

Chapter 5: Illustrated Glossary

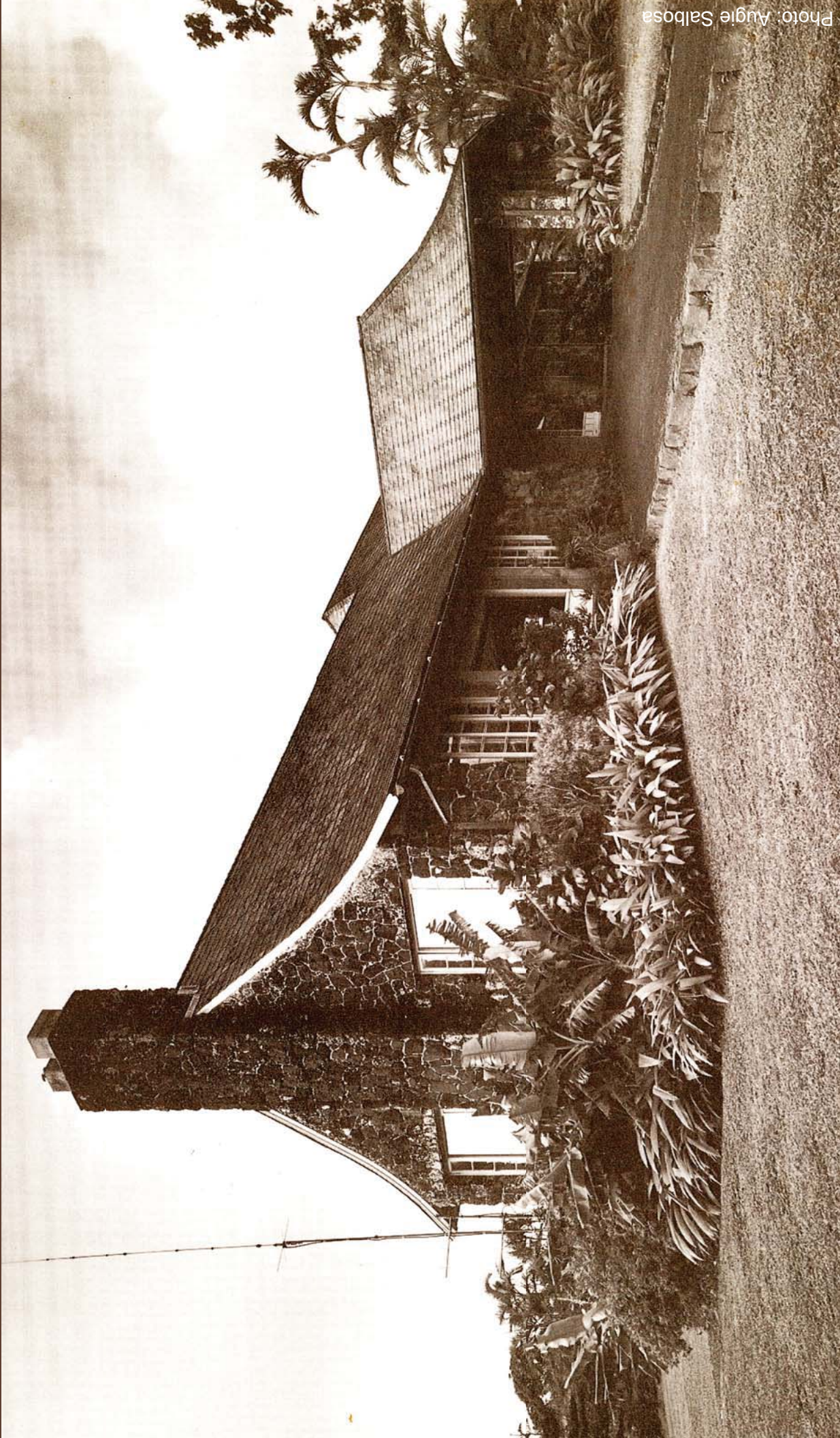


Photo: Angie Salbosa

FAÇADE AND EXTERIOR ELEMENTS



Arch: A construction that spans an opening, usually curved. A segmental arch has a head in the shape of an arc of a circle.



Balcony: A projecting platform that is supported from below or cantilevered from the structure; usually enclosed with a railing or balustrade.



Battered: A surface that is inclined or tilted with respect to the vertical. It can refer to a wall, foundation, pier, chimney, etc. Battered architectural elements are often found in Craftsman style architecture.



CHAPTER 5

ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Based on *American Architecture, an Illustrated Encyclopedia*, by Cyril M. Harris

False half-timbering: A wall that appears to be half-timbered construction, but whose woodwork is merely decorative.



Girt: A board between corner posts that helps to hold together the walls of a timber-framed house.



Lattice: A structure formed by the crossing of laths, rods, bars, or thin strips of wood or metal, usually arranged in a diagonal pattern or a square pattern; often used as a screen, as ornamental grillwork, or as a barrier to prevent entry into an area intended to be private.



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Open Work: Any work, especially ornamental, that is characterized by perforations or openings, such as scrollwork. Scrollwork may be cut on a scroll saw such as the decorative bargeboards on Carpenter Gothic houses, or it may be wrought-iron ornamental work in which scroll-like characters are an important element.



Pier: A column, masonry support, or other structural member used to sustain a concentrated load. When the sides slope, it is battered.



Pierced work: Ornamentation that is characterized by patterns formed by perforations.



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Pilaster: A pier or pillar attached to a wall, often with a capital and base, which projects slightly from the wall.



Porch: An exterior structure that extends along the outside of a building; usually roofed and generally open-sided, but may also be screened, semi-enclosed, or glass-enclosed; it may be an addition to the main structure or may be set within the house structure, in which case it is called an inset or integral porch. Also a veranda, galerie, or piazza.



Above are examples of an outset, or projecting, porch which extends beyond the face of the house.



These houses have an inset, or integral, porch which is set within the main structure of the house



Above are homes with a full-width porch which extends the full width of the house.



These homes have a wraparound porch which is a full-width porch that continues around the sides of a house.

Porte cochere: A covered automobile entryway to provide shelter from weather for persons arriving or leaving a building by vehicle, or a covered automobile entryway leading to a courtyard.



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Rail; Balustrade: A bar of wood, a panel, or other material connecting one post, pale, or baluster to another. A balustrade is an entire railing system, as along the edge of a porch, balcony, or roof deck; includes a top rail, balusters, and often a bottom rail.



Rubblework, rubble masonry: Masonry built of rough stones of irregular shapes and sizes that are not laid in regular courses; used in the construction of walls, foundations, and paving.



Wall Cladding Materials: Walls may be clad with wood, brick or stone, or have a stucco finish. Horizontal Board Siding includes three types: bevel, drop, and flush.



Bevel siding is constructed of horizontal boards that overlap such as lapped, clapboard, and rabbeted.



Drop siding has a simple channel



Tongue-and-groove (T&G) boards

Vertical Board Siding: The three types are lapped; channel, and flush.



Board-and-batten is lapped siding.



Vertical channel siding has a simple channel



Tongue-and-groove (T & G) boards

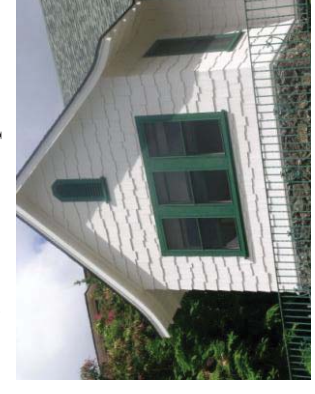
Shingle siding: This type uses a thin piece of wood as an exterior covering. These are applied in overlapping rows, often in one of the following designs: staggered pattern, chisel pattern, diamond pattern, coursed pattern, fishscale pattern, or sawtooth pattern.



Fishscale pattern



Coursed pattern



Staggered pattern

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Stucco finish: An exterior finish, usually textured, formed by mixing Portland cement, lime, sand, and water; often applied over wall constructions.



Vents: Openings that allow air to circulate through the various parts of a building, such as foundation and attic spaces.



Wood-slat foundation vent



Louvered gable vent



Screened eave vent



Lattice foundation vent



Wood slat attic vent

ROOF TREATMENTS

Gable: A vertical surface on a building usually adjoining a pitched roof, commonly at its end and triangular-shaped, although the specific shape of the vertical surface depends on the type of roof and parapet.



Front-gabled



Pair of front gables



Double gabled



Side-gabled



Low-pitched cross gabled



High-pitched cross gabled



Three intersecting gables



Curvilinear parapeted gable



Parapeted gable

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A gable-on-hip roof has a gable that sits on a hipped roof. If the gable is small, it may be called a gablet.



Double-pitched front gable



Double-pitched cross-gabled



Cross gable-on-hip

Gambrel roof, Dutch gambrel roof: This roof has two flat surfaces on each side of a central ridge; each surface is at a different pitch; the shorter upper ridge has a low pitch, and the longer, lower surface has a steep pitch. It is common in Colonial Revival architecture. It is sometimes called a Dutch or English gambrel roof.



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Hipped roof, hip roof: A roof comprising adjacent flat surfaces that slope upward from all sides of the perimeter of the building.



Simple hipped roof



Hip-on-hip



Pyramidal



Cross-hipped



Double-pitched hipped



Double-pitched hipped



A combination gable roof and hipped roof can be called a Jerkinhead roof, a clipped gable, a hipped gable, or hip-on-gable roof.

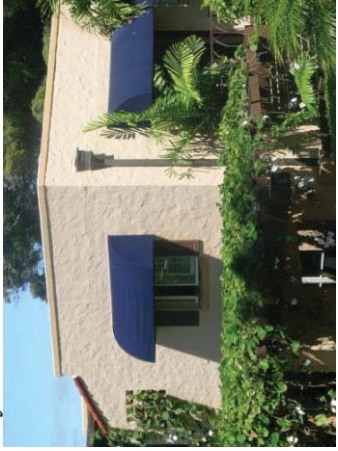


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Flat Roof: A horizontal roof having either no slope or a slope sufficient only to effect drainage; it may be surrounded by a parapet or it may extend beyond the exterior walls.



Canopy Roof: A roof, often over a balcony or porch, that is suggestive of the curvature of a suspended cloth canopy.



Bargeboard or Fascia: A board that hangs from the projecting edge of a sloping gable roof; sometimes carved and ornamented. Highly decorated bargeboards are found, for example, in Tudor Revival houses. Also called a gableboard or vergeboard.



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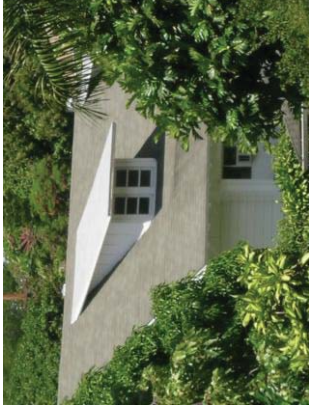
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Bracket: Any support that helps support an overhanging member, such as a cornice, eaves, or shelf. A decorative bracket may support a cornice or entablature over a door, mantel, or window. The diagonal support placed across the angle between two members that are joined is called a knee brace and is a popular feature in Craftsman style architecture.



Dormer: A structure projecting from a sloping roof, usually housing a vertical window or louvers. It is not part of the roof structure but is framed separately, and often provides daylight and ventilation for a bedroom located in a loft space.



These dormers are shed dormers or shed-roof dormers, whose eave line is parallel to the eave line of the main roof.



Above are gable dormers, also known as gabled dormer or triangular dormer, which have a triangular gable roof.

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An eyebrow dormer has no sides and roof is carried over in a wavy line.



An inset dormer is partially set below the sloping roof.



A hipped dormer has a roof with flat surfaces that slope upward at the front of the dormer as well as on both sides.



A hipped dormer has a roof with flat surfaces that slope upward at the front of the dormer as well as on both sides.

Eaves: The part of the roof that projects beyond the exterior wall; usually the lower edge of a sloped roof.



Bellcast eaves or flared eaves are the part of the roof that has a gradually diminishing slope and projects beyond the face of an exterior wall, flaring upward near its lower end. Flemish in origin.





Closed or boxed eaves are enclosed by boards and/or molding so that the rafters are not visible.



Open eaves are overhanging eaves in which the roof rafters are visible from below.

Modillion: a horizontal bracket that supports a cornice on its underside; often has the shape of a scroll. If it is a plain slab, it is called a block modillion. If it is under the eaves, it can be called an eaves bracket.



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Parapet: A low protective wall or similar barrier at the edge of a roof, balcony, terrace, or the like; often decorative.



Pediment: A gable above or over a door, window, or hood; usually has a horizontal cornice, crowned with slanting sides forming a triangle, but may be crowned with other configurations, such as curved or broken sides: angular pediment, broken pediment, broken-scroll pediment, center-gabled pediment, curved pediment, open pediment, pointed pediment, round pediment, scroll pediment, scroll pediment, segmental pediment, split pediment, swan's-neck pediment, triangular pediment.



Pent roof: A small false roof having a single slope, placed between the first and second floors of a house; may provide limited shelter for a window or door directly below but is usually merely decorative; frequently called a visor roof or skirt roof.



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Roofing material: This covers the roof, such as shingles, shake, slate, or tile. Roofs may have wood or slate shingles that are sometimes cut into decorative shapes such as fishscale, diamond, hexagon, octagon, or plain. They can also be variegated.



Mission tile, also called Spanish tile.



Slate fish-scale shingles



Wood shake

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FENESTRATION: THE DESIGN AND ARRANGEMENT OF WINDOWS

Bay window: A window that protrudes outward from a wall.



Pane, Light: A flat sheet of glass, cut to fit part of a window or door; often of smaller size, the larger ones usually being called sheets. Once installed in a window sash, a pane is often referred to as a *light*. A window sash may be subdivided into a number of smaller lights, often for decorative purposes. In specifying the configuration of a double-hung window having divided lights, the number in the upper sash is specified first, followed by the word “over” and the number in the lower sash. For example, historic homes often have a “six-over-three (6/3) pattern;” “nine-over-nine (9/9);” “twelve-over-twelve (12/12),” “fifteen-over-one” pattern, and so on.



Fifteen-over-one



Seven geometric-shaped lights-over-one



Eight-over-eight

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Ribbon window, or ribbon lights: A ribbon window is a horizontal band of at least three windows, separated only by mullions, on the façade of a building. It may be called a window band.



Ribbon windows surround a center fixed light



Geometric-shaped ribbon lights

Sash windows: Sash refers to the framework of a glazed window, which is either movable or fixed. It may be built of a variety of materials including wood, aluminum, and vinyl.



If sash windows slide in a vertical plane, they are double-hung windows and may be hung as a single, pair, or set of three.



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A sash window that moves in a horizontal plane is a sliding sash window.



If sash windows pivot about a vertical axis, they are casement windows.



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If a sash window pivots about a horizontal axis, they are awning windows.



Fixed sash may hold glass jalousies



Sash windows may be divided into three parts of varying heights



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Shutter: A moveable panel, usually one of a pair used to cover an opening, especially a window opening. Types include solid wood shutter, louvered shutter, batted shutter, boxing shutter, and folding shutter.



Transom window: A window that sits above the door. If this window is semicircular or semi-elliptical with radiating rods or bars suggestive of an open fan, it is commonly known as a fanlight.



Fanlight transoms



Ribbon-light transom

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DOORWAY TREATMENTS

Battened door: An early type of exterior door, constructed of vertical wood planks or boards held together by horizontal battens. Doors of this type were usually carried on very long strap hinges fastened to the door frame.



Glazed door: A door set with a pane or panes of glass.



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Paneled door: A door with recessed panels; commonly referred to by the number of panels it contains, usually between one and eight; for example a “two-paneled door,” “three-paneled door,” “four-paneled door, or “six-paneled door.”



Round-topped door: A door that has a semicircular head.



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Sidelight: A framed area of fixed glass, usually comprising a number of small panes; commonly one of a pair of such lights, set vertically on each side of a door.

