

# 11.0 Definitions

**Arch:** A curved structure for spanning an opening.

**Architectural façade:** The façade distinguished by the primary architectural features or detail.

**Asymmetrical:** Having no balance or symmetry.

**Awnings:** A canopy made of canvas to shelter people or things from rain or sun.

**Balcony:** An elevated platform projecting from the wall of a building, usually enclosed by a parapet or railing.

**Baluster:** Any of a number of closely spaced supports for a railing.

**Balustrade:** A railing with supporting balusters.

**Barge Boards (verge boards):** A board, often carved, attached to the projecting end of a gable roof.

**Battered:** Sloping, as of the outer face of a wall, that recedes from bottom to top.

**Bay:** A part of a building marked off by vertical or transverse details.

**Bay window:** A window or series of windows projecting outward from the main wall of a building and forming a bay or alcove in a room within.

**Belfry:** A bell tower.

**Blockface:** The architectural setting formed by the conjunction of all the buildings in a block.

**Board and Batten:** Siding application where the vertical joints are covered with narrow strips of wood.

**Boxed Cornice:** A slightly projecting, hollow cornice of boards and moldings, nailed to rafters.

**Bracket:** A support projecting horizontally diagonally from a wall to bear the weight of a cantilever or for decorative purposes.

**Box (built-in) gutter:** A gutter built into the slope of the roof, above the cornice.

**Cantilevered:** Horizontal element of a structure supported by horizontal, not vertical, structural members.

**Canopy:** Projecting element, usually over a façade opening, as if to provide shelter.

**Casement:** A window sash opening on hinges generally attached to the upright side of the window frame.

**Clapboard:** A long, thin board with one edge thicker than the other, laid horizontally as bevel siding.

**Clerestory window:** Ribbon windows on the portion of an interior rising above adjacent rooftops.

**Clinker brick:** A very hard burned brick whose shape is distorted, knobby or bloated.

**Column:** A rigid, relatively slender vertical structural member, freestanding or engaged.

**Coping:** The top layer or course of a masonry wall, usually having a slanting upper surface to shed water.

**Corbels:** A stepped projection from a wall, usually masonry.

**Cornice:** A continuous, molded projection that crowns a wall.

**Crown:** The highest portion of an arch, including the keystone.

**Cupola:** A domelike structure surmounting a roof or dome, often used as a lookout or to admit light and air.

**Dentil:** Simple, projecting, tooth-like molding.

**Dormer:** A projecting structure built out from a sloping roof, usually housing a vertical window or ventilating louver.

**Double-hung window:** A window with two sashes, both of which are operable, usually arranged one above the other.

**Eave:** The overhanging lower edge of a roof.

**Entablature:** The upper section of a building, resting on the columns and constituting the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

**Façade:** The front or any side of a building.

**Fascia:** Any broad, flat horizontal surface, as the outer edge of a cornice or roof.

**Fenestration:** The design, proportioning, and location of windows and other exterior openings of a building.

**Finial:** A sculptured ornament, often in the shape of a leaf or flower, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, or similar structure

**Frieze:** A decorative horizontal band, as along the upper part of a wall.

**Glazed:** Filled with a pane of glass.

**Gothic Arch:** A pointed arch reminiscent of those found on Gothic Cathedrals

**Grilles:** A decorative screen, usually of wood, tile, or iron, covering or protecting an opening.

**Half-timbering:** Detail creating the appearance of exposed structural timbers on plaster.

**Keystone:** The wedge shaped detail at the top of an arch.

**Louver:** Fixed or movable horizontal slats for admitting air and light.

**Marquee:** A tall projection above a theatre entrance, often containing a sign.

**Massing:** The unified composition of a structure's volume, affecting the perception of density and bulk.

**Molding:** A slender strip of ornamental material with a uniform cross section and a decorative profile.

**Newel post:** A post supporting one end of a handrail at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs.

**Ogee arch:** An arch formed by two S-shaped curves meeting at a point.

**Oriel:** A bay window supported from below by corbels or brackets.

**Parapet:** A low protective wall at the edge of a terrace, balcony, or above the roof line.

**Patterned Shingles:** Shingles, usually used as a sheathing material, which are cut and arranged so as to form decorative patterns such as fishscales, diamonds, scallops, etc.

**Pediment:** A wide, low-pitched gable surmounting a colonnade, portico, or major bay on a façade.

**Pergola:** An arbor or a passageway of columns supporting a roof of trelliswork on which climbing plants are trained to grow

**Pier:** Vertical structural members.

**Pilaster:** A shallow rectangular projecting feature, architecturally treated as a column.

**Pinnacle:** A small turret or spire on a roof or buttress.

**Porch:** An exterior covered approach or vestibule to a doorway.

**Porte cochere:** A roofed structure covering a driveway to provide shelter while entering or leaving a vehicle.

**Portico:** A vertically proportioned porch having a roof supported by columns.

**Quoin:** An exterior angle of a masonry wall marked by stones or bricks differentiated in size and/or material from adjoining surfaces.

**Rafter:** Any of a series of small, parallel beams for supporting the sheathing and covering of a pitched roof.

**Rafter tail:** Portion of a rafter which projects under the eave.

**Scale:** Proportionate size judged in relation to an external point of reference.

**Showcase windows:** Large glazed openings designed to showcase merchandise.

**Sidelights:** Vertical windows along the outside of a door.

**Sleeping porch:**

**Soffit:** The underside of an architectural element, such as a beam or cornice.

**Spandrel:** The roughly triangular space between the left or right exterior curve of an arch and the rectangular framework surrounding it.

**Spindles:** Slender architectural ornaments made of wood turned on a lathe in simple or elaborate patterns.

**Spire:** Structure or formation, such as a steeple, that tapers to a point at the top.

**Splay:** An oblique angle or bevel given to the sides of an opening in a wall.

**Stair tower:** A tower articulating the location of the stairway, usually of a residence.

**Stoop:** A raised platform, approached by steps and sometimes having a roof, at the entrance to a house.

**Streetscape:** The pattern and impression created by the combination of visible elements from all lots on a blockface.

**String courses:** A horizontal course of brick or stone flush with or projecting beyond the face of a building, often molded to mark a division in the wall.

**Surround:** The trim, jamb, head, and other decorative elements surrounding an opening.

**Symmetry:** Correspondence of form on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.

**Terra-Cotta:** Usually red fired clay.

**Terrace:** An open level area or group of areas adjoining a house or lawn.

**Terrazzo:** A poured flooring material, usually comprised of small pieces of stone or glass in a binding medium.

**Tower:** A structure high in proportion to its lateral dimensions, usually forming part of a larger building.

**Transom:** A window, usually operable, above the head of a door.

**Trusses:** A rigid framework, as of wooden beams or metal bars, designed to support a structure, such as a roof.

**Turret:** A structure (frequently curved) high in proportion to its lateral dimensions, forming part of a larger building.

**Tuscan columns:** Very simple columns with no fluting or other embellishment.

**Veranda:** A large, open porch, usually roofed, extending across the front and sides of a house.

**Window Sash:** One unit of an operable window, including the frame and glazing.

**Wood shingle siding:** A sheathing material composed of overlapping wood shingles.