

## Glossary of Architectural Terms

**Apex:** The highest, pointed part of a *gable*.

**Apron:** A raised *panel* below a window or opening.

**Arcading:** A series or row of arches.

**Architrave:** The lowest part of the *entablature*. The term is also commonly used to describe a *moulded* surround to a door or window opening. An **eared architrave** has the surround turning outwards, then upwards before returning horizontally along the top of the opening it is framing.

**Archivolt:** Bands or *mouldings* surrounding an arched opening.

**Art Deco:** An architectural style which was fashionable during the 1920s and 30s. The movement sometimes used modern materials such as cast concrete and the style suggested modernity, technology and motion. Stained and leaded glass was sometimes used and is often of a creative, geometric design.

**Art Nouveau:** A style of art and architecture which came into prominence in Paris in 1895. It was a break away from past styles of decoration and drew inspiration from natural forms such as plants and waveforms. Its influence is visible in some *Arts and Crafts* and *Edwardian* buildings, particularly in terms of decorative glazing and interiors. The movement lost its momentum by 1914.

**Arts and Crafts:** Late 19th and early 20th century architectural style based on the revival of traditional crafts (such as carpentry, glassmaking etc) and natural materials.

**Ashlar:** Dressed stonework of any type, where the blocks have squared sides, carefully squared corners, and are laid in regular courses, usually with fine joints. The faces of the stones, called ashlar, are generally smooth and polished, but can be tooled or have a decorative treatment.

**Astragal:** A wooden glazing bar which divides a window. Can be functional and straight, as on a *sash window*, or curved and decorative.

**Balustrade:** a *parapet* or stair rail composed of uprights (balusters) carrying a *coping* or railing

**Bargeboards:** boards fixed at the *gable* ends of roofs to conceal and protect the ends of the roof timbers. They may project over the wall face and are frequently highly decorative

**Baroque/neo-Baroque:** An exuberant style of art and architecture prevalent in the 17th and 18th centuries, but largely confined to mainland Europe with very few examples in Yorkshire or indeed Britain. This style reappeared in England around 1900 and had a short-lived revival.

**Batter:** The inclined surface of a wall, most pronounced at the base.

**Battlement:** A *parapet* with upstanding pieces and indentations (called *crenels*). *Castellated*, like the *turrets* and defensive walls of castles.

**Bay Window:** A window which projects on the outside of a building. A **canted bay window** has a flat front and angled sides.

**Bays:** The number of windows in a horizontal line across a *façade*.

**Blind Opening:** A term applied to windows, arches, *balustrades* etc that are applied to a wall for decorative purposes but are blocked with recessed stone, brick etc.

**Blocking course:** a plain course forming a low *parapet* on top of the *cornice*, usually concealing a gutter.

**Bow:** a curved wall or window is said to be bowed.

**Bracket:** Any projection from the face of a wall whose purpose is to support a structure or object.

**Broached:** At the point where an octagonal spire meets a square tower, the four angles of the tower not covered by the base of the spire are filled by an inclined mass of masonry known as the broach.

**Broken Pediment:** A *pediment* with an incomplete or missing base is said to be broken.

**Buttress:** A mass of masonry built against or projecting from a wall either to stabilise, from the lateral thrust of an arch roof or vault, or to enable the wall to be thinner.

**Campanile:** A bell tower, usually free standing.

**Capital:** The crowning feature or head of a *column*, *pilaster* or gate pier.

**Capping:** Although it can occupy the same position as a *moulding* (e.g. around the edge of a panel, or as part of an entablature), a capping is where the stone is carved with an ornate repeated pattern rather than being given a decorative profile. Also, another word for a *capital*.

**Casement window:** A window which is side hung to open outwards or inwards on hinges.

**Chamfer:** Narrow face created when the edge of a corner in stonework is cut at an angle, usually 45 degrees, but sometimes concave or convex. Where two corners of stonework have been cut away, a **double chamfer** is created.

**Chancel:** The chancel is the continuation of the *nave* of a church to the east of the crossing. Inside, it is where the altar stands.

**Cill** or **Sill:** The horizontal feature at the bottom of a window or door which throws water away from the face of a building.

**Cill Band:** A projecting horizontal band which connects *cills* across the face of a wall.

**Clasped Buttresses:** Clasped *buttresses* support the ends of the walls at either side of a corner and adjoin each other at a right angle.

**Classical Architecture:** The employment of the symmetry and system of proportioning used in Ancient Greek and Roman architecture which was revived in the Renaissance and was popular in England during the 18th and 19th centuries. English 'Classical' or 'neoclassical' buildings have a regular, formal appearance and symmetrical facades and might also incorporate Classical details such as an *entablature* at the wall top or *pilasters* dividing *bays*. This revival also sometimes incorporated the five 'orders' of architecture which vary in terms of the system of proportioning and degree of the decoration.

**Colonette:** A small, *column*-like *shaft*.

**Column:** An upright vertical member which usually stands clear of the main body of a building. Usually circular in cross-section and is a common motif of *Classic* architecture.

**Composite:** Invented by the Romans as a mixture of *Ionic* and *Corinthian* orders, the Composite is the largest and most heavily decorated orders of *Classical* architecture.

**Console:** An ornamental scrolled *bracket*, normally in stone or timber, usually supporting a projecting *lintel*, *fascia*.

**Coping(stone):** Top course of a wall designed to prevent water penetrating into the core of the wall. Copings are often shaped i.e. half - round or saddle - backed and can frequently be quite decorative. Tabled coping usually refers to a flat copingstone. Tabled coping is usually seen on a gable end of a building as opposed to on a freestanding wall.

**Corbel:** A projecting block which supports a *parapet* or *sill*. Often carved, particularly in *Gothic Architecture*, where heads and foliage are common.

**Corinthian:** The largest of the five 'orders' of Roman *Classic Architecture*, which was also employed in British Classicism. The *capitals* of *columns* and *pilasters* have an acanthus leaf decoration and the *entablature* is heavily decorated with a deep *cornice* supported by *modillions*.

**Cornice:** The top course of a wall or architectural member (such as a doorcase) which is sometimes *moulded* and/or projects from the wall.

**Crenellated:** see *battlement*.

**Cresting:** An ornamental ridge to the top of a wall or roof.

**Crocket:** A projecting knob of stylised foliage, associated mainly with *Gothic* architecture. Crockets are regularly spaced on spires and *pinnacles*.

**Dentil course:** Rectangular projecting blocks (dentils) tightly spaced like teeth, usually below *cornices* (from Latin, *Denticulus*, a tooth).

**Die:** the block ending a *parapet* or *balustrade*.

**Diminishing courses:** courses of slates of a roof or stone of a wall which diminish in size towards the ridge of the roof or wall top respectively.

**Doric:** The largest of the three 'orders' of Ancient Greek *Classic* architecture, later used by the Romans and in British *Classicism*.

**Dormer:** Any window which projects from the pitch of a roof.

**Drip mould:** A horizontal *moulding* of the side of a building designed to throw water clear of the wall. Used in *vernacular* and *Gothic* architecture.

**Drop finial:** A *finial* which projects downward rather than upward. Can be found inside arches or below the apex of a *gable*.

**Dutch gable:** this term describes any *gable* which is curved.

**Eared:** see *architrave*.

**Edwardian:** Period during the reign of King Edward VII (1901-1910) where architecture was chiefly influenced by the *Arts and Crafts* and *Art Nouveau* styles and was therefore less dependent on the past for its inspiration (unlike the revivalist styles of the Victorian period).

**Entablature:** In *Classic* architecture, the entablature horizontally spans the tops of *columns* or *pilasters*. It consists of three parts; the lowest is the *architrave*, the highest is the *cornice* and the *frieze* is in between.

**Fanlight:** Glazed area above a doorway, designed to brighten the hallway inside. A type of *transom*.

**Fascia:** the broad, horizontal board over a shopfront which carries the name of the shop. Can be ornamental.

**Fenestration:** The layout of windows on an elevation.

**Finial:** A crowning decoration, usually the uppermost ornament and is therefore mostly found at the apexes of *gables*.

**Fleche:** A spirelet of timber, lead cast iron etc rising from a roof ridge rather than a tower, and often acting as a ventilator.

**Fluting/Fluted:** a series of shallow concave vertical grooves along the shaft of a *column*.

**Flying Buttress:** A freestanding *buttress* which supports the wall by way of a semi arch.

**Frieze:** Middle section of the *entablature* at the top of a wall. It can be the widest component of the entablature and can be decorated.

**Gable:** The vertical part of the end wall of a building contained within the roof slope, usually triangular but can be any "roof" shape.

**Gablet:** A small *gable* used as a decorative feature.

**Georgian architecture:** Covering the period from 1714 to 1830 when architecture was influenced by the principles (such as proportioning and *fenestration*) of Rome and Ancient Greece. This

style of *Classicism* is particularly restrained in its ornamentation. Buildings often have a regularly spaced grid of openings and eight pane timber *sash windows* are common.

**Gothic Revival:** A Victorian revival of the Gothic style of architecture dating from the 12th through 16th centuries. Characterised by pointed and/or ogee arch openings and *traceries* windows.

**Greek Revival:** Refers to British Classical architecture which draws from Ancient Greek rather than Roman architecture.

**Hammer-dressed:** Stonework, hammered to a projecting **rock-faced** finish, sometimes also known as bull-faced.

**Hipped Roof:** Pitched roof without *gables*, where all sides of the roof meet at an angle.

**Hoodmould:** Projecting moulding over an arch or *lintel* designed to throw off water.

**Impost:** a *capital* which supports an arch.

**Impost Band:** A *moulding* which links the *imposts* of openings.

**Ionic:** One of the three 'orders' of Ancient Greek architecture and one of the five Roman 'orders', with slight variations between the two. Ionic *columns*, *pilasters* and *entablature* are sometimes used in British *Classical* architecture, along with the other 'orders' which all have different systems of proportioning and styles (and degrees) of decoration.

**Italianate:** A style of architecture which is an English romanticism of Italian architecture. Typical features are tall, often round-headed openings; shallow pitch, frequently *hipped* roofs to give the appearance of there being a flat roof.

**Jacobean Revival:** Victorian revival of the grand, sumptuous style which appeared in the early 1600s. It is typified by *Dutch gables*, *mullioned* windows, and ornate stonework.

**Jamb:** The sides of a window or door opening. Monolithic jambs are usually constructed of a solid slab of stone.

**Japonoiserie:** A European interpretation of Japanese architecture. It was fashionable in the late 19th century and is particularly associated with *Art Nouveau*.

**Keystone/keyed:** The large stone at the centre of the arch, often larger and decorated.

**Kneeler:** Stone at the bottom end of the *coping* at the *gable* end of a roof which projects over the wall below. Usually *moulded* or carved.

**Lancet:** A slender pointed arch window.

**Lantern:** a small glazed turret lighting a roof or dome. Usually quite small.

**Lean-to roof:** A roof which is built up against a vertical wall and has one slope only.

**Light:** The framed part of a window opening. A window with two *mullions* would have three openings and would hence be called a three- light window.

**Lintel:** The horizontal beam bridging an opening in a wall.

**Lucarne:** A small *dormer* in a spire or tower roof.

**Machicolation:** where a *parapet*, gallery or section of wall projects and is carried on *corbels*. While machicolation on *Gothic revival* style buildings such as churches is decorative, machicolation originally had openings between the corbels through which missiles can be dropped as they were a defensive feature of castles, forts etc which was introduced in the Middle Ages.

**Mansard Roof:** a roof with a double slope in which the top slope is shallower.

**Margins:** margins frame an opening. The collective name for the *cill*, *jamb*s and *lintel*.

**Margin Lights:** the smaller panes of glass found along the perimeter of some windows.

**Modillion:** A small *bracket*, usually scrolled, set at regular intervals in the underside of a *cornice*.

**Moulding:** The shaped profile given to any feature which projects from the face of a wall.

**Mullion:** Upright member dividing the *lights* of a window.

**Muntin:** the vertical, central part of a door between the *panels*. A **muntin door** is one which is hinged on either side and opens in the middle.

**Nave:** The western limb of a church, where the congregation meets.

**Niche:** A recess in a wall, usually for holding a statue or urn.

**Occulus:** a small circular *panel* or window.

**Ogee:** A double curve shape composed of two curves in opposite directions ('S' shaped) without a break; used on both roofs and arches and as a profile on *mouldings*

**Old English:** A revival of medieval style timber framing and a movement away from austerity. Contemporary and associated with the *Arts and Crafts* movement.

**Open Pediment:** A *pediment* where the sides stop short of meeting at the *apex* or crown.

**Openwork:** describes a section of wall or *parapet* where the decoration incorporates openings as part of its pattern. Also applicable to decorative joinery or ironwork, which is described as being open if it has openings in it.

**Oriel:** A *bay window* which projects from an upper floor only, normally carried on *corbels*.

**Panel:** A sunken section of wall or door. Can have *moulded* edges.

**Parapet:** a wall which rises above another structure such as a roof or terrace.

**Pavilion Roof:** A roof that is *hipped* at either end.

**Pediment:** Triangular space at the top of a wall or over a doorway that looks like a *gable*. Sometimes contains decoration.

**Perpendicular:** A *Gothic* style of the 14th and 15th centuries (or a revival of) with an emphasis on the vertical element and right angles.

**Pilaster:** The flat version of a *column*, consisting of a slim rectangle projecting from a wall. Often used on shop frontages.

**Pinnacle:** A small spire, usually pyramidal, often *crocketed*.

**Pitch-faced:** *Hammer dressed* stone with a rough triangular profile, like the pitch of a roof.

**Plat Band:** a projecting *stone string* usually found between the floors of a building.

**Portico:** A porch in the form of a *Classical* colonnade (row of *columns*), usually described in terms of the number of columns.

**Quatrefoil:** A traceried opening made up of four cusps or lobes.

**Queen Anne Revival:** A late Victorian revival of an 18th century style influenced by the tall ornate

houses of Dutch merchants. The style is typified by irregular and unsymmetrical facades and prominent *gables*.

**Quoin:** The stone blocks on the outside corner of a building which are usually differentiated from the adjoining walls by material, texture, colour, size or projection.

**Regency:** The last ten years of the *Georgian* era, where *bowed* walls and *bowed* windows were used.

**Relief:** The sculpture of stone or metal where figures and objects project slightly from the background. This type of decoration can be found on *friezes*, plaques etc.

**Reveal:** The inward plane of a door or window opening between the edge of the external wall and the window or door frame.

**Rock faced:** Stonework dressed in such a way to make it look natural.

**Roll moulding:** A type of *moulding* where the profile is circular.

**Rose window:** A round window with radiating windows arranged around it like petals. Rose windows are often *traceryed*.

**Rotunda:** A circular building or room, implies a domed roof.

**Rusticated:** The treatment of stone in a way which emphasises its appearance. This is usually done by leaving stone *rock faced* or otherwise rough and is usually found in *Classical* (imitating Italian Renaissance buildings) and *Italianate* buildings. Rustication also describes smooth stone with deep horizontal grooves which is used for buildings erected towards the end of the 19th century onwards.

**Saddlestone:** The stone at the *apex* of a *gable*.

**Sash:** A form of window in which two sashes, separated by parting beads, slides within a frame, the case, counterbalanced by weights hung on ropes, the sashcords. The glazing slides in two parallel frames within the case, the upper sliding outward of the lower. The projection of the top sash beyond the bottom sash traps a certain amount of shadow that gives the sash and case window a very satisfying 3-D effect.

**Scallop:** Ornament in the form of a shell, often found above doorways.

**Segmental arch:** an arch which is not a complete semi-circle.

**Setts:** Square blocks, usually of granite, forming a street surface. Setts were set on edge, close together, and they tapered slightly towards the bottom. Sides were never quite smooth, and laying them to achieve a tight joint, is a very skilful business.

**Shaft:** A shaft is a *mullion* which is treated as a *colonnade* or another member and is decorated in line with the overall style of the building.

**Sill:** see *cill*.

**Sill band:** see *cill band*

**Snecked:** Coursed stonework where the squared stones have not been fully dressed (i.e. hammered into a regular, uniform shape) and the coursing is varied by smaller filler stones or snecks.

**Soffit:** The underside or lining to an overhanging roof.

**Spandrel:** The triangular shaped infill contained by the side of an arched opening.

**Spoked:** *Astragals* of a window or *fanlight* which radiate from a central point, much like the spokes of a wheel.

**Stallriser:** the *panel* below the *sill* of a shop window.

**Stilted arch:** where an arch is carried by two vertical sections (not the *jamb*s or *imposts*) which have the same *moulding* or *archivolt* as the arch.

**Stone String or Stringcourse:** A shallow (usually stone) moulding continued across a whole facade which may be defined by its position e.g. *sill* or *impost* course.

**Strip pilaster:** A *pilaster* which is flush or near flush with the wall, but is made out of differently finished stone to the wall.

**Swag:** ornament (usually a *relief*) in the form of a garland or fruit or flowers, suspended from both ends so that the centre sags and the ends hang vertically.

**Temple front:** *Classical* style principal elevation to a monumental building (traditionally a temple or church) modelled on the temples of ancient Greece and Rome. Temple fronts are dominated by *porticos* which carry a giant *pediment*.

**Tie Jamb:** A *jamb* which is made up of three stones. The upper and lower stones are vertical, while the middle stone lies horizontal and 'ties' the *jamb* into the wall.

**Tracery:** An ornamental pattern of stonework supporting the glazing in a *Gothic* window.

**Transept:** In a cruciform church, the transepts form the arms of the cross.

**Transom:** A horizontal bar of stone or wood which separates a window from a window below it or a *fanlight* from a door opening.

**Trefoil:** An ornament, symbol, or architectural form having the appearance of a trifoliate leaf.

**Tripartite window:** a window made up of three *mullioned lights*, often with a wider central light.

**Tudor Arch:** A broad pointed arch which is typically found on Tudor and Tudor Revival buildings.

**Tudor Revival:** The original Tudor period preceded the Jacobean period, and buildings in this style are similar but the Tudor revival buildings are plainer in their decoration than *Jacobean revival* buildings, but share details such as *mullioned windows*, *coped gables*, and *kneelers*.

**Turret:** A tower or tower-shaped projection from a building.

**Tympanum:** The area enclosed by the *mouldings* of a *pediment*, often richly carved or decorated.

**Valance:** similar to a *bargeboard*, a valance is a shallow decorative metal strip which hangs below the edge of a roof.

**Venetian window:** A three *light* window where the central light is the tallest (or largest) of the three and usually has a round head.

**Veranda:** An open shelter or gallery in front of a building with a lean-to roof supported by verticals of timber or iron.

**Vermiculated:** A tooling on the face of stone which appears as worm tracks.

**Vernacular:** An indigenous building constructed of locally available materials, to local detail, usually without the benefit of an architect. They were built for purpose by stonemasons.

**Vernacular Revival:** A late Victorian revival of the *vernacular* style which used motifs such as rows of *mullion windows*, *kneelers*, *chamfered openings*, *drip moulds*, *hood moulds* and *coped roofs*.

**Vista:** A distant view through or along an avenue or opening.

**Voussoir:** The radiating wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch.