

GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Arcade - A series of arches supported by columns.

Arch - A curved or pointed structure, supported at its sides.

Architectural Symmetry - A characteristic of classical architecture by which the two sides of a facade of a building present mirror images of one another.

Archway - An opening with a curved or pointed top.

Attic Window - A window lighting an attic.

Balcony - A platform that projects from the wall of a building, enclosed on its outer three sides by a balustrade, railing, or parapet.

Baluster - A vertical supporting element, like a small column.

Balustrade - A railing consisting of a row of balusters supporting a rail.

Bay - A section of a building distinguished by vertical elements such as columns or pillars.

Bay Window - A projecting bay that is lit on all projecting sides by windows.

Bow Window - A curved bay window.

Brace - A reinforcing element of an architectural frame.

Bracket - A projection from a vertical surface that provides structural and/or visual support for overhanging elements.

Casement Window - A window frame that is hinged on one vertical side, and which swings open to either the inside or the outside of the building, often occurring in pairs.

Catslide/Outshut - A gable roof whose rear slope is longer than its front slope. The rear slope often very nearly meets the ground.

Central Hallway - A passageway that cuts through the centre of a building, from front to back, off which rooms open to the sides.

Classical Architecture - Architecture modelled after the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

Colonnade - A range of columns that support a row of continuous arches or a horizontal entablature.

Column - A supporting pillar consisting of a base, a shaft, and a capital on top of the shaft.

Common Bond Brickwork - has a course of headers is inserted every five or six courses. A header is always centred on a stretcher and the joints of each course of headers always align.

Corinthian Order - A variation of the Ionic order, and the youngest of the three basic orders of classical Greek architecture, the others being the Doric and the Ionic orders.

Cornice - A crowning projection at a roof line, often with moulding or other classical detail.

Cornice Moulding - A decorative strip of wood running just below the eaves of a building. A cornice moulding is a cross between a cornice and a moulding – a cornice is a crowning projection at a roof line, while a moulding is a decorative strip of wood.

Courtyard - An space, open to the sky, enclosed by a building, often with an arcade or colonnade.

Crenellation - A sequence of alternating raised and lowered wall sections at the top of an exterior wall or parapet. Also known as a battlement.

Crown Post - A term in traditional timber framing for a post in roof framing which stands on a tie beam or collar beam and supports a collar plate.

Cupola - A small dome located at the top of a building. A cupola is sometimes topped with a lantern. A belvedere is a square-shaped cupola.

Curlicue - A spiral or looping line.

Decorative Motif - A repeated pattern or theme.

Dentils - Small rectangular blocks placed together in a row that suggest a row of teeth.

Diamond-paned Windows - Windows that are made up of many small, diamond-shaped panes of glass.

Doric Order - The oldest and plainest of the three orders of classical Greek architecture, the others being the Ionic and the Corinthian orders.

Dormer Window - A perpendicular window located in a sloping roof; triangular walls join the window to the roof.

Double Doors - Two adjacent doors that share the same door frame, and between which there is no separating vertical member.

Double-hung Sash Windows - A window with two sashes that move independently of each other.

Eaves - The projecting edge of a roof that overhangs an exterior wall to protect it from the rain.

English Bond Brickwork - Comprised of alternating courses of stretchers and headers where a header is centred above a stretcher. The joints of the stretcher courses align and the joints of the header courses align.

Exposed Rafters - Rafters that are exposed to the outside of a building.

Façade - An exterior wall of a building.

Fan Light - A semi-circular or semi-elliptical window, with wedge-shaped panes of glass separated by mullions arranged like the spokes of a wheel, usually found over entrance doors and windows.

Fireplace Surround - A sometimes decorated moulding around a fireplace.

Flared Roof - A roof with a bell-shaped profile.

Flemish Bond Brickwork - Each course is made up of alternating stretchers and headers. Each header is centred on a stretcher above and below.

Floor Plan - The arrangement of rooms in a building.

Fluting - Shallow, vertical grooves in the shaft of a column or pilaster.

French Doors - Two adjacent doors that share the same door frame, and between which there is no separating vertical member.

Frieze - A band of sculpted ornamentation on a building.

Gable Roof - A roof with two slopes, front and rear, joining at a single ridge line parallel to the entrance façade.

Gable-end Roof - When the ridge line of a gable-roofed house is perpendicular to the street.

Gambrel Roof - A ridged roof with two slopes at each side, the lower slopes being steeper than the upper.

Grilles - Ventilation panels, often decorative.

Half-hipped Roof - a roof in which the upper part of the gable is inclined inwards.

Half-timbering - A Medieval timber framework whose timbers are in-filled with masonry or plaster.

Hipped Roof - A roof with four sloped sides. The sides meet at a ridge at the centre of the roof. Two of the sides are trapezoidal in shape, while the remaining two sides are triangular and meet the ridge at its end points.

Hood Moulding - A moulding that projects above a door, window, or archway to throw off rain.

Ionic Order - The second-oldest of the three basic orders of classical Greek architecture, the others being the Doric and the Corinthian orders.

Jacobean Architecture - Architecture constructed during the reigns of James I, Charles I, Charles II, and James II. Jacobean architecture followed Elizabethan architecture, and preceded the English Renaissance architecture of Inigo Jones.

Jettied Story - An upper story that projects out over the story beneath it.

King Post - A central vertical post working in tension to support a beam below from a truss apex above.

Lattice-work - A wooden grid of boards overlaid atop an exterior surface.

Mansard Roof - A four-sided hipped roof with two slopes on each side, the lower slopes being very steep, almost vertical, and the upper slopes sometimes being so horizontal that they are not visible from the ground.

Masonry - Being of stone, brick, or concrete.

Moulding - A decorative strip of wood.

Mullions - The structural units that divide adjacent windows.

Muntins - Dividing bars between panes of glass.

Nogging - A term used for the filling in between wall framing in buildings

Ogee Arch - An arch consisting of two opposing "S"-curves meeting in a point at the apex.

Order - A classical style of architecture. The three primary orders, used in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, chronologically: the Doric order, the Ionic order, and the Corinthian order.

Oriel - A projecting window of an upper floor, supported from below by a bracket or columns.

Outshut/Catslide - Where a smaller lower addition is added to a building, the new roof makes one continuous roof with the main roof, and is often at a shallower pitch to the main roof.

Over-hanging Rafters - Rafters that extend beyond the eaves of a roof.

Pagoda - A tiered tower with multiple roof layers, constructed about a central axis pole.

Palazzo - The Italian word for "palace."

Palladian Window - An arched window flanked by two smaller, non-arched windows.

Panel - A smooth surface, rectangular or circular framed by a moulding, and often featuring decorative, sculptural carving.

Parapet - A low wall at the top of any sudden drop, such as at the top of the facade of a building.

Patio - An outdoor extension of a building above ground level, open to the sky.

Pavilion - A small portion of a building that juts out from a main building, either above its roof line, or to the side, and which is identified by a unique (usually diminutive) height and individual roof type. A pavilion may also stand alone, separate from a larger building, or may be connected to a main building by a terrace or path.

Pediment - A decorative triangular piece situated over a portico, door, window, fireplace, etc. The space inside the triangular piece is called the "tympanum," and is often decorated.

Peek-a-boo Window - A very small window, often circular.

Pergola - A garden structure built up over a path or terrace, lined with evenly spaced columns or posts that support a wooden-framed roof without sheathing.

Pilaster - A shallow, non-structural rectangular column, attached to, and projecting only slightly from, a wall surface.

Pillar - A structural support, similar to a column, but larger and more massive, and often without ornamentation.

Pointed Arch - An arch that is pointed at its apex, rather than rounded.

Portico - An entrance porch with columns or pilasters and a roof, and often crowned by a triangular pediment.

Projection - A side wing, tower, or window bay that protrudes from a building.

Purlin - A horizontal member usually laid at right angles to main rafters or trusses of a roof to support elements of the roof framing.

Queen Post - A tension member in a truss that can span longer openings than a king post truss.

Queen Post Truss has two principal rafters and two vertical queen posts.

Quoins - Large, prominent masonry units outlining windows, doorways, segments, and corners of buildings.

Rafters - Inclined, sloping framing members of a roof, to which the roof covering is fixed.

Roof Ridge - The horizontal intersection of two roof slopes at the top of a roof.

Roofline - The part of a building that rises above the building's eaves.

Round-arched Window - A window that is fully arched at its top.

Roundel - A small, circular panel or window.

Rubble Brick - Rough-edged brick, often of variegated colours.

Rubbed Arches - are built of "rubber" or other soft bricks, which have been cut and finely rubbed to the form and dimensions required.

Running Bond Brickwork - The most used bond and is composed of stretchers offset by 1/2 brick per course.

Sculptural Forms - Architectural elements that have the appearance of having been sculpted.

Segmental Arch - An arch whose arc is shorter than that of a full semi-circle.

Setback - A step-like recession in a wall.

Shutters - Pairs of solid or slatted window coverings hinged to the exterior of a building to either side of a window.

Side Light - A fixed window positioned to the side of a doorway or window.

Slate - A finely-grained, foliated rock.

Spire - A slender, pointed construction atop a building, often a church.

Stack Bond Brickwork - Made up of courses of stretchers where each stretcher is stacked directly above a stretcher and the joints align. This is not a structural bond and is generally used on interiors for non-load bearing walls.

Striated Brick - Brickwork made up of rows of bricks of alternating colours.

Stucco - A plaster used as a coating for walls and ceilings, and often used for decoration.

Terrace - An outdoor extension of a building, situated above the ground level, and open to the sky.

Thatched Roof - A roof covered with straw which is layered so as to shed rain.

“The Great Rebuilding” - A period of architectural change the major feature of which was the flooring over of the Great Hall to create an upper story made possible by the introduction of the internal chimney.

Tie Beam – the horizontal transverse beam in a roof, tying together the feet of pairs of rafters to counteract thrust.

Tile Roof - A roof covered with tiles that are made out of clay.

Tile Inset - A panel of clay or ceramic tile.

Tower - An exceptionally tall portion of a building.

Transom Light - A narrow window, sometimes hinged at the top, positioned over a doorway or larger window.

Truss - A rigid framework, as of wooden beams or metal bars, which supports a structure, such as a roof.

Turret - A small tower that pierces a roofline. A turret is usually cylindrical, and is topped by a conical roof.

Veranda - An open, roofed porch, usually enclosed on the outside by a railing or balustrade.

Vernacular Architecture - Architecture created from mostly local materials, by and for the use of local people.

Wealden House - A distinctive medieval structural type, found most commonly in Kent and Sussex, for which the name 'recessed-hall house' is also used. It is characterised by having an open hall flanked by floored, jettied end-bays, all under a single roof.

Window Sash - The movable frames in a window in which window panes are set.

Wooden Clapboards - Long slats of wood that are nailed to an exterior surface in a horizontal fashion, overlapping one another from top to bottom.

Wooden Shingles - Small, rectangular-shaped slats of wood that are nailed to an exterior surface, overlapping one another from top to bottom.