

# Chapter 6

## Glossary of Architectural Terms



**Apex:** The highest, pointed part of a gable.

**Architrave:** The lowest part of the entablature. The term is also commonly used to describe a moulded surround to a door or window opening.

**Archivolt:** Bands or mouldings surrounding an arched opening.

**Art Nouveau:** A style of art and architecture which came into prominence in Paris in 1895. It was a break away from past styles of decoration and drew inspiration from natural forms such as plants and waveforms. Its influence is visible in some Arts and Crafts and Edwardian buildings, particularly in terms of decorative glazing and interiors. The movement lost its momentum by 1914.

**Arts and Crafts:** Late 19th and early 20th century architectural style based on the revival of traditional crafts (such as carpentry, glassmaking etc) and natural materials.

**Ashlar:** Dressed stonework of any type, where the blocks have squared sides, carefully squared corners, and are laid in regular courses, usually with fine joints. The faces of the stones, called ashlar, are generally smooth and polished, but can be tooled or have a decorative treatment.

**Astragal:** A wooden glazing bar which divides a window. Can be functional and straight, as on a sash window, or curved and decorative.

**Balance Beam:** The long timber or metal projection from a swing bridge or lock gate which is pushed to open the swing bridge or gate.

**Bargeboards:** Boards fixed at the gable ends of roofs to conceal and protect the ends of the roof timbers. They may project over the wall face and are frequently highly decorative.

**Baroque/neo-Baroque:** An exuberant style of art and architecture, where decoration is heavy and forms are elongated, prevalent in the 17th and 18th centuries, but largely confined to mainland Europe with very few examples in Yorkshire or indeed Britain. This style reappeared in England around 1900 and had a short-lived revival.

**Battlement:** A parapet with upstanding pieces and indentations (called crenels). Castellated, like the turrets and defensive walls of castles.

**Bays:** The number of windows in a horizontal line across a façade.

**Bell cote:** Small housing for a bell or bells attached to a roof or gable. Can be made of timber or stone.

**Broken Pediment:** A pediment with an incomplete or missing base is said to be broken.

**Buttress:** A mass of masonry built against or projecting from a wall either to stabilise, from the lateral thrust of an arch roof or vault, or to enable the wall to be thinner.

**Capital:** The crowning feature or head of a column, pilaster or gate pier.

**Casement window:** A window which is side hung to open outwards or inwards on hinges.

**Castellated:** Built like a castle, with battlements.

**Chamfer:** Narrow face created when the edge of a corner in stonework is cut at an angle, usually 45 degrees, but sometimes concave or convex.

**Cill or Sill:** The horizontal feature at the bottom of a window or door which throws water away from the face of a building.

**Cill Band:** A projecting horizontal band which connects cills across the face of a wall.

**Cinquefoil:** An ornament, symbol, or architectural form having the appearance of a five-cusped leaf.

**Classical Architecture:** The employment of the symmetry and system of proportioning used in Ancient Greek and Roman architecture which was revived in the Renaissance and was popular in England during the 18th and 19th centuries. English 'Classical' or 'neoclassical' buildings have a regular, formal appearance and symmetrical facades and might also incorporate Classical details such as an entablature at the wall top or pilasters dividing bays. This revival also sometimes incorporated the five 'orders' of architecture which vary in terms of the system of proportioning and degree of the decoration.

**Colonette:** A small, column-like shaft

**Column:** An upright vertical member which usually stands clear of the main body of a building. Usually circular in cross-section and is a common motif of Classic architecture.

**Console:** An ornamental scrolled bracket, normally in stone or timber, usually supporting a projecting lintel, fascia.

**Coping(stone):** Top course of a wall designed to prevent water

penetrating into the core of the wall. Copes are often shaped i.e. half-round or saddle-backed, and can frequently be quite decorative. Tabled coping usually refers to a flat copingstone. Tabled coping is usually seen on a gable end of a building as opposed to on a freestanding wall.

**Corbel:** A projecting block which supports a parapet or sill. Often carved, particularly in Gothic Architecture, where heads and foliage are common.

**Cornice:** The top course of a wall or architectural member (such as a doorcase) which is sometimes moulded and/or projects from the wall.

**Cyma:** A moulding with a concave and convex or S-shaped profile.

**Dentil course:** Rectangular projecting blocks (dentils) tightly spaced like teeth, usually below cornices (from Latin, *Denticulus*, a tooth).

**Die:** The block ending a parapet or balustrade.

**Dormer:** Any window which projects from the pitch of a roof.

**Double Pile Plan:** A building with two parallel gabled roofs is said to have a double pile plan.

**Drop finial:** A finial which projects downward rather than upward. Can be found inside arches or below the apex of a gable.

**Edwardian:** Period during the reign of King Edward VII (1901-1910) where architecture was chiefly influenced by the Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau styles and was therefore less dependant on the past for its inspiration (unlike the revivalist styles of the Victorian period).

**Entablature:** In Classic architecture, the entablature horizontally spans the tops of columns or pilasters. It consists of three parts; the lowest is the architrave, the highest is the cornice and the frieze is in between.

**Fanlight:** Glazed area above a doorway, designed to brighten the hallway inside. A type of transom.

**Fascia:** The broad, horizontal board over a shopfront which carries the name of the shop. Can be ornamental.

**Finial:** A crowning decoration, usually the uppermost ornament and is therefore mostly found at the apexes of gables.

**Firewall:** A fireproof internal wall which is designed to prevent the spread of a fire. Can break through the roof of a building.

**Fixed glazing or fixed window:** A window which is fixed in place and does not open.

**Fleche:** A spirelet of timber, lead cast iron etc rising from a roof ridge rather than a tower, and often acting as a ventilator.

**Frieze:** Middle section of the entablature at the top of a wall. It can be the widest component of the entablature and can be decorated.

**Gable:** The vertical part of the end wall of a building contained within the roof slope, usually triangular but can be any "roof" shape.

**Georgian architecture:** Covering the period from 1714 to 1830 when architecture was influenced by the principles (such as proportioning and fenestration) of Rome and Ancient Greece. This style of Classicism is particularly restrained in its ornamentation. Buildings often have a regularly spaced grid of openings and eight pane timber sash windows are common.

**Gothic Revival:** A Victorian revival of the Gothic style of architecture dating from the 12th through 16th centuries. Characterised by pointed and/or ogee arch openings and traceried windows.

**Guardrail:** Protective railing below and parallel to a handrail.

**Heel Grips:** Long squared setts which are raised slightly above the surface of the quadrant underneath the balance beams of swings bridges or the gates or locks. The heel grips allow someone pushing the balance beam greater purchase, particularly in wet weather.

**Helm roof:** A four sided roof which rises to a point and stands on four gabled walls.

**Hipped Roof:** Pitched roof without gables, where all sides of the roof meet at an angle.

**Hoodmould:** Projecting moulding over an arch or lintel designed to throw off water.

**Hopper window:** Originally an industrial type of window which was introduced c. 1870 where the top panes pivot horizontally and open inward.

**Impost:** A capital which supports an arch.

**Impost Band:** A moulding which links the imposts of openings.

**Jamb:** The sides of a window or door opening. Monolithic jambs are usually constructed of a solid slab of stone.

**Keystone/ keyed:** The large stone at the centre of the arch, often larger and decorated.

**Kneeler:** Stone at the bottom end of the coping at the gable end of a roof which projects over the wall below. Usually moulded or carved.

**Lean-to roof:** A roof which is built up against a vertical wall and has one slope only.

**Light:** The framed part of a window opening. A window with two mullions would have three openings and would hence be called a three light window.

**Lintel:** The horizontal beam bridging an opening in a wall.

**Lock:** A section of a canal or navigation where the channel changes level and is enclosed by gates. The area enclosed by the gates is called a

pound. Boats are lowered or raised by changing the level of the water within the pound using a system of gears and paddles as well as the gates.

**Louvred:** The treatment of overlapping boards which are angled to allow ventilation, but keep the rain out. Used at belfries, tanneries, barns and so on.

**Lucarne:** A small dormer in a spire or tower roof.

**Machicolation:** Where a parapet, gallery or section of wall projects and is carried on corbels. While machicolation on Gothic revival style buildings such as churches is decorative, machicolation originally had openings between the corbels through which missiles can be dropped as they were a defensive feature of castles, forts etc which was introduced in the Middle Ages.

**Margin Lights:** The smaller panes of glass found along the perimeter of some windows.

**Modillion:** A small bracket, usually scrolled, set at regular intervals in the underside of a cornice.

**Monopitch roof:** A roof with only one sloped or pitched side.

**Moulding:** The shaped profile given to any feature which projects from the face of a wall.

**Mullion:** Upright member dividing the lights of a window.

**Northlight roof:** An industrial roof designed to maximise the amount of daylight reaching the inside of a factory. The roof consists of a series of parallel monopitch roof with glazing set in the vertical edges below the ridges which usually face north.

**Oculus:** A small circular panel or window.

**Ogee:** A double curve shape composed of two curves in opposite directions ('S' shaped) without a break; used on both roofs and arches and as a profile on mouldings

**Openwork:** Describes a section of wall or parapet where the decoration incorporates openings as part of its pattern. Also applicable to decorative joinery or ironwork, which is described as being open if it has openings in it.

**Panel:** A sunken section of wall or door. Can have moulded edges.

**Parapet:** A wall which rises above another structure such as a roof or terrace.

**Pavilion Roof:** A roof that is hipped at either end.

**Pediment:** Triangular space at the top of a wall or over a doorway that looks like a gable. Sometimes contains decoration.

**Pilaster:** The flat version of a column, consisting of a slim rectangle projecting from a wall. Often used on shop frontages.

**Plain stone:** Stone which has squared edges and a roughly dressed surface.

**Pointing:** The exposed mortar between the bricks or stones of a wall. The pointing is meant to prevent moisture from penetrating the wall and to allow the bricks or stone in the wall to freely expand and contract as they heat up or cool down.

**Pound:** See Lock.

**Pulvinated:** A convex or outward bulging surface.

**Quadrant:** The surface beneath a balance beam which is usually setted and is usually a quarter of a circle in plan.

**Quoin:** The stone blocks on the outside corner of a building which are usually differentiated from the adjoining walls by material, texture, colour, size or projection.

**Relief:** The sculpture of stone or metal where figures and objects project slightly from the background. This type of decoration can be found on friezes, plaques etc.

**Reveal:** The inward plane of a door or window opening between the edge of the external wall and the window or door frame.

**Rock faced:** Stonework dressed in such a way to make it look natural.

**Rose window:** A round window with radiating windows arranged around it like petals. Rose windows are often traceried.

**Rusticated:** The treatment of stone in a way which emphasises its appearance. This is usually done by leaving stone rock faced or otherwise rough and is usually found in Classical (imitating Italian Renaissance buildings) and Italianate buildings. Rustication also describes smooth stone with deep horizontal grooves which is used for buildings erected towards the end of the 19th century onwards.

**Saddlestone:** The stone at the apex of a gable.

**Sash:** A form of window in which two sashes, separated by parting beads, slides within a frame, the case, counterbalanced by weights hung on ropes, the sashcords. The glazing slides in two parallel frames within the case, the upper sliding outward of the lower. The projection of the top sash beyond the bottom sash traps a certain amount of shadow that gives the sash and case window a very satisfying 3-D effect.

**Segmental arch:** An arch which is not a complete semi-circle.

**Shaft:** A shaft is a mullion or jamb which is treated as a colonette or another member and is decorated in line with the overall style of the building.

**Sill:** See cill.

**Soffit:** The underside or lining to an overhanging roof.

**Spandrel:** The triangular shaped infill contained by the side of an arched opening.

**Stallriser:** The panel below the sill of a shop window.

**Stone String or Stringcourse:** A shallow (usually stone) moulding continued across a whole facade which may be defined by its position e.g. sill or impost course.

**Swag:** Ornament (usually a relief) in the form of a garland or fruit or flowers, suspended from both ends so that the centre sags and the ends hang vertically.

**Tie Jamb:** A jamb which is made up of three stones. The upper and lower stones are vertical, while the middle stone lies horizontal and 'ties' the jamb into the wall.

**Transom:** A horizontal bar of stone or wood which separates a window

from a window below it or a fanlight from a door opening.

**Trefoil:** An ornament, symbol, or architectural form having the appearance of a trifoliate leaf.

**Turret:** A small tower or tower shaped projection from a building.

**Tympanum:** The area enclosed by the mouldings of a pediment, often richly carved or decorated.

**Vernacular:** An indigenous building constructed of locally available materials, to local detail, usually without the benefit of an architect. They were built for purpose by stonemasons.

**Vernacular Revival:** A late Victorian revival of the vernacular style which used motifs such as rows of mullioned windows, kneelers, chamfered openings, drip moulds, hood moulds and coped roofs.

**Vousoir:** The radiating wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch.

### **Further Reading**

#### **Historical and Architectural Resources:**

Ambler, L (1987) 'The Old Halls and Manor Houses of Yorkshire'

Biddle, G (1997) 'Pennine Waterway: A Pictorial History of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal'

Clarke, M (1990) 'The Leeds and Liverpool Canal'

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (2004) 'Bingley Conservation Area Assessment'

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (2004) 'Draft Micklethwaite Conservation Area Assessment'

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (2004) 'Saltaire Conservation Area Assessment'

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (2004) 'Silsden Conservation Area Assessment'

Cudworth, W (1876) 'Round About Bradford'

Firth, G (1999) 'The Leeds and Liverpool Canal in Yorkshire'

Grieve, N (2001) 'The Urban Conservation Glossary' <http://www.trp.dundee.ac.uk/research/glossary/glossary.html>

The Ironbridge Institute and British Waterways (2001) 'Leeds & Liverpool Canal: Character Guide (Consultation Draft)'

#### **Planning Policy**

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (1998) 'Bradford Unitary Development Plan'

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (2002) 'Revised Deposit Unitary Development Plan'

Department of the Environment (1990) 'Planning Policy Guidance note 15 (PPG 15): Planning and the Historic Environment'. HMSO London.

### **Contacts**

**A full copy of the Draft conservation area assessment will be available to view at Bradford, Shipley, Bingley, Keighley and Silsden Libraries and at:**

- **Bradford Planning Office - Jacobs Well, Bradford**
- **Shipley Planning Office - Shipley Town Hall**
- **Keighley Planning Office - Keighley Town Hall**

**and also on the Council's website at:**

[www.bradford.gov.uk/council/planning/heritage/cons\\_assess.asp](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/council/planning/heritage/cons_assess.asp)

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