

# Appendix D

## Glossary of Architectural Terms

The following is a listing of commonly used architectural terms. Project applicants should utilize this glossary to familiarize themselves with the common terms used when describing architectural styles, features and techniques.



*Photo courtesy Guy Ball*

**Accent Colors** – the accent color is used to highlight small details on window hoods, cornices, columns, and bulkheads.

**Adobe** – sun dried earth, generally with a straw binder, often shaped into bricks by hand or in forms, or used directly as a mortar or “plaster” finish.

**Anchor bolt** – any various rods or bolts embedded in masonry or concrete to hold, secure, or support a structural member

**Arbor** – a shelter of shrubs and branches or of latticework intertwined with climbing vines and flowers

**Arcade** – a covered porch supported by columns and joined by arches



*Example of arcade*

**Arches** –

- **Basket** – an arch with a flat top like the shape of a basket handle.
- **Flat** – an arch with a flat, horizontal underside.
- **Pointed** – an arch ending in a central point.
- **Round** – half-circle arch.
- **Segmented** – an arch formed by only part of a circle.

**Arch head** – a round-arch top to a doorway or window.

**Archivolt molding** – trim, usually masonry, edging an arch; commonly found in Gothic and Romanesque design.

**Ashlar** – stone that has been cut and dressed with even edges. There may be a variety of surface finishes.

**Attic** – a room or space directly under the roof of a building, esp. a house.

**Balcony** – a platform cantilevered out from the facade of a building, surrounded by a handrail, and sometimes supported by brackets.

**Baltimore chimney** – a pair of chimneys at the end of a building which are joined together by a parapet wall; an element characteristic of Federal buildings.

**Baluster** – short posts or spindles supporting a handrail.



*Example of a baluster*

**Balustrade** – a short railing, often constructed around porches, with a horizontal handrail on top, and a row of individual vertical members (or balusters) below.

**Bank** – any group of architectural features, often used in reference to a row of windows.

**Bargeboard or vergeboard** – face board, often decorated, on the eaves edge of a gable roof.

**Battered** – a term used to describe a wall or pier that sloped gently inward as it rises.



*Example of a battered pier*

**Bay** – the vertical division of a building facade.



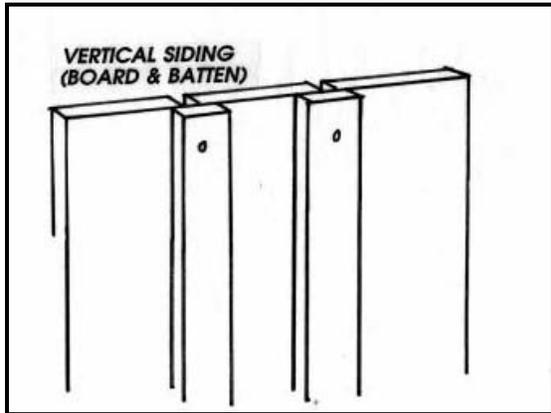
*Example of building divided into bays*

**Belt course** – a wide horizontal band of stone or brick between the stories of a building. See string course.

**Blind** – an architectural opening attached to a wall (i.e., a window or arcade), which is decorative only and does not pierce the wall surface.

**Block** – part of a building that is definable as a separate section.

**Board and batten** – siding vertical wood siding in which two wide boards are laid side by side, the joint between them covered by a narrow wood strip.

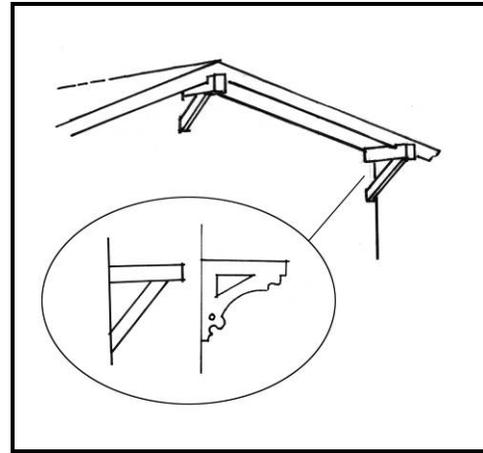


**Boxed cornice** – the enclosure between the overhang of a roof, and the building facade.



*Boxed cornice with brackets*

**Brackets** – ornamental pieces placed under eaves, cornices, windowsills, etc., which appear to provide structural support.



*Example of brackets*

**Bulkheads** – the bulkhead is the solid portion at the base of the storefront that frames and protects the store window above.

**Bullnose** – brick a brick that is rounded at one end.

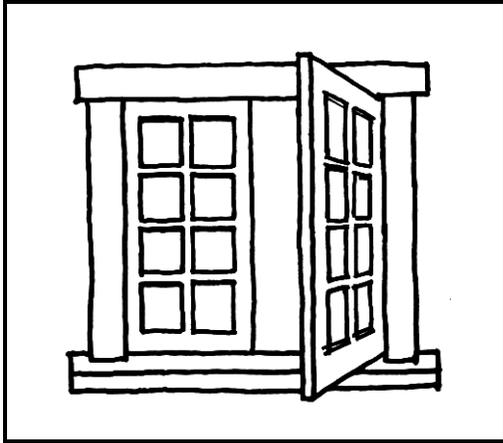
**Buttress** – a short wall built perpendicular to the main outer wall of a building, supporting or appearing to support, the exterior wall.

**Cantilever** – a beam or bracket projecting from a wall or frame and stabilized by weight on its inner end.

**Capital** – the decorative top of a column or pilaster.

**Cartouche** – an oval ornamental panel.

**Casement** – a window hinged to swing outward.



*Example of casement window*

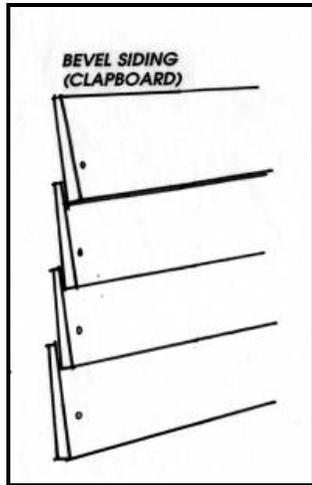
**Cavetto** – a large, concave, curved molding, often used in cornices.

**Chair rail molding** – a horizontal molding on an interior wall for preventing the backs of chairs from rubbing against and damaging the wall surface.

**Chamfer** – an angled cut along the edge of a post or beam.

**Chimney pot** – an extension of a chimney itself, usually decorated and commonly made of brick or terra-cotta, but sometimes of cast iron.

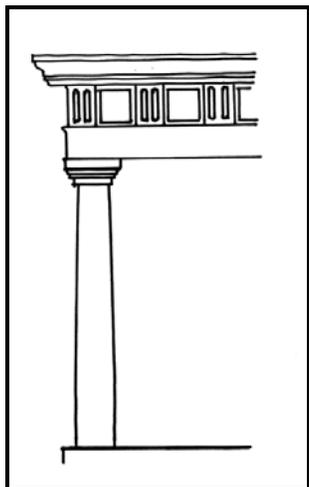
**Clapboards** – exterior covering of frame buildings in which overlapping boards are placed horizontally.



**Clerestory** – the side walls of the main part of a church, which extend above the roof of the side aisles, and which usually have many windows.

**Coffer** – A recessed panel in a flat or vaulted ceiling.

**Colonnade** – a row of columns and their entablatures, as in a covered walkway.



*Example of Colonnade*

**Colonnade** – a row of columns and their entablatures, as in a covered walkway.

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**Compound arch** – narrow arches set one within the other to form a larger arch. Commonly found in church design.

**Console** – a large, ornamental bracket, usually of a scroll shape, most often used in cornices and at doors or windows. A *modillion* is small by comparison.

**Coping** – the top course of a wall.

**Corbel** – a projecting piece supporting a beam.

**Corbel table** – a line of corbelling, often forming arches, usually decorating the parapets of Romanesque Revival buildings.

**Corbelling** – small projections built out from a masonry wall, where each course extends out further than the one below. Most often corbelling in St. Louis occurs at the cornices of brick buildings.

**Corinthian order** – a classical order with a foliated capital, slender columns and ornate, delicate trim at the base of the cornice.

**Corner pilaster** – a pilaster at the corner of a building, one or more stories in height. Stories in height.

**Cornice** – the projecting finish at the top of a building or porch, between the eaves and the wall, usually decorated with moldings, dentils, and/or modillions; in the classical orders, it is the top piece of the entablature.

**Course** – a single horizontal line of masonry on a facade.

**Cove** – a large concave molding, usually found in a cornice.

**Crawl space** – an area in a building having a clearance less than human height, but accessible by crawling, esp. such a space below the first floor that is enclosed by foundation walls.

**Crocket** – decorative pieces in leaf shapes placed on the edge of exterior features of a building such as gables and pediments, found regularly in Gothic Revival architecture.

**Cross gable** – a gable placed at right angles to the main gable of a building, most often facing the front.

**Crown** – the top of an arch; also used to refer to the ornamental head of a door or window.

**Crown molding** – any ornamental molding terminating the top of a structure or decorative feature.

**Cruciform** – plan the design of a building, usually a church, shaped like a cross, with a long section or nave, intersected at right angles by a shorter section, called a transept.

**Cupola** – a small domed structure rising from a roof or tower.

**Dentils** – small, vertical pieces in a simple, rectangular pattern that are most often seen as part of Greek Revival or Classical ornament.

**Diaper pattern** – a diamond-shaped pattern of brick across a facade, usually seen in Jacobethan or Tudor Revival buildings.

**Doric order** – one of the three basic classic column, capital, and entablature compositions; it has no base, a fluted shaft, and a simple molded capital below the entablature. The principal variation is the Tuscan, which has a plain, unfluted column with a base.

**Dormer** – a projecting window from a sloped roof. The most common dormer type in St. Louis has a small gable roof. When the dormer is located in the same plane as the building wall, it is called a wall dormer.

- Shed dormer – a dormer having a shed roof.
- Gable dormer – a dormer having a gable roof.
- Internal dormer – a vertical window set below the line of a sloped roof.

- Eyebrow dormer – a low dormer having a roof that is upwardly curving continuation of the main roof plane.



*Example of dormer window*

**Double-hung window** – a window comprised of two sashes, sliding vertically with or without pulleys or weights.

**Double-loaded corridor** – the interior floor plan, usually found in office buildings, apartments and hotels before the 1960's, in which rooms are entered off both sides of a hallway.

**Eaves** – the portion of a roof that overhangs the wall.

**Elevation** – an individual side of a building. See also facade.

**Enclosed stair** – a stair encased by walls, and accessed through a door. These narrow, usually winding stairs are most often found in older house types.

**Enframement** – heavy, decorative moldings around square window and door openings.

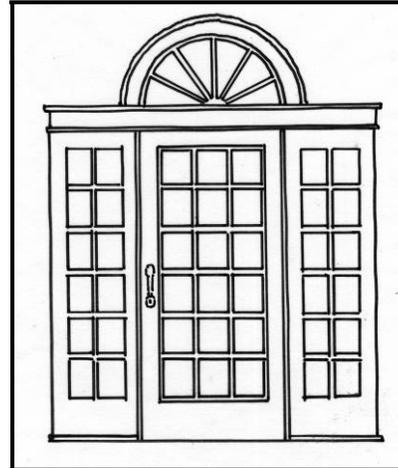
**Engaged column** – a half-circular column that projects from a wall.

**Entablature** – in the classical orders, the arrangement of moldings and ornament in the horizontal member joining the tops of column capitals, and comprising from top to bottom, cornice, frieze, and architrave.

**Eyebrow dormer** – a low, wide, sometimes curved-headed dormer window.

**Façade** – a face or elevation of a building, as in front façade, meaning the front face of a house.

**Fanlight** – an arched transom over a door, usually with radial muntins.

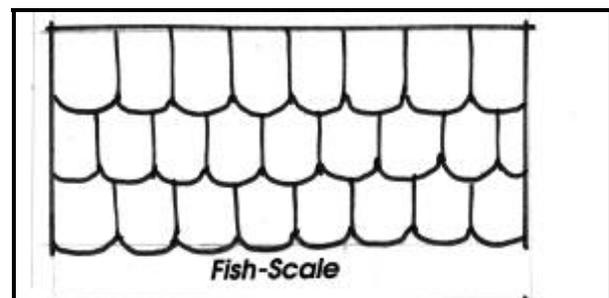


*Example of a fanlight over a door*

**Fascia** – the boards found on the facing, or outside vertical surface, of projecting architectural features, especially cornices.

**Fireplace flue** – an incombustible passage or duct for smoke in a chimney.

**Fishscale shingles** – individual fireplace wood shingles with a curved end, which when laid together form the appearance of a fish's scales.



*Fish-Scale*

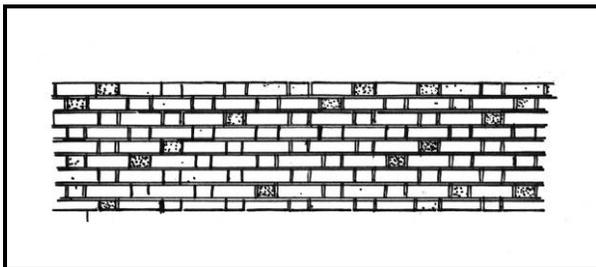
**Flanking** – located at one or, more usually, both sides.

**Five-part plan** – also known as a *Palladian plan*, the English and American mansion form comprised of a main block with, on each side, hyphens (narrow wings) which connect to terminal flanking buildings or pavilions, sometimes called *flankers*.

**Flat-iron building** – a building whose footprint or floorplan is roughly triangular, or in the shape of a "flat-iron." Often constructed at the intersection of three streets.

**Flats** – a property type in which there are two or more dwelling units, each having its own front door and rear entry.

**Flemish bond** – a brick wall with a pattern of alternating headers and stretchers at each course. Often, some of the headers are burned or glazed black to form a decorative pattern on the facade.

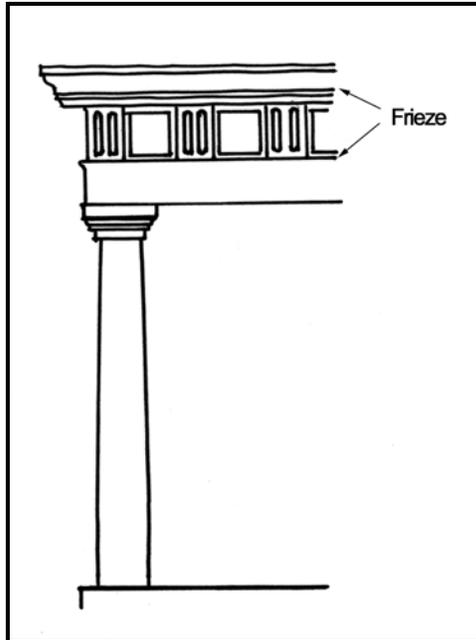


*Example of Flemish bond*

**Foliated** – decorative designs shaped like leaves that adorn interior and exterior architectural elements.

**Frame construction** – a building supported structurally by wood members.

**Frieze** – a flat, horizontal band, that extends below a cornice or pediment. Found most often in Greek and Classical Revival designs.

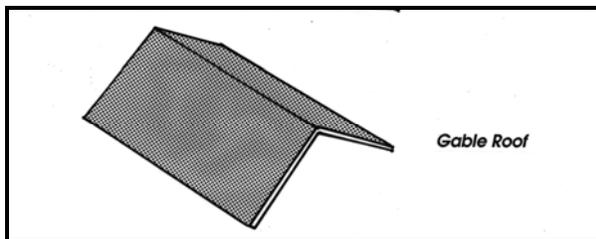


*Example of frieze*

**Frieze window** – small horizontal or oval window set into the frieze of a building.

**Frontpiece** – decorative composition enriching a doorway; it may include columns or pilasters, consoles, cornice, or pediment.

**Gable** – the triangular end of the exterior wall of a building with a gable roof. See also roofs.



**Gallery** – a long roofed porch. This term is derived from the French term *gallerie*, to describe a porch associated with French Colonial architecture, often built above the first story.

**Gambrel** – a roof form with two pitches to the roof, the lower one steeper than the one above.

**Gazebo** – a freestanding roofed structure, usually open on the sides, affording shade and rest in a garden or park.

**Gingerbread** – trim wood trim boards usually found at gables and porches with delicate curves and scrolls.

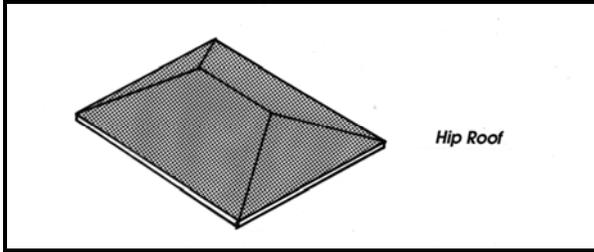
**Half-timber framing** – the use of wood pieces of varying length for either decorative or structural purposes. Most commonly in St. Louis, half-timbering is expressed on the exterior of houses in the Tudor Revival style.

**Head** – the top horizontal member of a window or door.

**Header** – the short side of a brick.

**Hierarchical** – the placement of similar designs on a building, such as windows, that become larger and more elaborate at each story of the building.

**Hip roof** – a gable roof sloping inward on all four sides.



**Honeycomb brick** – a brick pattern in which space is left between some of the bricks for decoration or ventilation.

**Hood** – the cover at the top of a window or door that extends out from a facade, usually ornamental.

**Impost** – the horizontal block at the end of an arch.

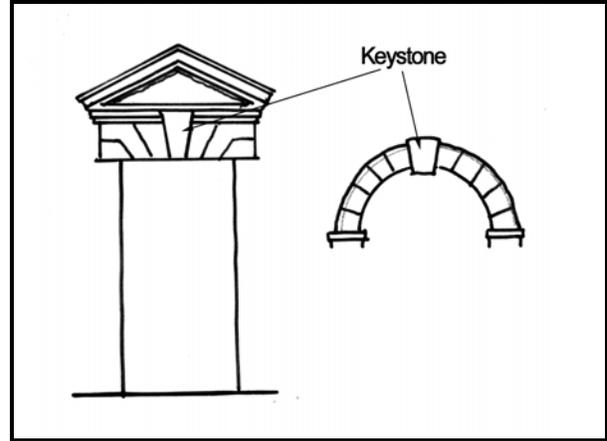
**Incised ornament** – delicate ornament scored into a facade found commonly around window openings on stone Second Empire facades.

**Ionic order** – a classical order characterized by scrolled capitals, and plain geometric trim.

**Jack arch** – a flat arch above a window or door opening composed of brick or stone members, in which dimension of the top is wider than that of the bottom. The center is marked by a decorative triangular keystone.

**Joist** – any series of small, parallel beams for supporting floors, ceilings, or flat roofs.

**Keystone** – the center member of an arch, often larger or decorated.



*Example of Keystones*

**Label** – a molding over doors and windows common in Gothic Revival designs, with a straight line over the window, and symmetrical lines extending vertically down on either side.

**Lancet or pointed arch** – the basic Gothic arch, with a pointed apex; its height is greater than its width. Variations include the *equilateral arch*, where the width is the same as the height, and the *dropped arch*, where the arch is wider than it is high.

**Light** – a pane of glass. See windows, multilight.

**Light court** – an open, narrow shaft constructed in high-rise buildings to provide light and ventilation. An interior light court is fully enclosed by the building; an exterior light court is open on one side to the street or alley.

**Lintel** – a horizontal architectural member above a door or window, often decorated, that provides structural support for the opening.

**Loggias** – a gallery open on one or more sides usually at the edge of a structure along a garden.

**Mansard roof** – A traditional French roof design with the lower roof pitch almost vertical, creating a full attic storey and with a low slope above. The attic slope may be straight, concave, or convex.



*Examples of Mansard roof*

**Merlon** – found commonly in Gothic Revival architecture, the part of a battlement that projects upward.

**Mezzanine** – a low or partial story between two main stories of a building, esp. one that projects as a balcony and forms a composition with the story beneath.

**Modillion** – large, ornamental blocks placed below the overhang of a cornice.

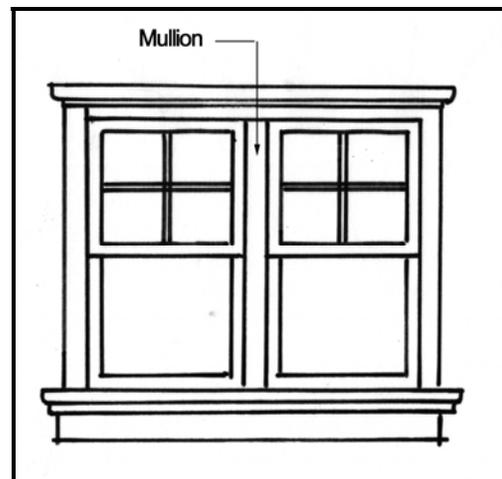
**Molded brick** – brick that is shaped before being placed in the kiln, used for ornamental treatments, such as cornices and moldings.

**Molding** – architectural designs that are commonly used on interior and exterior wood pieces, such as baseboards, crown moldings, cornices and chair rails.

**Motif** – (pl.: motives) a main element or feature of a design.

**Mouse hole** – a narrow passage from the front of two or more attached buildings, allowing access to the rear yard.

**Mullion** – a vertical piece, usually wood, that separates grouped windows from each other.



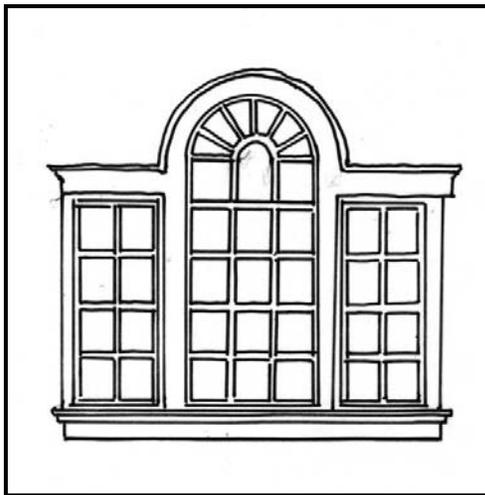
*Example of a mullion*

**Muntins** – thin pieces of wood or steel used to hold the individual panes of glass in a window sash.

**Nogging** – infill, which may be of various materials, between structural wood timbers in vertical or horizontal log, and half-timber construction.

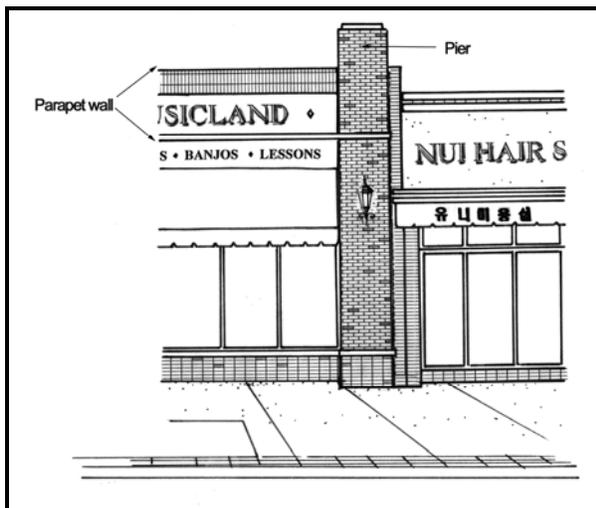
**Oriel** – a bay window supported from below by corbels or brackets.

**Palladian window** – a grouping of windows found commonly in Colonial, and Colonial Revival architecture, comprised of a large central window flanked by narrower windows, with a semi-circular window above. A detail devised by Italian architect Antonio Palladio in the Renaissance.



*Example of Palladian window*

**Parapet** – the part of a wall which extends above the roof line.



*Example of parapet and pier*

**Pediment** – an architectural element, usually found around doors and windows and above porches, that has a gable set upon an entablature, with the same decorative molding running along the gable sides.

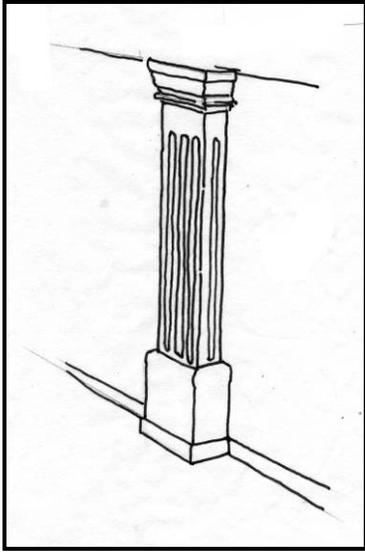
**Pendants** – in Gothic Revival architecture, a decorative form hanging from above, as on the eaves or from an ornamental plaster ceiling.

**Pergola** – a structure of parallel colonnades supporting an open roof of beams and crossing rafters or trelliswork over which climbing plants are trained to grow.

**Peristyle** – a row of columns that surround a building or open space.

**Pier** – a solid masonry support; also refers to the mass between windows or other openings in tall buildings.

**Pilaster** – a flat, rectangular post, attached to the side of a building, and configured in the same manner as a column.



*Example of pilaster*

**Pillow** – capital a capital found commonly in Romanesque architecture that is square at the top, with a rounded base. Sometimes called a cushion capital.

**Pinnacle** – a small turret-like end on the top of spires, buttresses, etc.

**Pitch** – the slope of the roof.

**Porch** – an exterior appendage to a building, forming a covered approach or vestibule to a doorway.

**Portal** – a dense, heavy surround on a church entry, found most often in Gothic Revival architecture.

**Porte-cochere** – a vehicular passageway leading through a building or screen wall into an interior courtyard. A structure attached to a main building projecting over a driveway at the entrance to a building for the temporary sheltering

and unloading of passengers. Also called carriage porch.

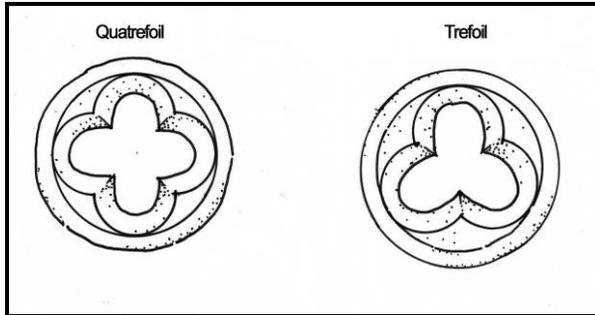
**Portico** – a featured entrance porch, usually in the form of the pedimented, columned portico of classical architecture. If the pedimented portico projects from the building it is *prostyle*; if it recedes it is *in antes*. If there are four columns it is *tetrastyle*; six, *hexastyle*; eight *octastyle*; to cite the most common types. Thus a building may have, for example, a *tetrastyle prostyle* portico.



*Example of a portico*

**Projecting bay** – an architectural element consisting of a bay which extends forward from the main plane of a building facade. quoins dressed stones, placed at the corners of a building, alternating in size.

**Quatrefoil** – in Gothic architecture, a four-lobed or cusped decorative figure formed within a circle; if there are three lobes, it is *trefoil*, etc.



**Railing** – a barrier composed of one or more horizontal rails supported by spaced uprights or balusters.

**Rake** – a board or molding placed along the sloping sides of a gable to cover the ends of the siding.

**Return** – an architectural element, usually a molding, that extends from one exterior surface or plane to a different one; for example, the part of a front cornice which extends around to the side elevation is called a return.

**Ridge** – the peak of a gable roof.

**Rim joist** – a joist set on top of the sill and forming the perimeter of a wood-framed floor. Also called header.

**Riser** – the vertical face of a stair step.

**Roofs**

- **Bellcast** – a roof line that is curved out slightly as the roof meets the facade.
- **Catslide** – a roof type found commonly in Neo-Tudor Revival buildings that has a very steep slope; often one side is longer than the other.
- **False mansard** – a roof which has the steep pitch of a

mansard on the front, but does not cover a third, or attic story.

- **Gable** – a roof with two slopes meeting at a center ridge. A front gable has its gable ends oriented to the front and rear facades; a side gable has its gable ends perpendicular to the front facade.
- **Gambrel** – a gable roof with a double slope on each side; sometimes called a "barn roof."
- **Helm** – the design of a roof with a steeple above a four sided base.
- **Hipped** – a roof with four sloping sides, meeting at a center ridge.
- **Mansard** – a roof composed of a steep section, topped by a nearly flat section, and providing an additional attic story.
- **Pyramidal** – a hipped roof in which four equal roof slopes meet at a single point.
- **Truncated** – hip a hipped roof whose slopes meet at a flat surface, instead of a ridge.

**Rose window** – a circular window, usually seen in church architecture, often containing stained glass and tracery.

**Rough-cut masonry** – blocks dressed on the sides but left in a unfinished condition on the front.

**Roundel** – a small bull's-eye or circular ornamental panel.

**Rubble stone** – stone which may have been slightly worked to shape but has basically an unfinished surface when laid.

**Run** – the horizontal distance between successive risers or between the first and last riser of a flight of steps.

**Rusticated stone** – masonry laid in large blocks with deep joints, usually on the basement or first story of a building.

**Sash door** – a door with a window or, if fully glazed, sometimes called a French door.

**Scroll-work** – architectural ornament in the shape of a scroll. Scroll-work is most often found on the capital of Ionic columns.

**Scupper** – an opening in the side of a building, as in a parapet, for draining off rainwater.

**Shaped parapet** – a decorative parapet projecting above a roofline, with a rectangular or curvilinear edge.

**Sheathing** – exterior covering of a building or roof.

**Sidelights** – one or more windows that are placed at the side of a door or window.



*Example of sidelights*

**Sill plate** – the lowest horizontal member of a frame structure, resting on and anchored to a foundation wall. Also called mudsill, sill.

**Spandrel** – a non-structural horizontal member, usually found in tall buildings, between the windows of each story.

**Spark arrester** – a device, consisting of wire netting or the like, used to stop or deflect sparks or embers thrown from an open fireplace or chimney.

**Spindle work** – decorative Victorian turned woodwork.

**Spirelet** – a small, narrow spire.

**Stoop** – a narrow, unroofed porch, commonly built of stone, brick or concrete.

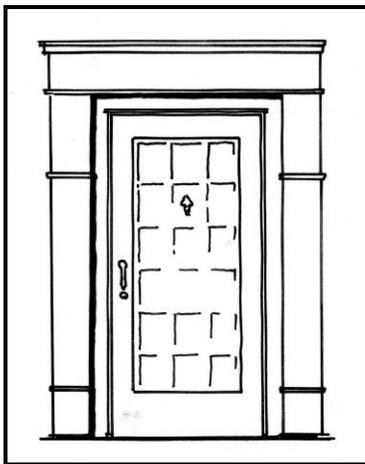
**Story** – the space between any two floors of a building, as expressed on the exterior.

**Stretcher** the long side of a brick.

**String course** – a narrow band of stone or brick that extends across the facade, between the stories of a building. See belt course.

**Stucco** – plaster work on the exterior of a building.

**Surround** – the ornament around window and door openings.



*Example of a surround*

**Symmetrical** – the identical placement of architectural elements on a building on either side of a central axis.

**Temple front** – the construction of a Greek Revival front facade, with a gable roof in the form of a pediment, and columns or pilasters.

**Tenement** – a multiple unit building used to house large numbers of low-income families.

**Terra cotta** – form of masonry made from fine grained clay, that is often heated in a mold, and used for ornamental purposes.

**Terrace** – an open, often paved area connected to a house or building and serving as an outdoor living area.

**Top plate** – the uppermost horizontal member of a framed wall on which joists or rafters rest.

**Tower** – a narrow structure extending above the roof of a building.

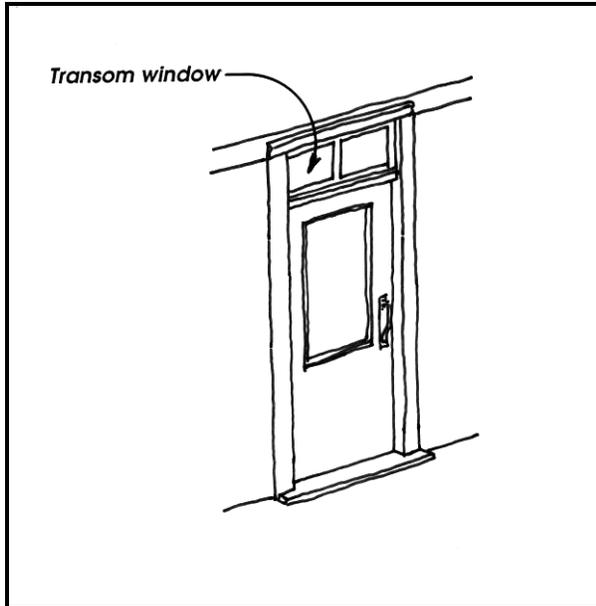


*Example of a tower or turret*

**Tracery intricate** – delicate trim, often in stone, that is commonly found around porch roofs and gables in Gothic, and other forms of picturesque architecture.

**Transept** – the part of a cruciform church design at right angles to the main portion of the building, or the nave. Also refers to each wing on either side of the nave. Transepts usually contain secondary entrances or chapels.

**Transom** – a small, narrow window placed above a door or window.



triangular, or arched space above a church door, often highly decorated.

**Variiegated brick** – brick on the facade of a building of generally the same color, with slight variations in value.

**Veneer** – the application of a finished material such as brick over other material, often used to give a richer exterior appearance; as in stone veneer on a brick building.

**Veranda** – an exterior, open porch, most often found on the first story of residential buildings. The term is synonymous and used interchangeably with porch and gallery.

**Trefoil** – found commonly in church architecture, three circular ornamental pieces grouped together in a triangular shape.

**Trellis** – a light framework of horizontal or vertical members, often used to support climbing plants.

**Turned** – shaping of posts or balusters with a lathe to create ornamental designs.

**Turret** – a slender tower with a conical roof popular in residential and commercial buildings from the 1860's through the 1890's.

**Tuscan** – order a classical order defined by its simplicity: without fluted columns, or elaborate capitals and with a simple cornice and frieze.

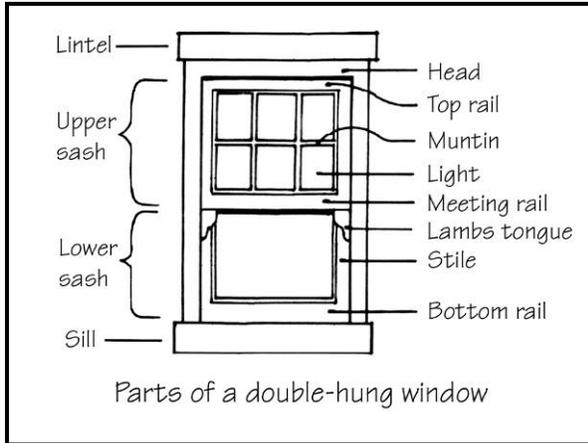
**Tympanum** – the triangular piece that forms the top of a pediment; also the



*Example of a Veranda*

**Water table** – a brick or stone course extending across the front facade of a building between the basement and first story.

**Weatherboards or clapboards** – board covering for exterior walls, in which each course of boards partially overlaps the one below it.

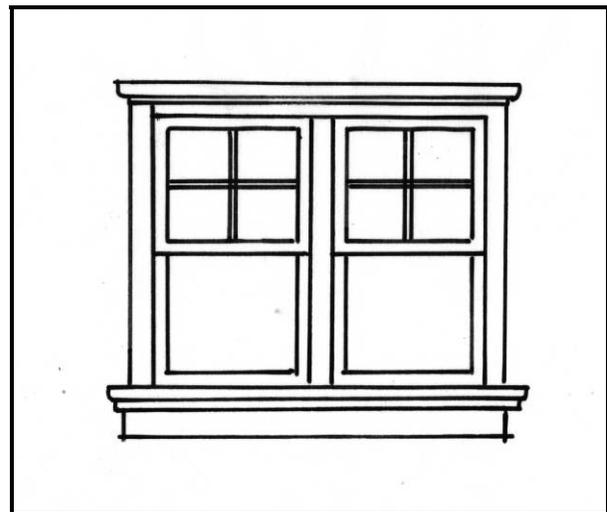


**Windows** –

- **Awning** – a single sash window hinged on the top swinging outward.
- **Bay windows** – a window or series of windows projecting outward from the main wall of a building and forming a bay or alcove in a room within, esp. one having its own foundation.
- **Casement** – a window hung on one side, and opening either outward or into a room.
- **Dormer window** – an upright window lighting the space in a roof.
- **Double hung** – a window with two sashes, one above the other, that may both be opened.
- **Gable window** – a window under a gable
- **Industrial sash** – a multi-light window of metal with many small panes set in a rectangular

grid, and generally combining fixed windows and casements. Usually seen in industrial design of the mid to late 20th century.

- **Multi-light** – windows with more than one pane of glass. Windows with decorative patterns are described by the number of panes, or lights, at each sash. For example, a six-light casement window has six small panes of glass. Double hung windows are described by the number of panes in the top sash being "over" the number in the bottom sash, as in two-over-two, or six-over-one.
- **Pane** – one of the divisions of a window or door, consisting of a single unit of glass set in a frame.
- **Paired windows** – two windows separated by a mullion, under a single arch or lintel.



*Example of paired windows*

- **Transom window** – the horizontal window panel above the storefront door.

- **Window frame** – the fixed frame of a window, consisting of two jams, a head, and a sill.
- **Window unit** – a manufactured assembly of a frame sash, glazing, and necessary hardware, made to fit a window opening.

**Wing wall** – an extension of a wall that projects out beyond the building itself.