

Glossary

Architrave

The lowest member of an *entablature*; it is usually in the form of a beam that spans between *columns* on a porch. See Entablature for image.

Balloon Framing

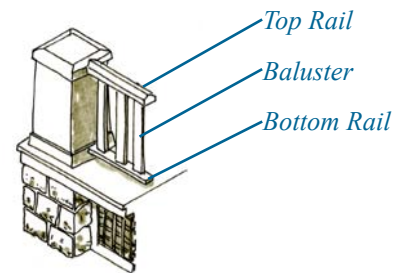
Began in Chicago in the 1830s and popular during the Queen Anne period, this framing system eliminated the previous post-and-beam construction and used only closely spaced, 2-inch wide boards of varying widths, such as the common 2" x 4" studs, joined only by nails. The boards (or studs) extend the full height of the building from the foundation to the roof, unlike the subsequent *Platform Framing*.

Baluster

The uprights supporting a handrail.

Balustrade

The whole assembly of a railing system including the top rail, *balusters*, and the bottom rail along the edge of a balcony, porch, and steps.



Bay

A vertical division of a building marked by windows and doors (e.g. if a house is three bays wide it has two windows and a door). Bays also refer to the spaces between *columns* on a porch.



Belt Course

A projecting, horizontal band of masonry extending across the face of a building.



Beveled Glass

Found in many late 19th-century and 20th-century wood entrance doors where the rectangular shaped *glazing* has a 1-inch bevel around its entire periphery. These bevels act as prisms in the sunlight creating a spectrum of colors.

Bond, Brick

The outer face pattern of brick *courses*. A header is a brick laid so that only its shorter side appears on the surface. A stretcher is the face of the longer side.



American Bond



English Bond



Flemish Bond

Boxed Eave

Where the *rafter tails* are enclosed by a fascia and *soffit*.



Bracket

A small structural support located under *eaves*, balconies, or other overhangs. Frequently used for ornamentation rather than structural support.

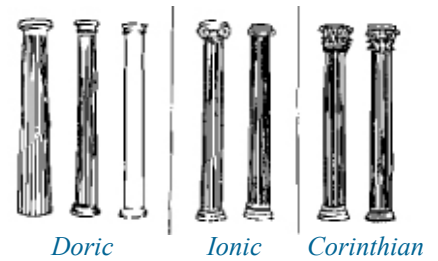


Brickmold

Window or door trim in a masonry building, usually 2 inches wide.

Capital

The uppermost part of a column or *pilaster*; it is often embellished with classical ornament, such as Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian orders.



Carport

In modern architecture, the car became more important and closer to the house; its port (attachment) became a pass-through roofed area that allowed the car to park beside the house door instead of in a garage. The *carport* is the modern version of the *porte-cochere*.



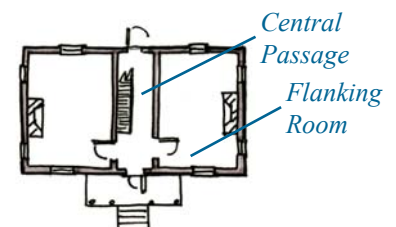
Casement Window

A window that opens on hinges like a door with diamond or square panes of glass.



Central Passage Plan

A floor plan that denotes a central passage with flanking rooms and is denoted on the exterior façade as well with three symmetrical *bays*.



Clapboard

Long boards lapping (clapping) each other horizontally on a wooden frame building; sometimes referred to as weatherboard.

**Clerestory Windows**

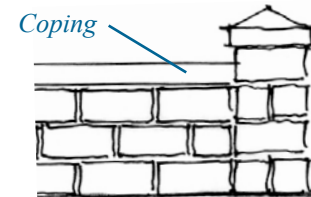
A horizontal band of windows set high in a wall.

Column

A round, vertical support consisting of a base, shaft and *capital*.

Coping

A protective cap or top of a brick wall or chimney, often of cast-concrete or stone; it protects the masonry below from water penetration.

**Corner Boards**

A board that is used as trim on the external corner of a wood frame structure.

Cornice

Decorated trim work where the roof meets the wall.

Cornice
Dentils

**Course**

A layer of masonry units, such as brick or stone, running horizontally. See *Bond*.

Dentils

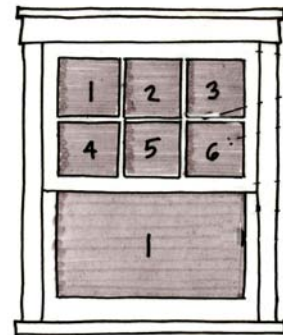
Small closely spaced blocks projecting from a *cornice*. See Cornice for image.

Diapering

Decorative feature in a diamond-shaped pattern.

Double-Hung Window

A window system, invented by the Dutch, where two *sashes* are “hung” from counterweighted pulleys in overlapping vertical sliding tracks. Prior to 1850, the upper sash was usually fixed. These windows are often described by the number of lights, or panes, included in each sash. For example, the window below would be described as a six-over-one double-hung window.

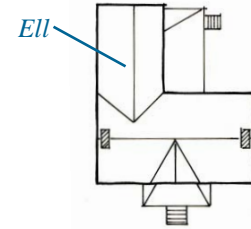


Eave

The projecting overhang of a roof.

EII

An extension of a house at right angles to the main structure.

**Entablature**

The beam member that is supported by the *columns* below and is horizontally divided into three subsections; the *architrave* first, then *frieze*, then *cornice*.

**Etched Glass**

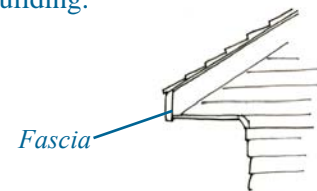
The same as carved glass, which was used on doors and windows.

Facade

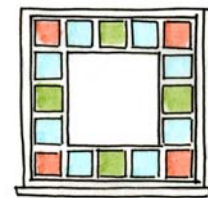
The front or principal exterior face of a building.

Fascia

A plain, wide horizontal band between the *cornice* and the roof of a building.

**Feature Window**

A fixed-paned window of varying sizes often embellished with stained, *beveled* or *etched* glass borders.

**Fenestration**

The arrangement of windows in the façade of a building.

Finial

An ornament that terminates the point of a *gable* or spire.

**Frieze**

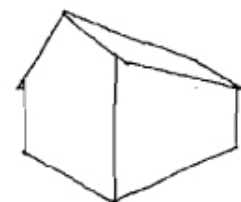
The middle horizontal member of a classical *entablature* (above the *architrave* and below the *cornice*). See Cornice for image.

Gable End

The triangular upper part of a wall formed by a *pitched* roof.

**Gable Roof**

A roof of two equal slopes joined to create a gable at each end.



Gambrel Roof

While it was first found in America in New England in about 1650, the ***gambrel*** roof was probably most popular in the early years of the twentieth century in the Dutch Colonial Revival house.

**German Lap Siding**

A type of wood lap siding that is more decorative with a groove that allows for a deeper shadow line.

**Gingerbread**

Decorative elements of intricately turned or sawn wood applied to the exterior trim; especially popular during the Victorian era.

**Glazing**

Another term for glass that is used in a window.

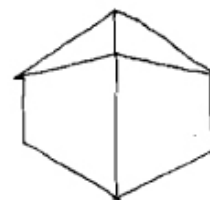
Half-Timbering

The term refers to the half of the timber frame that is exposed and infilled with plaster or stucco. Used originally in English and French medieval houses and minor public buildings. Popular here during the Tudor Revival period.

Half-Timbering

**Hipped Roof**

A roof with four uniformly sloped sides, leaving no ***gable ends***.

**Jack Arch**

A flat or straight masonry arch over a window or door opening.

Jack Arch

**Jalousie Window**

Window comprised of glass louvers that overlap one another and tilt open to permit air flow.



Knee Brace

A diagonal brace set in the corner of a rectangular frame, typically found on Craftsman style houses.

**Massing**

The bulk or size of a building.

Modillions

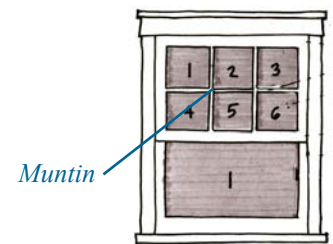
Small *bracket*-shaped ornaments under a *cornice*.

**Multi-light**

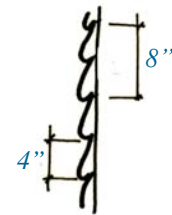
Having many lights or glass panes, as a window or door.

Muntin

Small bars separating and holding panes of glass within a window *sash* or a glazed door.

**Novelty Siding**

Decorative horizontal, tongue-and-groove boards, molded to give a shadow line at the joint to simulate *clapboard* siding. Used extensively on Queen Anne houses, typically on the second floor, with the first floor have clapboard siding.

**Palladian Window**

A three-part window consisting of a taller center window, usually with an arched top, flanked by two shorter windows. Also known as a Venetian Window.

Picture Window

A large fixed-glass window in the façade of a house. Common in Suburban Ranch houses in the 1950s and 1960s.

Pediment

A low-*pitched* decorative *gable*, typically triangular shaped; also found over doors and windows.

**Pilaster**

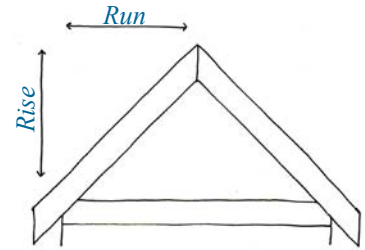
A half-column attached to a wall.

Pillar

A square or rectangular upright support.

Pitch

The measure of a roof's slope or angle of incline. The slope of a roof is commonly expressed in inches of vertical rise per foot of horizontal run. For example, a 7:12 *pitch* means that the roof rises 7 inches for every 12 inches it runs.



Platform Framing

The studs are placed between the floors, creating separate platforms; this system is more rigid than *balloon framing*, which it replaced.

Porte-Cochere (or Carriage Porch)

From the French, for a vehicular entry (opening) into an enclosed, residential courtyard. It is the American predecessor to the *carport*: a carriage or horse port for sheltered arrival at a house. It is a covered entrance attached (port) to the side of the house over a driveway at the side door to protect those entering or leaving a vehicle.



Portico

A small covered entrance to a building, consisting of a roof that is often topped with a *pediment*, and supported by *columns*.

Quoin

In masonry, accented stone or brick blocks used to accentuate the outer corners of a building.



Rafter

One of a series of beams that forms the slope of a *pitched* roof

Exposed Rafter



Rafter Tails

The exposed ends of *rafters* that are visible along the *eave*; as opposed to a *boxed eave*.

Ribbon Window

Windows in a continuous horizontal band.

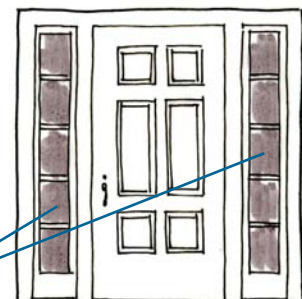
Sash

The wood frame of a window in which the glass panes are set.

Sidelights

Stationary glass panes flanking an entrance door.

Sidelight



Side Passage Plan

A floor plan with a side hall with one to the side that was denoted on the exterior façade with two or three asymmetrical *bays*.

Simulated Divided Light

Refers to a light in a window *sash* that is visually subdivided by applied *muntins* that simulates true divided muntins.

Sleeping Porch

Used during the Victorian era for sleeping during summer nights, they were located on rear corners with high walls for privacy and numerous sliding (or otherwise opening) windows for ventilation. Often removed or converted to open porches during renovations, it is important to consider retaining the elements of sleeping porches, especially the windows.



Soffit

The underside of a roof overhang.

Soffit



Soldier Course

A *course* of bricks where the stretchers (long sides) of the bricks are set vertically.

Soldier Course



Spindlework

Long thin pieces of wood that are shaped like a spindle, used in decorative banding in the Queen Anne style of architecture.



Surrounds

The framework and associated trim around a door or window.

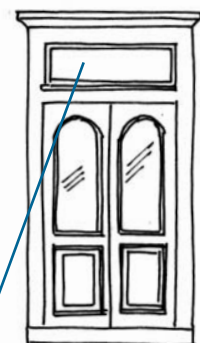
Swags

Classical ornamentation resembling evergreen branches hanging in a curve between two points.

Transom/Transom Bar

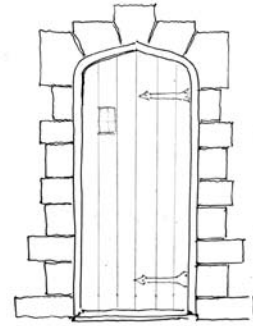
The transom is the window or opening above a door or window, and the transom bar is the horizontal bar that separates them and is used for support for the glass.

Transom



Tudor Arch

A low elliptical or pointed arch; usually drawn from four centers.



Turned Wood

Wooden elements such as spindles or *balusters* produced by a lathe.

Vergeboard (or Bargeboard)

A decorative board along the rake of a *gable* that conceals the *rafters*.

Vergeboard

