

Glossary of Architectural Terms

Arch



A curved structure of bricks or blocks over an opening.

Architrave



The lowest part of an entablature.

Art Deco



An architectural style popular during the 1920s and 1930s, derived from an exhibition of decorative arts in Paris, France in 1925. A simplified form of classical architecture using colourful geometric and naturalistic motifs. Sometimes called Jazz Moderne.

Art Nouveau



A style of decoration featuring curved lines and geometric and floral patterns. The name of a shop in Paris, France, opened in 1885, specializing in household objects.

Balustrade



A railing supported by a series of ornamental posts or pillars that form a fence.

Bay Window



An angular or curved projection of an exterior wall that contains windows.

Battleship Linoleum

Flooring used between 1850 and 1950. So called because it was the material used for floors on U.S. battleships.

Beaux Arts Style (Classicism)



A classically derived architectural style that flourished between 1885 and 1920. Originated at the Ecole des Beaux – Arts in Paris, France. Emphasizes symmetry.

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Beveled Glass



Glass that is cut with sloped edges. These edges dissect light creating prisms.

Capital



The decorative feature at the top of a column or pilaster.

Classical Revival (Neo-Classical)



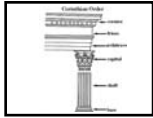
Architectural style that mimics Greek or Roman styles.

Column



Round vertical supports for an arch or entablature. Consist of a base, a shaft and a capital.

Corinthian Order



The most elaborate of the three Greek orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian). Usually having a slender column, inverted bell-shaped capital with acanthus leaves and scrolls.

Cornerstone



A foundation stone often with dates or builder(s) inscribed.

Cornice



A horizontal projecting decorative molding along the top of a wall or arch, the top of an entablature.

Colonnade



A series of columns set at regular intervals, usually supporting a roof or arches.

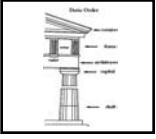
Dentil



A series of decorative tooth like blocks under the moulding of a cornice.

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Doric Order



The earliest and most massive of the three Greek orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian). The only style where the column has no base. The capital is simple and usually made of rounded layers.

Entablature



A three-part combination of decorative elements that form a wide band projecting from the top of a wall or above columns. Consist of the architrave, resting on top of the column, then the frieze and the cornice on top and often contains the building's name and date of construction.

Edwardian



An architectural style developed during the reign of King Edward VII (1901-1910). Similar to Victorian but simpler.

Façade



The front or main face of a building.

False Front



A front on a building that disguises its actual roof shape and increases the building's apparent size. Also known as boomtown front.

Fluted



Vertical ridges on a column.

Frieze



The decorative band section of an entablature, between the architrave and the cornice.

Gargoyle



Grotesquely carved faces projecting from a building. Gargoyles originally were used as spouts to carry water away from the wall of gothic cathedrals.

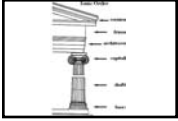
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Keystone



The top central stone of an arch that holds the arch together, often larger and more decorated than the other stones.

Ionic Order



One of the three Greek orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian) usually having ornamental scrolls (spiral volutes) on the capital.

Limestone



Sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate and often having organic remains of sea animals.

Mansard Roof



A roof style named after the French architect François Mansard and having a double slope. The lower slope has a steep pitch and the upper slope is nearly flat. This results in useful interior space in the roof.

Moderne Style

An architectural style popular after the 1920s. Similar to Art Deco but without ornament. Sometimes called Streamline Moderne and dating to the New York World's Fair of 1938.

Neo-Classical

Architectural style that mimics Greek or Roman styles.

Oriel Window



An upper storey window built out from the wall.

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Parapet



A low wall along and projecting above the edge of a roof.

Party Wall

A wall sitting on the property line that divides two units, usually having separate owners.

Pediment



A triangular feature (often a gable) used for decoration over doors or windows.

Pilaster



A decorative pillar that slightly projects from a wall.

Richardsonian Romanesque



An architectural style developed by American architect H.H. Richardson, deriving from the Romanesque and featuring rounded Roman arches, heavy forms and course textures.

Romanesque

An architectural style of the 11th and 12th centuries based on the architecture of ancient Rome. Features thick walls, close columns, heavy rounded arches, statues and reliefs.

Romanesque Revival



The late 19th century re-use of the Romanesque architectural style.

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Rusticated Sandstone



Masonry having a rough surface of irregular recessed joints.

Sandstone



Sedimentary rock composed of sand grains.

Terracotta



Glazed or unglazed fired clay tiles, often elaborate, used to face buildings.

Terrazzo



Flooring of small chips of marble set in cement.

Turret



A small tower often found on top of domes or roofs.



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