



Killy Scheer

I'm an Austin-based interior designer and freelance design writer. I love all flavors of design, DIY-ing and helping clients create beautiful, collected, liveable homes. Follow my musings on design and life, chronicled on my blog: <http://www.thestudiolo.com/>

## Portal to Elegance: Radius Doors

Give any home a regal feel by installing a door with an arched or elliptical top

A great door makes an impact. A front door, or any other important passageway, is used several times a day and often sets the tone for a room — or an entire home. Radius doors, those with arches or elliptical tops, can really pack a punch. While the arch dates back to ancient Mesopotamia, it was the Romans who applied it to doorways. Arches can bear particularly heavy physical loads, which was important during periods of attacks on castles during times of unrest. Today's arched doorways are used more for aesthetic appeal than structural integrity.

See how several types of radius doors give these homes a regal feel.



by AMS Landscape Design Studios,...

**True arch.** This type door features an arch that is truly rounded on top, with no angles. The radius of the top curve is equal to half the width of the door; for example, a three-foot wide door would have a radius of 18 inches. The exaggerated height paired with the limestone gives this door a distinctly Old World feel.



by Frederick + Frederick...

Make a statement with an *enfilade* of true-arch doorways; a suite of rooms aligned with one another creating a vista, a common feature in grand European architecture from the Baroque period and beyond. Contrasting antique white oak trim accentuate the shape of these arches. The simplicity and uncluttered feel of the hallway allows the arches to sing.



by Hugh Jefferson Randolph...

The rectilinear iron panes offset this true-arch, split-entry door, which evokes a Spanish Revival feel. I especially appreciate how the window in the background, on the same axis, mimics the arch and creates a view to what's beyond. In this case, the doors are the star of the show. Walls are painted white and moldings are either painted in or are nonexistent. While these doors were surely made custom, a similar arched French door is available from Marvin.



by door.cc

**Knotty Alder Round Top Exterior Door - \$3,190.00**

A true arch is also available as a French (i.e. double) door in solid, glass or a combination of the two.



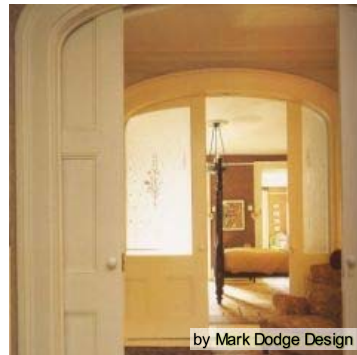
by Debra Campbell Design

This style of door clearly works beautifully in rustic, traditional, Spanish and/or Moroccan-inspired homes, all of which take on a fairly formal feel. But it works just as well in a more casual home setting. This door features a solid bottom with glass on the top portion, making it approachable and less austere. Of course, the bright red paint helps — what a fun touch!



by Summerour Architects

The high placement of windows on dark wood door preserves the privacy of the owners while letting in light, not to mention giving the door additional dimension and texture.



by Mark Dodge Design

**Elliptical arches.** Elliptical arches have two distinct radii; a gentle one in the center of the arch with a tighter radius in the corners. This is truly an elegant style. In this design, functioning pocket doors elevate the look even further, evoking a storied and stately feel.



by Brian Watford ID

Stately and elegant, this is truly a traditional door style.



by Claudio Ortiz Design Group,...

**Flat arch.** This arch begins at the top of the door and is considerably less rounded than a true-arch top. The radius of the top curve is equal to the width of the door; for example, a flat arch-top door with a width of three feet would have a top rail outside radius of 36 inches.



by Claudio Ortiz Design Group,...

While this style of elliptical-arch door may be a bit more approachable for those of us on a budget, it certainly doesn't lack for style and class. Add more architectural interest with paneling or carvings, as seen in this stately door.



by doorsbydecora.net

#### Country French Exterior Wood Entry Door Collection - DbyD-2023

Flat-arch doors are more widely available on the retail market than true and elliptical arch doors. Check out options from Marvin, Jeld-Wen and Pella.

**Tip:** If you are interested in replacing an existing rectangular door with a radius-top, I recommend consulting with an architect and/or engineer to ensure that all structural implications are considered.

In many homes, such a swap might require a little cutting and patching, while in others (particularly with stone structures), the job might require professional opinions and oversight.

**More:** 10 Extraordinary Doors  
Great Ideas for Pocket Doors  
Barn Doors for the Home