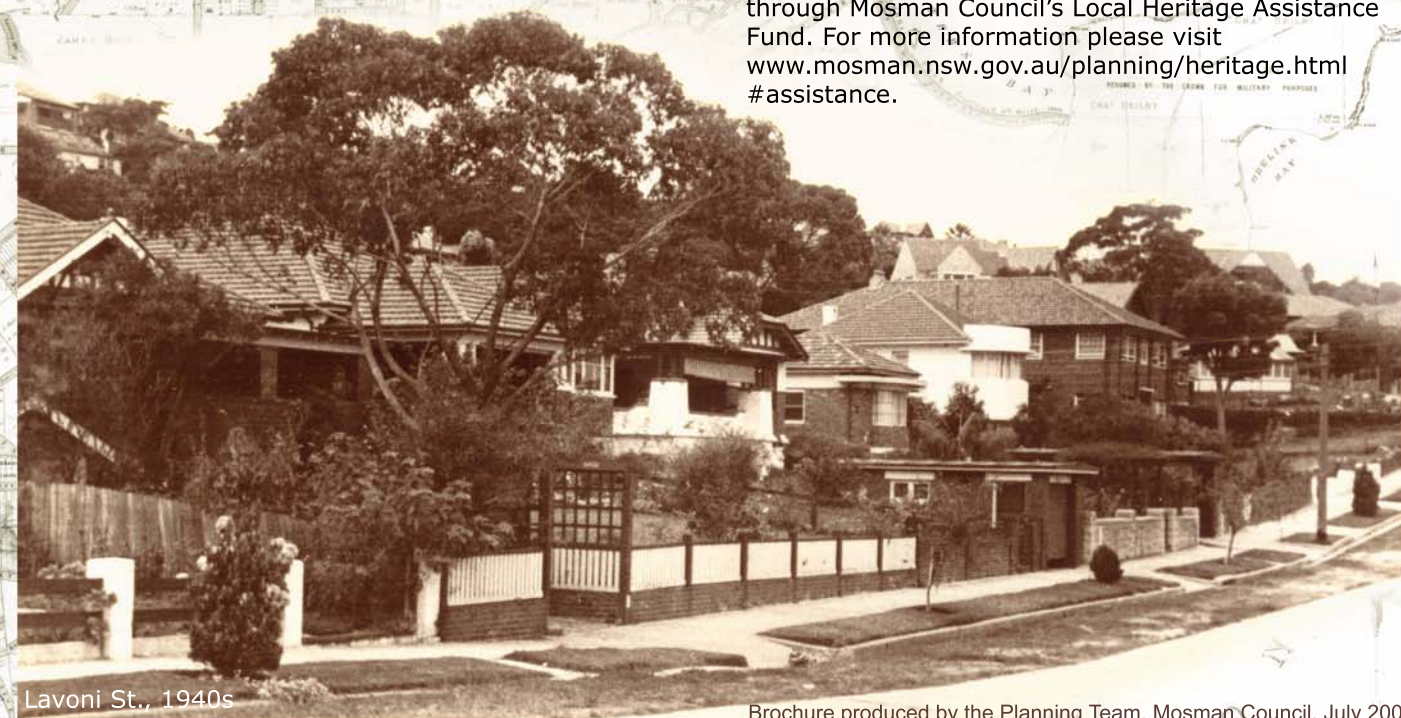
How to choose a front fence?

It is important that the front fence should compliment the architectural style, period and design of the residence. Materials may vary, ranging from wrought iron to brick, stone or timber, but generally, there should be a correlation between the materials used in the building and the ones used in the fence and design should be simple. Section 5 of the Mosman Residential Development Control Plan contains planning guidelines for fencing, including maximum height.

It is also important to take into account the following:

- Size of the land / house;
- Consistency with streetscape;
- Width of the street and footpath;
- Scale and proportion;
- Symmetry / asymmetry;
- Colour schemes;
- Site's slope.

Victorian and Edwardian buildings commonly have plain picket fences, wrought iron or woven wire; Inter War buildings have low brick walls (matching the materials used in the building), low hedges and wire fences; early Post War buildings commonly have low brick walls.



Lavoni St., 1940s

For more information

Visit Mosman Council website: Mosman Residential Development Control Plan, Heritage section and Front Fences at www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/planning;

Visit Mosman Library (phone 9978 4090 /4091);

Access the National Trust (NSW) website at www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au;

Consult the following specialised books:

NSW Department of Planning (1989), "Getting the Details Right: Restoring Australian Houses 1890s-1920s" and

National Trust of Australia, Victoria (1988), "Fences & Gates - A Guide to Identification, Conservation & Restoration of Historic Fences & Gates, c. 1840-1925".

If you own a heritage listed property or a property within a Heritage Conservation Area, the following additional sources of information may help:

Mosman Library, Local Studies Collection at www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/library/localstudies.html and Heritage Office website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

In addition, you are invited to consult the Council's Heritage Advisor (appointments can be made by phone at 9978 4000) and you may also apply for dollar for dollar funding for front fences repair or replacement through Mosman Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund. For more information please visit www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/planning/heritage.html #assistance.



A Guide to Traditional Fence Styles in Mosman



Mosman Council