

Part E

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Glossary of Architectural Terms

Italicised words are defined in other entries.

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**ABA rhythm:** a pattern of alternating *bays*. Other rhythms might be ABBA, or AABBAA, for example.

**Arcade:** a running series of *arches*, supported on *piers* or *columns*.

**Arch:** a curved structure over an opening, supported by mutual lateral pressure.

**Architrave:** The lowest division of an *entablature*.

**Ashlar:** Squared stone masonry laid in regular courses with fine joints.

**Balustrade:** A *parapet* or guard consisting of *balusters* supporting a rail or *coping*. The stair rail on the open side of a household stair is a common example of a balustrade.

**Barge board:** The board along the edge of a *gable* roof, often decorated or pierced in Victorian houses.

**Battlement:** A notched *parapet*, like on a castle. Also called *castellation*. The notches are called *embassures* or *crenelles*, and the raised parts are called *merlons*.

**Bay:** Divisions of a building marked by windows, *pilasters*, etc. An Ontario cottage with a centre door and windows on either side would be called a 3-bay house with an *ABA rhythm*.

**Bay window:** A group of windows projecting beyond a main wall. Commonly with angled sides in the Victorian style, and rectangular in Edwardian.

**Bipartite:** In two parts.

**Blind:** An imitation opening on a solid wall is called blind. Thus a blind *arch*, a blind window, a blind *arcade*.

**Board-and-batten:** Wood siding consisting of wide vertical boards, the joints of which are covered by narrow vertical strips, or battens.

**Bond:** A pattern of bricklaying in a wall. In solid brick construction headers are required to tie the *wythes* of the wall together. The rhythm of the headers determines the bond.

**Bow window:** Curved version of the *bay window*.

**Buttress:** A heavy vertical masonry element built against a wall to stabilise it.

**Capital:** See *Orders*.

**Casement:** A window hinged on one side, like a door.

**Chevron:** A decorative pattern of V shapes, like a sergeant's stripes.

**Classical:** Of or deriving from the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. Classical revival buildings typically feature *columns* and *pediments*, and are usually symmetrical in elevation.

**Coffering:** A pattern of square recessed panels.

**Colonette:** A little column, often decorative.

**Colonnade:** A row of *columns* supporting an *entablature*.

**Column:** A vertical structural member. See *orders*.

**Common Bond:** The standard *bond* for solid brick walls, consisting of one *header* course for every five or six courses of *running bond*.

**Consul or Console:** A bracket with a compound-curved profile.

**Coping:** A protective capping on a wall, parapet or gable, sloped to carry off rain water.

**Corbel:** A support projecting from a wall. Masonry that steps out course-by-course from the wall below is called corbelling.

**Corinthian:** See *Orders*.

**Cornice:** The uppermost division of an *entablature*. Also a moulded projection that crowns an element such as a wall, door or window.

**Cottage:** A small rustic house, or a style that imitates one. "Ontario Cottage" is a catch-phrase for a variety of one and one and a half storey house styles, some of which are actually quite large.

**Course:** A horizontal row of construction laid one above the other. Bricks and shingles are said to be laid in courses.

**Cresting:** A vertical ornament running along the top of a wall or ridge. If a rooster were a building, his comb would be cresting.

**Dentil:** A series of small rectangular blocks arranged in row, usually under a *cornice*. From the latin word for tooth.

**Dog-tooth:** A repeating decorative shape in the form of a four-lobed pyramid. Also, a brick laid so that a corner faces out from the surface of a wall.

**Doric:** See *Orders*.

**Double-Hung:** Type of window with vertically sliding sash one above the other, traditionally hung on ropes or chains from a counterbalance system concealed in the jambs. If only the lower sash is moveable it's called a single-hung window.

**Eclectic:** From a Greek word meaning selective. A rather vague name for late 19th and early 20th Century vernacular architecture which freely selected a bit of this and a bit of that from many previous styles. Elements of Classical, Victorian, and Italianate styles might be mixed together, for example. The term is often used disparagingly, but remarkably, the combinations are often skillful, and most eclectic buildings are quite handsome.

**Entablature:** In the classical *orders*, the horizontal element above a column. The meaning has been extended to include similar elements used over an opening or against a wall.

**FanLight:** A semi-circular transom window over a door or window, usually with radiating glazing bars, like the ribs of a fan.

**Fascia:** A long flat band, such as an eaves-board, a sign band over a shop window, or the undecorated strips in an architrave.

**Fenestration:** Windows: the pattern of windows in an elevation.

**Finial:** A decorative end, often in the form of a ball or spire. If it points down instead of up it can be called a pendant.

**Frieze:** The middle of the three divisions of an *entablature*. See *Orders*.

**Gable:** The roughly triangular wall at the end of a ridge roof. If the roof projects to or beyond the gable, it will take the shape of the roof structure. If the roof ends behind the wall, the gable may be freely shaped with steps, curves, or decorations.

**Gambrel roof:** A steeply sloped roof below a low sloped roof, creating a more usable attic. Also called barn-roof.

**Georgian:** An architectural style of 18th century origin, and often revived. Multi-Light *Double-hung* windows, symmetrical fronts, and modest use of *classical* ornament are hallmarks of the style. Both hipped and gable roofs were used. Evolved after the Great Fire in London, Georgian originally meant brick, but in revival the style has made use of wood and stucco siding as well.

**Header:** A brick laid so that its middling dimension is in the length of a wall, and its shortest dimension is vertical.

**Hood mould:** a thin projecting moulding over an opening, originally intended to throw off rainwater.

**Impost:** A block from which an arch springs.

**Ionic:** See Orders.

**Italianate:** A late 19th Century style, based on Italian country houses, featuring towers, cupolas, low hipped roofs with elaborate brackets at the soffits, and a verticality emphasised by tall narrow windows with 1 over 1 or 2 over 2 *lights*.

**Keystone:** An elaborated element in the centre of an *arch*. Emphasis may be provided by a contrast in colour or material, by vertical extension, and/or by projection out from the wall. The idea is that the central block is “key” to the arch, which isn’t true: each block is equally necessary.

**Leaded:** Glazing where small panes are divided and held together by lead strips.

**Light:** A single pane of glass within a *sash*. *Double-hung* windows are often described by the number of lights in the upper and lower sashes, as in 1 over 1, 2 over 2, or 12 over 12.

**Lintel:** A horizontal element spanning over an opening in a wall.

**Loyalist:** Wide spread early Ontario house style, imported by the Loyalists in the late 18th Century. Generally speaking, a version of the *Georgian* style, though usually having a gable roof. The hallmark is a panelled front door topped by a rectangular multi-pane transom, with a classical surround and cornice. When executed in wood clapboard, it is nicknamed “Yankee House”, and is indistinguishable from New England houses, but it has been built in brick and stone.

**Lozenge:** A diamond shaped pattern element.

**Lunette:** A semicircular window or panel.

**Machiolation:** Looks like an upside-down *battlement* projecting from a wall. Originally, in castles, there were openings at the top of the notches, through which missiles or boiling oil could be dropped on attackers below.

**Mannerist:** An outgrowth of the Renaissance style, it treated *classical* elements with a free hand, exaggerating scale and bending the rules. The broken pediment is a prime example of Mannerist playfulness. Revived around 1900 as Edwardian Mannerism.

**Mansard Roof:** A steeply sloped roof below a low-sloped roof, creating a more usable attic. Variations used in various 19th century styles include concave, convex and ogee shapes on the lower slope. Unfortunately revived as about 1960 as a tacked-on sloping band, usually of cedar shakes, in the hope of giving “natural texture” to rather ordinary flat-roofed boxes.

**Modillion:** Blocks or brackets under a cornice, like *dentils* but bigger and spaced widely apart.

**Niche:** A recess in a wall or pier, suitable for placing a statue.

**Oculus:** A small round or oval window. From the Latin word for “eye”.

**Ogee:** A double curve, concave below and convex above; a common shape for mouldings, an uncommon one for windows and arches.

**Order:** One of the *classical* systems of designing *colonnades*, elaborated in great detail as to proportions and geometry by classical revivalists from 1420 onwards.

**Oriel, Oriel window:** A bay window projecting from an upper storey.

**Palladian window:** A large central window topped with a *lunette* or *fan-light*, closely flanked by smaller flat-headed windows, the whole assembly surrounded by classically-inspired details.

**Parapet:** Originally a low wall protecting an edge with a drop, like at the side of a bridge or balcony. Also used to describe the extension of a wall above a roof, even when no one ordinarily walks there.

**Pediment:** In Classical architecture, the low-sloped triangular *gable* end above an *entablature*, enclosed on all sides by mouldings. The term, and its basic form has been borrowed by many styles for use above porticos, doors and windows. A segmental pediment substitutes a curved top for the original angled one, and the surrounding mouldings may be gapped in the centre, whatever the shape. A broken bed pediment has a gap in the bottom moulding, and a broken topped pediment has a gap at the top.

**Pendant:** A point ornament hanging down.

**Pier:** A large solid support for a beam, *lintel* or *arch*.

**Pilaster:** A vertical thickening of a wall, something like a *pier* or *column* built integrally with the wall. Sometimes used for structural purposes, sometimes purely decorative, it may be embellished with a base and capital on the model of the classical *orders*.

**Pinnacle:** A tall thin decoration at the top of a *pier* or *pilaster*.

**Plinth:** The lowest projecting part of the base of a *column*. Extended to mean any projecting base on elements such as baseboards, door frames, etc.

**Pointed arch:** An arch composed of two curves centred on the *springline*, whose radius is equal to the width of the opening.

**Polychrome:** Having many colours. Victorian red and buff brickwork is an example of polychromy.

**Quoin:** Alternating blocks at the corner of intersecting walls. May be expressed with contrasting material or colour. May be flush with the walls or project from it. From the French word for a “corner”.

**Regency:** Early 19th Century Style, following Georgian in origin, named after the Regency of George IV. Like the Prince, the style is more flamboyant than its predecessors. The scale and detail tends toward the imposing, and stone or plastered brick to imitate stone was used to emphasise solidity.

**Round arch:** A semicircular arch.

**Rowlock:** A brick laid so that its shortest dimension is in the length of a wall, and its middling dimension is vertical.

**Running Bond:** See *Bond*. Pattern of brickwork where all bricks are stretchers, and vertical joints lie at the midpoint of the brick below. It's now standard practice to use running bond exclusively, since brick veneer construction doesn't require headers to tie a wall together. The resulting loss of texture is an example of technology's inadvertent trend towards blandness.

**Rusticated:** Squared stone masonry laid in regular courses, but with the courses or the individual stones emphasized by deep joints and/or high relief in the surface treatment.

**Sash:** Framework holding the glass in a window.

**Second Empire:** A style named after Louis Napoleon's reign. Shares the vertical openings of the *Italianate* style, but usually topped with a dormered, and often curved, mansard roof, and often accompanied by a narrow tower. The Addams family lives in a Second Empire house.

**Segmental arch:** An arch composed of a single curve, centred below the *springline* on the centreline of the opening. Normally quite shallow.

**Sign fascia:** A broad flat band above a shopfront, intended for signage.

**Signband:** See *Sign fascia*.

**Soffit:** The underside of an architectural element, such as a *lintel*, *cornice*, balcony or *arch*.

**Soldier:** A brick laid so that its short dimension is in the length of a wall, and its long dimension is vertical.

**Spandrel:** The space between *arches* in an *arcade*, above the springline and below the top of the arches. Also a solid panel in a bay separating one opening from another above it.

**Springline:** the horizontal line from which an arch rises.

**Squinch:** A small arch or set of *corbelled* arches built at the interior angle of a structure to carry a superstructure of a different shape, such as a dome, spire or cupola.

**Stacked bond:** See *Bond*. Pattern of brickwork where all vertical joints are one above the other. Usually executed with *stretchers*, less commonly with *headers*.

**Stretcher:** A brick laid so that its long dimension is in the length of a wall, and its short dimension is vertical.

**String course:** A thin band of masonry projecting or recessed from the plane of the wall giving the effect of a moulding.

**Tabernacle:** A canopied *niche*.

**Three-centred arch:** An arch composed of three curves: a central *segmental* one of large radius, joined to two smaller flanking curves centred on the *springline*.

**Transom:** A horizontal member dividing an opening. Also used as short form for *transom window*.

**Transom window:** A window above a *transom*, most commonly over a door.

**Tripartite:** Having three parts.

**Tympanum:** The panel between the mouldings of a *pediment*.

**Verandah:** A large open gallery or porch, running along one or more sides of a building.

**Vousoir:** One of the blocks forming an arch.

**Water table:** Projecting masonry course near the bottom of a wall, intended to throw rain water away from the foundations.

**Wythe:** A vertical plane of masonry. A wall two bricks thick has an inner wythe and an outer wythe, tied together with *headers*.