

# FREE CHURCH ARCHITECTURE: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS PDF



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## **List of church architecture terms - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

See below for an explanation of fine art terminology used in Architecture history and practice. Amazing wooden architecture!! A modern example of sand architecture Victoria, Australia. Nationale Nederlanden Building, Prague Deconstructivist design by Frank Gehry. A Abacus uppermost part or division of the capital of a column, usually shaped like a parallelepiped; the architrave rests on it. Abbey collection of buildings, such as a church, cloisters, and guest rooms, that compose a monastery complex ruled by an abbot.

Abutment structure supporting the lateral thrust of an arch or vault; see vault construction. Acroterion pedestal or figure placed at the three angles of a pediment.

Aedicule opening, such as door or window, framed by columns, with a pediment; see Classic Greek architecture. Aisle division of space at the sides of a church, parallel to the nave and separated from it by piers or arcades. Aiwan recess, niche, or reception hall in ancient Parthian building or mosque. Ajimez architectural form created by two horseshoe arches paired at the sides of a central column.

Akropolis or acropolis fortified citadel in Greek cities. Alfiz rectangular panel that frames an arch, usually horseshoe-shaped. Altar in antiquity, a raised structure composed of a wooden plank or stone on which sacrifices were offered. In Christian religion, the altar is used for the celebration of the Mass; initially made of wood, altars were later made of stone, marble, or other materials.

Altarpiece in Christian church architecture, the picture or decorated screen behind the altar. It may consist of a single painting or an elaborate group of hinged panels. Ambo reading desk or pulpit in early Christian church, usually of stone. Normally there Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms two, facing each other on each side of the choir.

Ambulatory continuation of the aisles of the choir around the apse, sometimes giving access to smaller chapels; see church. Amorino pl. Amphitheatre arena surrounded by tiered seats. Used from the 1st century BCE throughout the Roman world for public spectacles.

Annular vault vaulted roof over a ring-shaped annular space, between two concentric walls; see vault construction. Antefix upright architectural ornament found in Classical buildings, where it decorated the ends of a roof ridge.

Apex uppermost point of a triangular or conical form. Apse semicircular or polygonal end of a church; usually the end of the chancel, at the east end. Arcade a series of arches, often supporting a wall, Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms their columns or piers.

A blind arcade is an arcade set against a wall without openings in the arches. Arch usually curved architectural member spanning an opening and serving as support. According to the shape of the curve, arches are identified by a variety of names, including round arches, pointed or ogee arches, trefoil, lancet, basket-handle, or Tudor arches, or horseshoe arches, typical of Arab architecture.

A rampant arch is an arch in which one abutment is higher than the other. Hanging arches are tall blind arches, often reaching the roofline. Architecture 1 science or art of building. See also: Greatest Architects on. Architrave the lowest division of an entablature; a horizontal beam supported by columns. Archivolt moulding or cornice, bare or decorated, that follows the contour of an arch, whether on the outside face lintel or on the inside intrados.

Ashlar squared, even-faced block of stone. Atlantes figures of men used to support an entablature. The female equivalent is acaryatid. Atrium 1 forecourt of Roman house leading to various rooms. Attic in classical architecture, the part of a building above the main order on a facade. Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms area can often become a separate storey of the building.

Attic order square column of Greek architectural order, or pilasters applied to upper story of building. Azulejo terracotta or majolica glazed tiles in bright colours, used for floors and both interior and exterior wall dressings. Of Arabic origin, their use spread in Spain beginning in the 13th century. B Baluster small pillar or column supporting rail.

Balustrade series of balusters, usually edging terrace or balcony. Baptistry a part of a church or a separate building near a church in which baptismal rites are performed.

Barbican from the Arabic Persian bahhana a fortified gallery a defensive structure in front of a gate, such as a tower, an outer defensive work, a reinforced area on the internal part of a wall, most of all in medieval and Renaissance fortresses.

Barchessa a covered storage space attached to a farm house; the word is used for the bodies forming the wings of Palladian villas, which usually function as service areas. Baroque architecture In Italy: mostly religious building design, exemplified by the Roman designs of Bernini and his rival, Francesco Borromini Basilica medieval church in which the nave is taller than the aisles; early churches had an apse at one end. It was based on the Roman assembly hall, or the design of colonnaded halls in private houses.

The most famous example is St Peter's Basilica in Rome the second largest church in the world. Bay the space formed, usually within a church where the limits are indicated by Orders, vaults, etc, rather than by walls. On an external wall a bay may be indicated by buttresses. Beam horizontal structural member, usually made of wood, bearing a load. Benedictine, or stepped, choir choir flanked by rectangular areas of decreasing size.

Billet ornamentation formed by short cylindrical or rectangular blocks placed at regular intervals in hollow moldings. Blobitecture A form of postmodernist 20th-Century architecture marked by bulging curves.

Boss ornamental projection, of wood or stone, placed at the join of vaulting, ribs, etc; see vault construction. Bosquet a Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms grove of trees, containing at least five of the same species, used in formal French gardens, such as those at the Palace of Versailles see below designed by Andre le Notre. Bow window also bay window a window forming a recess in a room while also projecting beyond the exterior wall, in so doing increasing the amount of light.

Bracket projection that functions as a support; may also be decorative. Brandenburg Gate Iconic neoclassical building in Berlin designed and built by Carl Gotthard Langhans during the period His pioneering neoclassicism was further popularized by Karl Friedrich Schinkel Brise-soleil shutter to block sunlight. Buttress reinforced, projecting wall, usually on the exterior of a building, Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms it at a point

of stress.

A flying buttress transmits the thrust of a vault to an outer support; see vault construction. C Cable pattern convex rope-like molding found in Norman architecture.

Sometimes also refers to similar decoration in goldsmiths' work. Campanile freestanding bell tower of church. Canopy suspended or projected miniature roof over an altar, seat, statue, or similar. Cantilever a beam supported or fixed at one end carrying a load at the other. Capital architectural element that crowns a vertical Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms element column, pilaster, or pier and is thus located beneath a horizontal lintel, entablature, or arcade.

It is composed of a lower part echinus often decorated, and a simpler upper part abacus. The basic types Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms capitals are the Doric, composed of a Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms abacus resting on a circular echinus; Ionic, with a generally ornate echinus ending in spiral volutes and a somewhat flat abacus; Corinthian, a bell-shaped cone decorated by flowers and leaves; Tuscan, similar to the Doric, with wider and lower echinus; and composite, made up of Ionic elements volutes and Corinthian leaves.

There are also crocket, or hooked, capitals, Gothic capitals decorated with stylized leaves. Castellated decoration of a building with battlements and turrets, like a castle; the result may be described as castellated. Cathedra seat or throne made of wood, marble, or ivory, often decorated with inlays and bas-relief, located behind the altar at the end of the apse and used by the bishop during religious functions.

Its presence creates a cathedral. Cathedral from the presence of the bishop's throne, or cathedra; the principal church of a diocese, the church where a bishop officiates. The most famous cathedrals are probably the Gothic cathedrals of Northern Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms. Cell a compartment, most especially one of the four triangular divisions of a vault. Cenotaph a sepulchral monument. Centring the temporary wooden structure built to support an arch or vault during construction.

Chamfered capital capital whose square angles are cut obliquely. Chancel east end of church containing the altar. Chapel a small room used for worship. A chapel can be isolated or included within a larger architectural complex. In most Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms numerous Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms, each with an altar, are arranged along the length of a nave or aisle or around the transept.

Chapter house the large room in a convent, monastery, or cathedral in which the chapter meets the canons or members of the religious order; in monasteries and convents it usually faces a large cloister. Chevet the far end of a church, beyond the transept and including the choir, apse, and ambulatory.

It can have a variety of plans and in Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms architecture often Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms radiating chapels. Chevron 1 zigzag molding in Norman architecture.

## **Church Architecture Terminologies - Owlcation - Education**

Plan of Old St Peter's Basilica, showing atrium courtyard narthex vestibule central nave with double aisles, a bema for the clergy Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms into a transept, and an exedra or semi-circular apse. In ecclesiastical architecture, a retroquire or back-choir is the space behind the high altar in a church or cathedral, which sometimes separates it from the end chapel. It may contain seats Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms the church choir.

The ambulatory is the covered passage around a cloister or the processional way around the east end of a cathedral or large church and behind the high altar. The rood screen also choir screen chancel screen or jube is a common feature in late medieval church architecture.

It is typically an ornate partition between the chancel and nave, of more or less open tracery constructed of wood, stone, or wrought iron. The rood screen would originally have been surmounted by a rood loft carrying the Great Rood, a sculptural representation of the Crucifixion. Atria were a common feature in Ancient Roman dwellings, providing light and ventilation to the interior. In architecture, a gargoyle is carved or formed grotesque with a spout designed to convey water from a roof and away from the side of a building, thereby preventing rainwater from running down masonry walls and eroding the mortar between.

Architects often used multiple gargoyles on Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms to Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms the flow of rainwater off the roof to minimize the potential damage from a rainstorm. A choir also sometimes called quire is the area of a church or cathedral that provides seating for the clergy and church choir.

It is in the western part of the chancel, between the nave and the sanctuary, which houses the altar and Church tabernacle. In larger medieval churches it contained choir-stalls seating aligned with the side of the church, so at right-angles to the seating for the congregation in the nave of which there would have been little if any in the Middle Ages.

In Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic Christian church including cathedral and abbey architecture, the term is applied to a semi-circular or polygonal termination of the main building at the liturgical east end where the altar is regardless Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms the shape of the roof, which may be flat, sloping, domed, or hemispherical.

Smaller apses may also be in other locations, especially shrines. In church architecture, the chancel is the space around the altar, including the choir and the sanctuary sometimes called the presbytery at the liturgical east end of a traditional Christian church building. A buttress is an architectural structure built against or projecting from a wall which serves to support or reinforce the wall.

Buttresses are fairly common in more ancient buildings, as a means of providing support to act against the lateral sideways forces arising out of the

roof structures that lack adequate bracing.

In architecture, a clerestory is a high section of wall that contains windows above eye level. The purpose is to admit light, fresh air, or both. An apse chapel or apsidal chapel is a chapel in traditional Christian church architecture, which radiates tangentially from one of the bays or divisions of the apse. It is reached generally by a semicircular passageway, or ambulatory, exteriorly to the walls or piers of the apse.

The pulpitum is a common feature in the medieval cathedral and monastic architecture in Europe. It is a massive screen, most often constructed of stone, or occasionally timber, that divides the choir the area containing the choir stalls and high altar in a cathedral, collegiate or monastic church from the nave and ambulatory the parts of the church to which lay worshippers may have access.

The narthex is an architectural element typical of early Christian and Byzantine basilicas and churches consisting of the entrance or lobby area, located at the west end of the nave, opposite the church's main altar. Traditionally the narthex Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms a part of Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms church building but was not considered part of the church proper. An arcade is a succession of arches, each counter-thrusting the next, supported by columns, piers, Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms a covered walkway enclosed by a line of such arches on one or both sides.

In warmer or wet climates, exterior arcades provide shelter for pedestrians. The walkway may be lined with stores. A blind arcade superimposes arcading against a solid wall. The kliros is the section of an Eastern Orthodox or Eastern Catholic church dedicated to the choir. It refers both to the general space in which chanters or singers assemble for the services, as well as to the actual music stand or shelves on which music is stored and read.

An ambry "a place for keeping tools" is a recessed cabinet in the wall of a Christian church for storing sacred vessels and vestments. An altar is any structure upon which offerings such as sacrifices are made for religious purposes and by extension the 'Holy table' of post-reformation Anglican churches. A transept with two semi-transepts is a transverse part of any building, which lies across the main body of the edifice. In churches, a transept is an area set crosswise to the nave in a cruciform building within the Romanesque and Gothic Christian church architectural traditions.

Each half of a transept is known as a semi-transept. In cathedral architecture, an aisle is more specifically a passageway to either side of the nave that is separated from the nave by colonnades or arcades, a row of pillars or columns.

Occasionally aisles stop at the transepts, but often aisles can be continued around the apse. Aisles are thus categorized as nave-aisletransept-aisles or choir-aisles.

A semi-circular choir with aisles continued around it, providing access to a series of chapels, is a chevet. The nave is the central aisle of a basilica church or the main body of a church between its rear wall and the far end of its intersection with the transept at the chancel. It is the zone of a church accessible by the laity.

A crypt is a stone chamber beneath the floor of a church or other building. It typically contains coffins, sarcophagi, or religious relics. In those English cathedrals with two transepts, there is a further area beyond the choir which is called the Presbytery. This is where the priests or monks could make their private devotions.

A sanctuary in its original meaning, is a sacred place, such as a shrine. By the use of such places as a haven, by extension, the term has come to be used for any place of safety. This secondary use can be categorized into the human sanctuary, a safe place for humans, such as a political sanctuary; and non-human sanctuaries, such as an animal or plant sanctuary.

An antechamber also known as an anteroom or ante-room is a smaller room or vestibule serving as an entryway into a larger one. The word Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms formed of the Latin ante camerameaning "room before". The bema or bimais an elevated platform used as an orator's podium Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms ancient Athens. In Jewish synagogues, it is also known as a bimah and is for Torah reading during services.

In an Orthodox Jewish synagogue, a bema is the raised area around the Aron Kodesh or the sanctuary. In antiquity, it was made of stone, but in modern times it is usually a rectangular wooden platform approached by steps. Bema in an Eastern Orthodox church, with three steps leading up to it.

Assumption Cathedral in Smolensk, western Russia. The Lettner from Latin lectorium 'lectern', also lect o rinumlectricumalso called Doxaleis a stone or wooden, man-high to almost ceiling height barrier, which especially in cathedrals, monastic and collegiate churches the space for the Priests or monks quorum separated from the rest of the church, which was intended for the laity.

In Abbey churches eg the Cistercian abbey of Pforta the rood screen served to separate the priest monks and the lay monks conversations.

He is an evolution of the early Christian choir barriersand developed in the late Romanesquehad a golden age in the Gothic and was then gradually replaced in its function as Lectorium from the pulpit. All that remains of the former monastery is the cloister in the south transept to the cathedral museum.

Francis D. Ching A Visual Dictionary of Architecture. ISBN Chisholm, Hugh, ed. Cambridge University Press. Curl, James Stevens A Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Oxford University Press.

In Chisholm, Hugh. James Bettley and Nikolaus PevsnerEssex. The buildings of EnglandYale University Press, page Janetta Rebold Benton Holy Terrors: Gargoyles on Medieval Buildings. New York: Abbeville Press. Morris, Richard Cathedrals and Abbeys of England and Wales.

London: Dent. Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms X. I think you are talking about a pulpit, it is Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms raised stand for preachers in a Christian church. The origin of the word is the Latin *pulpitum* platform or staging. The traditional pulpit is raised well above the surrounding floor for audibility and visibility, accessed by steps, with sides coming to about waist height.

It is Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms Lettner or Doxale, I have added the last text capsule with its definition and picture. Thanks for asking question it always make me read more .: It was all very informative, thank you.

Would anyone know what that is called? Marine Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms. Electrical Engineering. Computer Science. Medical Science. Writing Tutorials. Performing Arts. Visual Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms. Student Life. Vocational Training. Standardized Tests. Online Learning.

## The History of Church Architecture and Furnishings

Please see the glossary of Church architecture and Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms below: Altar - the holiest part of a Church. In the medieval period the altar was a table or rectangular slab made of stone or marble, often set upon a raised step. After the Reformation the stone altars were replaced by wooden communion tables.

Ambulatory - a covered passage behind the altar, linking it with Chapels at the east end of the Church. Apse - the domed or vaulted east end of the church. In Britain the apse is generally squared off, while on the continent, rounded apses were common. Baptistry - where the font was stored and baptisms were performed, generally near the west door.

Sometimes a screen or grille separates the baptistry from the nave. Bell Tower - a tower where the church bells were installed. This could be separate from the Church, or, more usually, attached. Sometimes called a campanile. Chapel - a small building or room set aside for worship. Large Churches or Cathedrals might have many chapels dedicated to different saints.

A chantry Chapel is a special Chapel where prayers for the dead are said. Chapter House - a special room or house where the governing body of a monastery or cathedral met. In Britain Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms chapter house is usually polygonal in shape with a slender central column supporting the roof.

Chevet - style of construction creating an ambulatory and radiating chapels at the eastern arm of a Church. Choir quire - where services are sung, or more generally, the eastern arm Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms a Church.

Clerestory - the upper story of a church where it rises above the aisle roof. Window Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms allow extra light into the interior of the church. Crypt - A vaulted chamber made to house graves and relics, generally located beneath the Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms. Many Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms were very large, to allow numbers of pilgrims access. Font - a container, generally of stone, which contained holy water for baptism.

Usually located near the west door, sometimes the fonts had elaborately carved wooden canopies. Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms - a porch at the western end of the church used as a chapel for women or penitents.

Sometimes the word refers to the entire western end of Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms nave. Lectern - a reading desk, often in the shape of an eagle, made to hold the Bible during services.

Usually made of brass. Misericord - from the Latin word for "mercy" comes this term which refers to pivoting wooden brackets in choir stalls which lifted up to provide relief for clergy who had to stand during long Church services. Misericords are often ornately carved and decorative. Pew - wooden seats or benches in the church.

Pews only appeared at the end of the medieval period. Often pews had carved bench-ends and were carved with animal or foliage designs. Pulpit - a raised stand from which the preacher addresses the congregation.

Usually reached by steps or stairs, often covered by a carved canopy. Rood - a cross erected at the entry to the chancel. Roods often had figures of the Virgin Mary on one side and St. John on the other.

Rood Loft - the gallery upon which the rood is supported. Rood Screen - a screen built beneath the rood loft. Stalls - divisions within the choir, where clergy sat or stood during service. The stalls are often richly carved and fitted with misericords to help the clergy stand comfortably during long services.

Stoup - a container for holy water near the west door. Can be built into the wall or free-standing. Triforium - a galleried arcade at the second floor level, even with the aisle roof. Also called a "blind-storey" - the triforium looks like a row of window frames without window openings. Vestry - room where the clergy and choir dress and the vestments are kept.

Log in. Wish List. Cast Iron Radiators. Bespoke Products. Welcome back to UKAA. Remember my email address. Forgot Password or need to Register? Register with UKAA. Forgot Password? Glossary Of Church Architecture Please see the glossary of Church architecture and furnishings below: Altar - the holiest part of a Church. Bay - a vertical division, usually marked by vertical shafts or supporting columns. Chancel - the eastern end of a church. Chancel Arch - the arch separating the chancel from the nave or crossing.

Chancel Screen - a screen dividing the chancel and the nave and crossing. Confessio - A niche for relics located near the altar. Crossing - the area where the choir, nave, and transepts meet.

Greek-cross Plan - style of church with four equal arms. Latin-cross Plan - church plan with one arm longer than the other three. Nave - the western arm of the Church, where the congregation stood. Orientation - the compass alignment of the Church. The altar is usually oriented to the east.

Reredos - a decorative screen behind the altar, usually highly carved. Retable - a ledge behind, or attached to, the high altar, where ornaments were placed. Retro-choir - the area immediately behind the high altar.

Sacristy - a separate room for storing sacred vessels. Sanctuary - the high altar is placed. The holiest part of the Church. Transepts - the crossing arms of the Church, generally aligned north-south.