



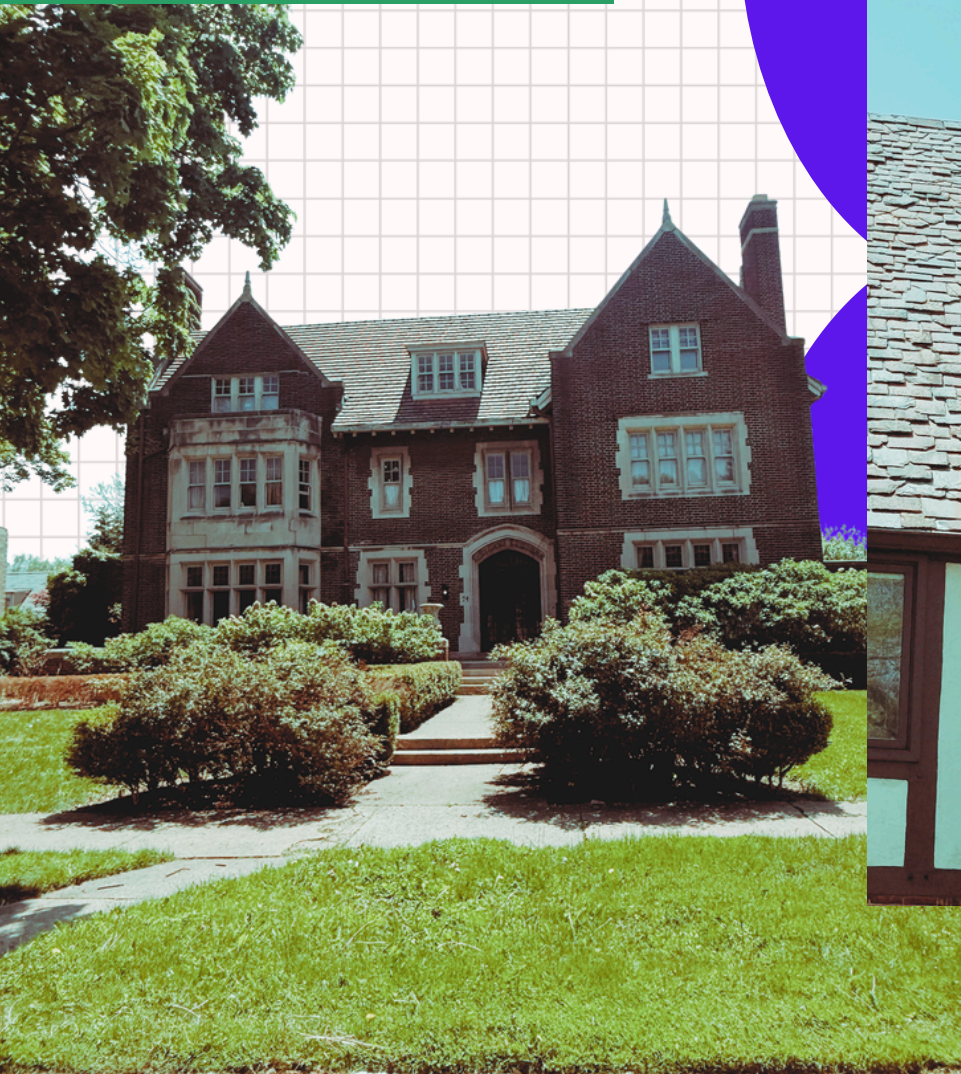
Architecture as Culture


Detroit Now + Then

So there were a few topics we could have gotten into for May; however, we decided a random ass deep dive was the best way to go. Movement happened, Mother's Day, um, what else, Fall came back—but we decided to go on a walk and take in the details. Yep, we walked through various neighborhoods, did some research on the city's architectural makeup, and decided this was where it's at.

From West to East, SW, and even the outskirts, there's something unique and luxurious about Detroit homes. We spent the morning taking a trip through a few neighborhoods: Boston Edison, Palmer Woods, and Bagley. There are so many things we talk about casually that are actually a big deal, pink bathrooms, for example. Greenery in front of homes was intentional; sculptures, stained-glass windows and doors, and arched doors with crafted metal security doors.





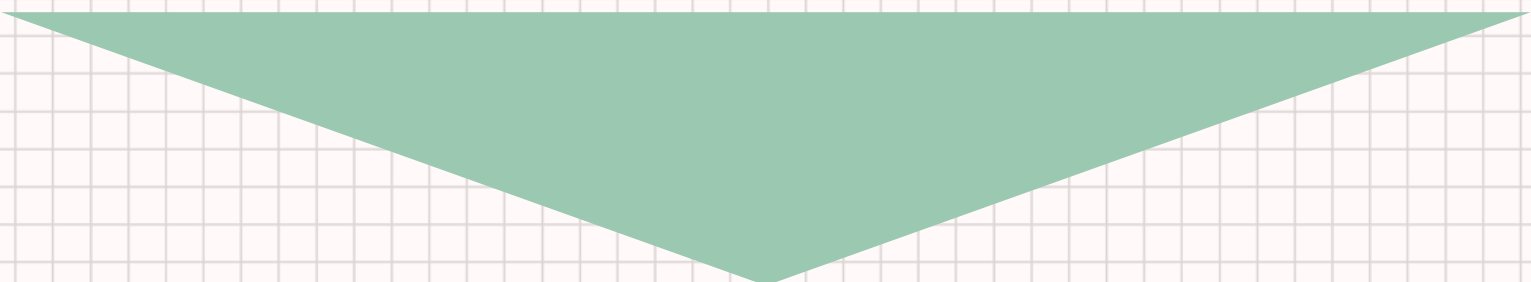


Can't forget the obvious, Motown, and the joy in finding the homes of artists from their childhood. Knowing that multiple neighborhoods were home to middle-class Black families, and those homes still look like money, settled in distinguished neighborhoods where we once and still do flock for our community.

When we walked through Palmer Woods, Sherwood Forest, and a bit of the Bagley neighborhoods, you could see that these were some of the richer areas. All connected by a street or two, the area screams Black wealth, with an economic point for businesses on the Avenue of Fashion, liquor stores with murals, the iconic “Lotto” signs, Tudor-style homes, large well-kept yards lined with large trees, and curved roads.

With Palmer Woods still being majority Black, the area saw its rise during the 60s. Many residents moved to the area during and after what they call “white flight,” making way for Black people to buy homes in the area. Executives and business professionals, autoworkers, and even Motown artists found homes in these neighborhoods.

What we then gained as a community was a symbol that speaks to anyone: land is money. The nuance of the homes literally looks like money. Heavy windows, intricate brick patterns, dolphin sculptures, colonial homes, and the craftsmanship. I think most of our walk was stopped simply by entryways, gates that led to the front door, or doors that looked like they weighed a ton and protected a castle nestled inside the city.

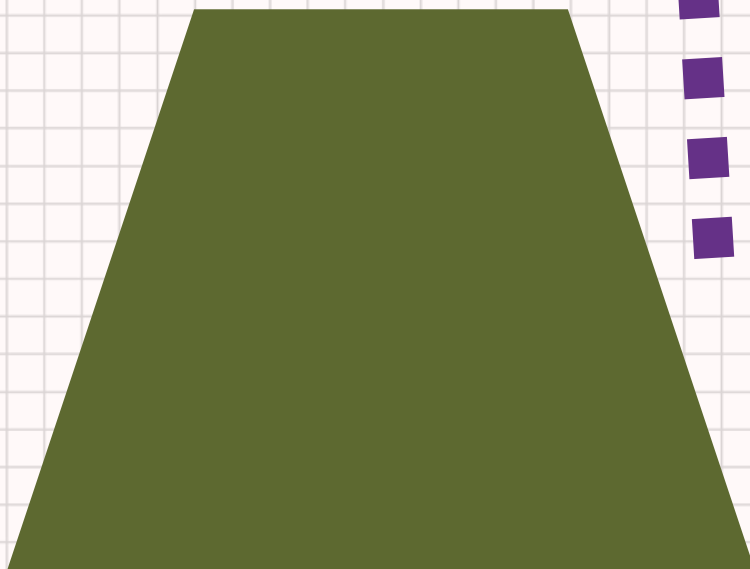






SW is also full of beautiful aspects and, of course, filled with brown faces and culture—we like her the way she is. One thing we kept pointing out about the area was the gated front yards. **Black Bottom** is silently reviving as many are learning its significance. Downtown, Paradise Valley is booming again thanks to new restaurants and businesses. A little more east Jefferson Chalmers area hosts beautiful homes with similar but different nuances than mentioned above, thanks to y'all president, we didn't get to get there as gas is entirely too high, but even still, the picture is clear as day—art is literally everywhere in the city. It's literally built from the ground up, creating safe spaces for generations.

This was also inspiring, like we all want homes, land, and space. Neighborhoods like Virginia Park are on the rise again, NW Goldberg is slowly but surely trying to get its foundation together, Woodbridge is existing, but the issue is: **for who?**





I stand by the concept of ownership. Real estate and ownership are two of the only ways to maintain so much of what is or was ours. Understanding the value of the land, what that means and teaching the youth the importance of ownership. These neighborhoods still exist and are primarily Black because someone valued what was built, earned and even gifted to them. Knowing your surroundings, knowing the history, the implications, and the power that yields, creates an awareness that this is bigger than a house—it's legacy.



And in Detroit, we thrive off legacy.