



GLOSSARY

acoustical ceiling system: A structural system for supporting an acoustical ceiling; may incorporate lighting fixtures and air diffusers.

acoustical lay-in panel: An acoustical ceiling board designed to be laid into an exposed grid suspension system.

acoustical tile: An acoustical material in board form, usually used on ceilings.

alcove: A small recessed space, opening directly into a larger room.

aluminum: A lustrous, silver-white, nonmagnetic, lightweight metal which is very malleable; has good thermal and electrical conductivity; a good reflector of both heat and light. In construction, most aluminum is used in alloy form because of added strength; further strengthened by heat treatment. Excellent resistance to oxidation; often anodized for better corrosion resistance, surface hardness, and/or architectural color requirements (see **anodized aluminum**).

anodized aluminum: Aluminum which has a hard, noncorrosive, electrolytic, oxide film on the surface, produced by electrolytic action.

arcade: A line of counterthrusting arches raised on columns or piers; a covered walk with a line of such arches along one or both long sides.

Art Deco: A decorative style stimulated by the Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industrielles Modernes of 1925, widely used in the architecture of the 1930s, including skyscraper designs such as the Chrysler Building in New York; characterized by sharp angular or zigzag surface forms and ornaments. Also referred to as Style Moderne.

ashlar: Squared building stone.

baluster: One of a number of short vertical members, often circular in section, used to support a stair handrail or a coping.

base: The lowest (and often widest) visible part of a building, often distinctively treated. A low, thickened section of a wall; a wall base. Lower part of a column or pier. A preparation for a finished surface, as for flooring, stucco, paint, etc.; a surface to which the base coat of plaster is applied.

bay: Within a structure, a regularly repeated spatial element defined by beams or ribs and their supports.

beam: A structural member whose prime function is to carry transverse loads, as a joist, girder, rafter, or purlin.

bluestone: A hard, fine-grained, commonly feldspathic and micaceous sandstone or siltstone of dark greenish to bluish gray color that splits readily along bedding planes to form thin slabs; commonly used to pave surfaces for pedestrian traffic. A variety of flagstone.

boarding: Boards used as sheathing.

bollard: A low single post, or one of a series, usually stone, set to prevent motor vehicles from entering an area.

Brutalism, New Brutalism: Movement in modern architecture, emphasizing stark forms and raw surfaces, particularly of concrete. The style typically used massive concrete elements with formwork markings for building structure and skin.

bullnose: A blunt or curved outside corner, as the corner made by two walls. A structural member or trim having a rounded edge.

bushhammered concrete: Concrete having an exposed aggregate finish; usually obtained with a power-operated bushhammer which removes the sand-cement matrix about the aggregate particles to a depth ranging from 1/16 to 1/4 inch (1.59 to 6.35 mm).

bushhammering: The process in which pneumatic or hand hammers are used to remove mortar and fracture aggregates at the surface of hardened concrete to produce an attractive varicolored and textured surface. Aggregate and mortar are cut through, exposing the interior structure and color of the aggregate and cement paste and removing form marks and minor surface blemishes.

butt hinge: A door or window hinge consisting of two rectangular metal plates which are joined with a pin.

cantilever: A projecting bracket used for carrying the cornice or extended eaves of a building. A beam, girder, truss, or other structural member which projects beyond its supporting wall and column.

capital: The topmost member, usually decorated, of a column, pilaster, etc.

cast-in-place concrete: Concrete which is poured on-site in its permanent location into a previously erected formwork that is removed after the concrete has set.

cement plaster: Plaster with portland cement as the binder; sand and lime are added on job. Used for exterior work or in wet or high-humidity areas.

center line: A line representing an axis of symmetry; usually shown on drawings as a broken line.

chair rail: A horizontal strip usually of wood, affixed to a plaster wall at a height which prevents the backs of chairs from damaging the wall surface.

chamfer: A bevel or cant, such as a small splay at the external angle of a masonry wall. A groove or furrow.

chase: A continuous recess built into a wall to receive pipes, ducts, etc.; a wall chase.

colonnade: A number of columns arranged in order, at intervals, supporting an entablature and usually one side of a roof.

column: In structure, a relatively long slender structural compression member such as post, pillar, or strut; usually vertical, supporting a load which acts in (or near) the direction of its longitudinal axis.

concrete: A composite material which consists essentially of a binding medium within which are embedded particles or fragments of aggregate; in portland cement concrete, the binder is a mixture of portland cement and water.

control joint: A groove which is formed, sawed, or tooled in a concrete or masonry structure to regulate the location and amount of cracking and separation resulting from the dimensional change of different parts of the structure, thereby avoiding the development of high stresses.

curtain wall: A nonbearing exterior building wall, between piers or columns, that is not supported by the beams or girders of a skeleton frame.

curvilinear: Formed, bounded, or characterized by curved lines.

door buck: A wood or metal subframe, set in a wall, to which the finished frame is attached.

facade: The exterior face of a building which is the architectural front, sometimes distinguished from the other faces by elaboration of architectural or ornamental details.

fan coil unit: In air conditioning, a unit containing an air filter, air heating and/or cooling coils, and a centrifugal fan; the unit receives a supply of fresh air either from a central plant or from the outside by means of an exterior wall opening at the rear of the unit.

ferrous metal: Metal in which iron is the principal element.

flagging: A flat stone used for outdoor paving; usually either naturally thin or split from rock that cleaves readily; sometimes produced by sawing.

float glass: Generally accepted as the successor to polished plate glass, float glass has become the quality standard of the glass industry in architectural, mirror and specialty applications. Manufactured by floating on a surface of molten tin and then annealed slowly to produce a transparent flat glass, thus eliminating grinding and polishing.

formwork: A temporary construction to contain wet concrete in the required shape while it is cast and setting.

foundation: Any part of a structure that serves to transmit the load to the earth or rock, usually below ground level; the entire masonry substructure.

foyer: An entranceway or transitional space from the exterior to the interior of a building.

galvanized: Steel or iron which has been coated with zinc, as, for example, by immersing it in a bath of molten zinc.

girder: A large or principal beam of steel, reinforced concrete, or timber; used to support concentrated loads at isolated points along its length.

granite: An igneous rock having crystals or grains of visible size; consists mainly of quartz, feldspar, and mica or other colored minerals.

header: A masonry unit, laid so that its ends are exposed, overlapping two or more adjacent wythes of masonry and tying them together. A framing member which crosses and supports the ends of joists, rafters, etc., transferring the weight of the latter to parallel joists, rafters, etc.

hoistway: A shaft for the travel of one or more elevators, lifts or dumbwaiters; includes the pit; terminates at the underside floor or grating of the overhead machinery space.

honeycombing: A void left in concrete due to failure of the cement and sand matrix to effectively fill the spaces among coarse aggregate particles.

joint sealant: Compressive material used to exclude water and solid foreign materials from joints.

Keene's cement plaster: A hard, white, high-strength, quick-setting finishing plaster; takes a high polish; made by burning gypsum at a high temperature, grinding to a fine powder, and then adding alum (to accelerate the set).

lateral support: The bracing for a wall, beam or structural member, either horizontal (by roof or floor constructions) or vertical (by pilasters, columns, or cross walls).

load bearing wall: A wall capable of supporting an imposed load in addition to its own weight.

louver: An assembly of sloping, overlapping blades or flats; may be fixed or adjustable; designed to admit air and/or light in varying degrees and to exclude rain and snow; especially used in doors, windows, and the intake and discharge of mechanical ventilation systems.

medallion: An ornamental plaque on which is represented an object in relief, such as a figure, head, flower, etc., applied to a wall frieze, or other architectural member. An ornamental motif, more or less centralized and isolated.

Moderne Style: see Art Deco.

modular construction: Construction in which a selected unit or module, such as a box or other subcomponent, is used repeatedly in the aggregate construction. A system of construction employing large, prefabricated, mass-produced, partially preassembled sections or modules which are subsequently put together in the field.

monolithic concrete: Reinforced concrete cast with no joints other than construction joints.

mullion: A vertical member separating (and often supporting) window, doors, or panels set in series.

New Brutalism: see Brutalism.

pans: A wall plate. A major vertical division in a wall. A structural panel.

penthouse: A structure occupying usually less than half of the roof area of a flat-roofed building and used to house equipment for elevator, ventilation or air conditioning, or other mechanical or electrical systems serving the building.

pillar: A pier, a post or column.

pilotis: The free-standing columns, posts, or piles which support a building, raising it above ground level.

pipe chases: see chase.

pointing: In masonry, the final treatment of joints by the troweling of mortar or a putty-like filler into the joints. The removal of mortar from between the joints of masonry units and the replacing of it with new mortar; repointing.

portland cement: The cementitious binder for most structural concrete; obtained by pulverizing clinker consisting essentially of hydraulic calcium silicates; contains calcium sulfate as an interground addition.

precast concrete: A concrete member that is cast and cured in other than its final position.

precast concrete wall panel: A precast concrete exterior panel or area separator; may be load-bearing or non-load-bearing.

prefabricated masonry panel: A wall panel fabricated of masonry units which are bonded together at a manufacturing plant and then transported to the job site as an construction unit, ready for erection.

quarry tile: Unglazed ceramic tile, machine-made by the extrusion process from natural clay or shales; sometimes used for factory floors.

reinforced concrete: concrete strengthened by the inclusion of metal bars, which increase the tensile strength of concrete. May be either cast-in-place or precast concrete.

restoration: The process of returning an object, material or building, as nearly as possible to its original form and condition.

repointing: Same as pointing.

reveal: The side of an opening for a door or window, doorway, between the door frame or window frame and the outer surface of the wall; where the opening is not filled with the door or window, the whole thickness of the wall.

shear: A deformation in which parallel planes slide relative to each other so as to remain parallel.

soffit: The exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building, such as an arch, balcony, beam, cornice, lintel, or vault.

spall: A small fragment or chip removed from the face of the stone or masonry unit by a blow or by action of the elements.

spalling: Loss of surface material in patches of varying size.

stanchion: An upright bar, beam or post. See **bollard**.

surround: An encircling border or decorative frame.

tongue and groove material: Boards or lumber that has been planed smooth; cut so that a tongue along one edge fits into a groove cut along the edge of the adjacent piece.

transom: A horizontal bar of wood or stone across a window. The cross-bar separating a door from the fanlight above it.

transom bar: An intermediate horizontal member of a door frame, window frame, or similar structure. A horizontal member which separates a door from a window, panel, or louver above.

unfenestrated: Without windows.

vestibule: An anteroom or small foyer leading into a larger space.

vinyl asbestos tile: A resilient, semiflexible floor tile; composed of asbestos fibers, ground limestone, plasticizers, pigments, and a polyvinyl chloride resin binder; has good wearing qualities, high grease resistance, and relatively good resiliency.

weep hole: A small opening in a wall or window member, through which accumulated condensation or water may drain to the building exterior, as from the base of a cavity wall, a wall flashing, or a skylight. A whole near the bottom of a retaining wall, backfilled with gravel or other free-draining material, to permit water to drain to the outside of the wall, so as to prevent the buildup of pressure behind the wall.

wing: A subsidiary part of a building extending out from the main portion.