

# CHAPTER 5

## GLOSSARY

### 1. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter includes an illustrated glossary of many of the architectural terms that appear in the Architectural Style Guide. For terms that are not defined in this chapter, refer to an architectural reference book, such as *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia Savage McAlester.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

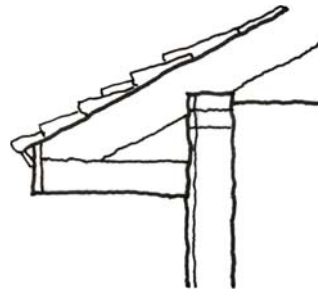
**Accent.** A distinctive feature or quality, such as a feature that accentuates or complements a decorative style.

**Balcony joist.** One of the horizontal supporting beams that are laid parallel to support the floor boards of a balcony.



**Balustrade.** A railing consisting of a row of balusters, or small vertical posts, supporting a rail.

**Boxed eave.** An eave that is enclosed by boards and/or moldings so that the rafters are not visible.



**Bracket.** An ornamental support, usually of wood or metal, which appears where the roof or balcony edge meets the exterior wall of the building.

**Cornice.** Generally refers to the crowning horizontal molding on a building. For classical architectural styles, refers to the uppermost, projecting portion of the entablature. The element is often decorated with brackets, dentils, medallions, or other ornamentation.

**Crown.** The trim piece, often prominent, located above windows and doors.

**Cupola.** A decorative, dome-like tower on top of a building, often square, round, or octagonal in shape.

**Dormer.** A structural element of a building, usually incorporating one or more windows, that protrudes from the plane of a sloping roof surface.

**Dormer, eyebrow.** A small, arched dormer that projects only slightly from the roof.



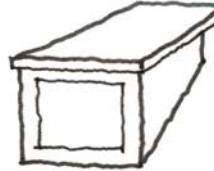
**Dormer, fully nested.** A dormer that is contained within the plane of the adjacent roof.



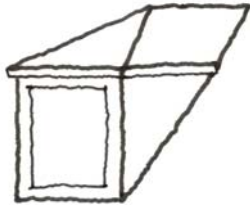
**Dormer, gabled.** A dormer with a pitched roof.



**Dormer, shed.** A dormer with a flat roof sloping in the same direction as the roof from which the dormer projects.



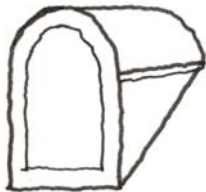
**Dormer, hipped.** A dormer with a roof comprising two side-facing planes and one front-facing plane that slope back as they rise.



**Dormer, gable-through-cornice.** A partially nested dormer with a gabled roof.



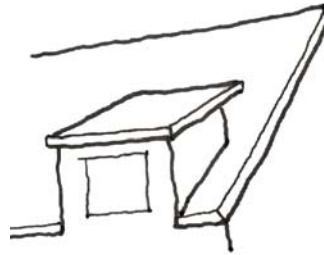
**Dormer, segmental.** A dormer with an arched roof.



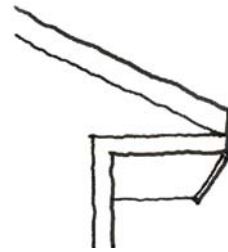
**Dormer, hipped-through-cornice.** A partially nested dormer with a hipped roof.



**Dormer, partially nested.** A dormer that is located in line with the building facade and includes a window that extends through the adjacent roof's cornice line.



**Eave.** The lower edge of the portion of roof that overhangs the walls of a building.



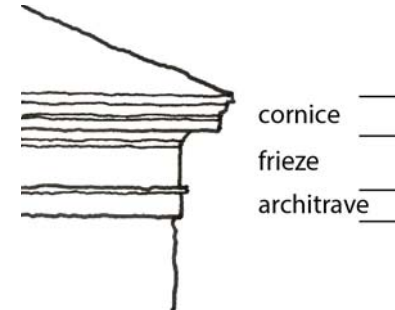
**Eave overhang.** The numerical measure of the distance that the roof overhangs the walls of a building.

Minimal (tight) eave overhang: A distance of 0 to 12 inches.

Moderate eave overhang: A distance of 12 to 24 inches.

Wide eave overhang: A distance of 24 to 30 inches.

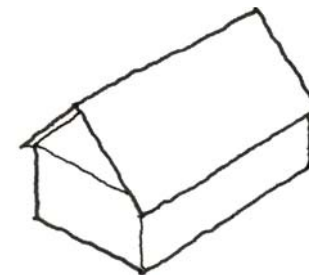
**Entablature.** For classical architectural styles, the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals. The entablature is usually divided into the architrave, the element immediately above the columns, the frieze, an unmolded strip that may or may not be ornamented, and the cornice.



**Fascia.** A frieze or band running horizontally and situated vertically under a roof edge, often forming the outer surface of a cornice.

**Fluting.** A decorative finish for wooden columns or trim where parallel grooves are carved vertically along the surface.

**Gable.** The part of a wall that encloses the end of a pitched roof.



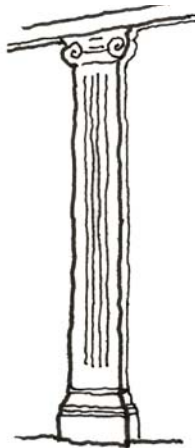
**Gable end ornamentation.** Any type of decorative element on the face of a gable, such as spindle-work, near the apex of a gable.



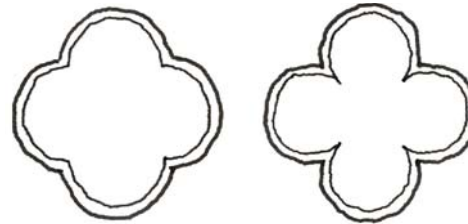
**Half-timbering.** A wall treatment of Medieval European origins comprising wood timbers that are in filled with plaster or masonry.

**Parapet.** A barrier which is an extension of the wall at the edge of a roof, terrace, balcony, walkway, or other structure.

**Pilaster.** A slightly projecting column built into or applied to the face of a wall, giving the illusion of a real freestanding support column.



**Quadrafoil.** A decorative element consisting of a symmetrical shape which forms the overall outline of four partially overlapping circles of the same diameter.



**Quion.** One of a series of decorative rectangles or squares of stone, brick, wood, or concrete, placed at the corners of buildings to add architectural interest.

**Rafter tail.** The portion of the rafter that projects beyond the exterior wall of a building. When exposed, not enclosed by a boxed eave or fascia, the element can be used for ornamentation.

**Reeding.** A form of molding, often placed on columns, wherein a series of vertical convex ridges are carved into a surface.

**Roof, catslide** A steeply pitched gabled roof element with one side extending close to the ground. This side typically flares outward.



**Roof, center gable.** A roof comprising a primary side-gabled or hipped roof element with a secondary front-gabled roof element centered along the front of the primary element.



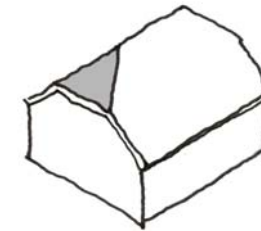
**Roof, gable front and wing.** A roof comprising a front-gabled roof element and a side-gabled roof element, forming an L-shaped configuration.



**Roof, cross-gabled.** A roof comprising of two or more gabled roof elements that are perpendicularly oriented, forming a T for the simplest configuration, or any number of more complex forms.



**Roof, hip-on-gable.** A roof with a gable end that is hipped, or clipped back at the top, forming a truncated gable on the wall below.



**Roof, front-gabled.** A roof comprising a single pitched element with front- and rear-facing gables.



**Roof, hipped.** A roof composed of sloping sides that meet at a ridge at the center of the roof. In its simplest configuration as a rectangular-shaped roof, the two long sides are trapezoidal in shape and the two short sides are triangular.



**Roof, hipped with tower.** A hipped roof that features a tower element that extends above the roof's cornice or fascia.



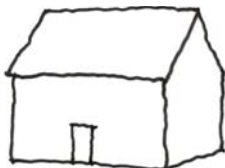
**Roof pitch.** The numerical measure of the steepness of a roof; the vertical rise divided by the horizontal run.

Low Roof Pitch: A slope ratio ranging from 1:12 to 4:12.

Moderate Roof Pitch: A slope ratio ranging from 4:12 to 9:12.

Steep Roof Pitch: A slope ratio above 9:12.

**Roof, side-gabled.** A roof comprising a single pitched element with side-facing gables.

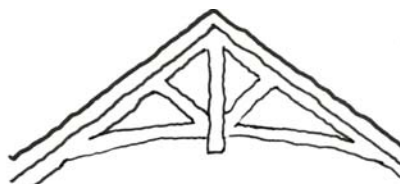


**Shutters.** Pairs of solid or slatted window coverings, traditionally hinged to the exterior of a building to either side of a window, used to block light or wind from the interior of a building.

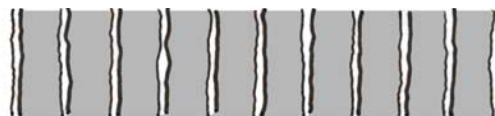
**Trim.** The finish materials to a building, such as moldings applied around window and door openings.

**Trim band.** A continuous horizontal molding or fascia around a building or opening, or on a wall that provides a division.

**Truss in gable.** An exposed truss in a gable roof used as a decorative element.



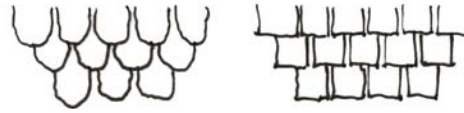
**Wall cladding, board and batten.** A wooden siding treatment in which wide, vertically oriented boards are separated by narrower strips of wood called battens, which form the joints between the boards.



**Wall cladding, clapboard.** A wooden siding treatment composed of boards, thinner at one edge than the other, applied horizontally in overlapping rows.



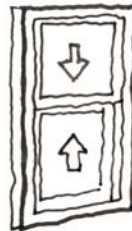
**Wall cladding, shingle or shake.** A wooden siding treatment composed of small, thin rectangular boards, thinner at one edge than the other, applied horizontally in overlapping rows. Shingles have a smooth and precise appearance, while shakes have a rough, irregular texture.



**Window, casement.** A window attached to its frame by one or more side hinges.



**Window, double-hung.** A window having two sashes that slide up and down.



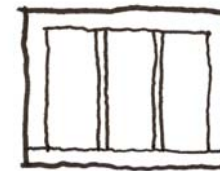
**Window, parabolic focal.** A window shaped like a parabolic arch.



**Window, pedimented.** A window with a decorative triangular element above it, often made of plaster, wood, or stone.

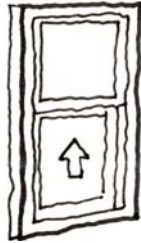


**Window, ribbon.** A series of windows set side by side to form a continuous band horizontally across a facade.





**Window, sash.** A window made of one or more vertically sliding panels, or sashes, that form a frame to hold the panes of glass.



**Window, transom.** A narrow window, sometimes hinged at the top, positioned over a doorway or larger window.

