

# GLOSSARY

## EXPLANATION

Many construction terms have local or sectional meanings, and the same terms are sometimes used differently in various regions.

The purpose of the following definitions is to provide a better understanding of the terms not previously defined or illustrated in this manual and to furnish a guide to many other terms used in construction and appraisal practice. It is not the purpose of this section to replace a complete appraisal, architectural or construction dictionary.

## DEFINITIONS

**ABUTMENT.** A foundation structure designed to withstand thrust, such as the end supports of an arch.

**ACCESS FLOOR.** See computer floor.

**ACOUSTICAL CEILING.** In general terms, a ceiling designed to lessen sound reverberation through absorption, blocking or muffling. In construction, the most common materials are acoustical tile and acoustical plaster.

**ACOUSTICAL TILE OR PANELS.** A sound-absorbing ceiling finish system composed of various materials (listed below). It can be applied (glued, stapled or clipped) directly, furred or hung in a suspended ceiling grid system. Metal panels can be smooth or perforated, generally in a linear pattern. Mineral fiber is porous or covered, faced fiberglass or mineral fiber decorative tiles or panels and may be an integrated and fire-rated assembly. Organic fiber is wood or cane fiber tiles.

**ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT).** Federal legislation requiring employers and business owners to make "reasonable accommodations" to facilitate employment of disabled persons.

**ADOBE.** Solid masonry wall made from adobe block, which is unburnt, sundried block molded from adobe soil found in arid regions, generally rough in shape and texture. The wall may be grouted and reinforced or of a post-and-girder type of construction. Modern adobe can have an asphalt or chemical binder.

**A-FRAME.** Structural support framework in the shape of the letter A. Also a building system having sloping side members which act as both walls and roof.

**AGGREGATE.** All the materials used in the manufacture of concrete or plaster except water and the bonding agents (cement, lime, plaster). May include sand, gravel, cinders, rock, slag, etc.

**AGGREGATE SIDING PANELS.** This nonbearing wall is a combination of exposed stone aggregate faced siding and glass panels. The panel system comprises aggregates of various sizes embedded in epoxy, bonded to a wood board backing that is attached to studs and to a supporting frame.

**AIR CURTAIN.** A device to protect an opening against heat loss or passage of insects by blowing a high-velocity flow of air across the opening.

**AIR INFILTRATION WRAP.** A high-density polyethylene fibrous exterior air barrier generally applied to residential stud construction.

**AMENITIES.** Tangible and intangible features that enhance or add to a property's desirability and perceived value.

**AIR-SUPPORTED STRUCTURE.** A tent-like curved structure held up by air pressure, with an airtight seal around its base perimeter.

**ANODIZED ALUMINUM.** Aluminum which has had a hard, corrosion-resistant, oxide film applied to it by an electrochemical process. A color anodizing process may be used to produce a number of colored finishes.

**APPLIANCE ALLOWANCE.** This cost includes consideration for the residential appliances commonly found at different quality levels. Typically, ranges and ovens, garbage disposers, dishwashers and range hoods are included. The better qualities (higher cost ranks) have additional feature considerations for trash compactors, microwaves, built-in mixer units, etc.

**APRON.** A term usually applied to a surfaced area adjoining roads, driveways, buildings, airstrips, docks, etc.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE.** Concrete which is cast in a form to produce figures, designs, or textures so as to create an ornamental building surface. Often used to replace stone masonry.

**AREA.** The extent of surface of a building or site, in one plane, measured in square units such as square feet, yards or meters.

**ARMORED CABLE.** Electrical cable consisting of a flexible metal covering enclosing two or more wires, often referred to as BX cable.

**ASBESTOS.** A non-flammable natural mineral fiber, widely used in insulation materials and fire and flame barriers.

**ASBESTOS CEMENT.** A mixture of Portland cement and asbestos fibers, commonly used for roofing shingles, building siding and pipe.

**ASHLAR STONE VENEER.** Some type of veneer stone, usually a cut limestone, attached to a concrete block or stud back-up wall using metal wall ties. The stones are irregular in shape. They may be finished with a split face and backed with sawed surfaces for top and bottom bed joints.

**ASPHALT TILE.** A resilient floor covering laid in mastic, available in several colors. Standard size is 9" x 9", also comes in several other sizes. Asphalt is normally used only in the darker colors, the lighter colors having a resin base.

**ASPHALTIC CONCRETE.** Asphalt binder and stone or other aggregate, used as a hard surface for streets, air strips and other paved areas.

**ATRIUM.** An interior courtyard usually with a glass roof to provide a greenhouse-like effect inside.

**ATRIUM FRAME AND GLAZING.** Metal frame and glazing for major skylight atrium areas, excluding any space frame structure.

**ATTIC.** A room built within the sloping roof of a dwelling. May be finished or unfinished.

**AWNING.** A lightweight and often adjustable, exterior, roof-like sun shade over an opening, attached to the building wall.

**BACKFILL.** Material used in refilling an excavation, such as for a foundation or subterranean pipe.

**BACKUP.** The lower-cost material in a masonry wall which is covered by a facing of more expensive and ornamental material such as face brick, stone, marble, metal panels, etc.

## GLOSSARY

**BALCONY.** A railed platform projecting from the face of a building above the ground level with an entrance from the building interior. In a theater or auditorium, a partial upper stepped floor for seating.

**BALLOON FRAME.** A framing system in a two-story building in which studs and corner posts extend from foundation sill to roof-top plate, and upper-story floor joists are carried on ledgers or girts let into or nailed directly to the studs.

**BALUSTER.** The closely spaced vertical members in a stairway or balcony, balustrade or railing.

**BASEBOARD.** A finish board around the bottom of interior walls.

**BASEBOARD HEATING.** Heating in which the heating element, usually an electric resistance unit or forced hot water, is located at the base of the wall.

**BASEMENT.** Any room or rooms built partially or wholly below ground level.

**BASIC BUILDING CODE.** A performance-type building code prepared by Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA) and adopted for use by a number of midwestern counties and cities.

**BATT INSULATION.** A type of blanket insulating material, usually composed of mineral fibers and made in relatively narrow widths for convenience in handling and applying between framing members.

**BATTEN.** A narrow strip of wood used to cover a joint between boards, or to simulate a covered joint for architectural purposes.

**BAY.** The area within four columns or between two bents in a building.

**BAY WINDOW.** A window structure which projects from a wall. Technically, it has its own foundation. If cantilevered, it would be an oriel window; however, in common usage, the terms are often used interchangeably.

**BEAM.** A horizontal load-bearing structural member, transmitting superimposed vertical loads to walls, columns or heavier horizontal members.

**BEAMED CEILING.** A ceiling with beams exposed. A false beamed ceiling has ornamental boards or timbers which are not load bearing.

**BEARING PLATE.** A steel slab placed under the end of a beam, girder, truss or column to distribute the load over a wider surface.

**BEARING WALL.** A wall which supports upper floor or roof loads.

**BENT.** A rigid framing unit of a building, consisting of two columns and a horizontal truss, beam or girder.

**BEVEL.** A surface cut at other than a right angle.

**BIDET.** A toilet-like bathroom fixture used for hygienic washing of the lower private parts of the body.

**BI-LEVEL.** A two-story residence with a split-foyer entrance. The lower level, partially above grade, is partially finished. Typically the finish includes plumbing and electrical rough-ins, with some partition wall framing for a recreation room, bedroom, laundry area and bathroom. Other common terms for this type of construction are Raised Ranch, Hi-Ranch or Colonial, and Split-Entry.

**BLACK TOP.** A general term to describe asphalt or asphaltic concrete paving.

**BLANKET INSULATION.** A flexible type of lightweight blanket for insulating purposes, supplied in rolls, strips, or panels, sometimes fastened to heavy paper of an asphalt-treated or vapor-barrier type. Blankets may be composed of various processed materials, as mineral wool, wood or glass fibers.

**BOND.** The adherence of one construction element to another. In masonry construction, the arrangement of bricks or concrete blocks, especially the arrangement of vertical joints.

**BOND BEAM.** A continuous beam, usually of reinforced concrete, but sometimes of reinforced brick or concrete block placed in masonry walls to tie them together and add lateral stability. It also distributes concentrated vertical loads along the wall.

**BOX GIRDER.** A girder having a hollow rectangular cross-section.

**BRACE.** Any minor member designed to steady or stiffen a major member of a structure.

**BREEZEWAY.** A covered passage, open at each end, which passes between two structures.

**BRICK, BLOCK BACKUP.** Brick on the exterior surface applied over a concrete block wall. This is a solid masonry wall. The thickness varies depending on the thickness of the block used, with 4", 8" and 12" block being the most commonly applied with this type of wall.

**BRICK CAVITY WALL.** A wall in which a space is left between inner and outer tiers or wythes of brick. The space may be filled with insulation, grout and/or reinforcing.

**BRICK VENEER.** A nonloadbearing single tier of brick applied to a wall of other materials.

**BRICK VENEER WALL.** Usually used to describe a wall made up of brick veneer applied over wood framing.

**BRIDGING.** Diagonal or cross bracing between joists to resist twisting.

**BROWNSTONE.** A term usually referring to houses built, until about 1900, with a brown-colored, quarried, thick-cut solid sandstone which was laid up in mortar.

**B.T.U. (British Thermal Unit).** A measurement of heat, i.e., the amount of heat required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

**BUILDING ENVELOPE.** The walls, roof and floors which enclose a heated or cooled space.

**BUILDING PAPER.** A paper usually applied over the sheathing of exterior frame walls. Also used between flooring and subflooring and over roof decks.

## GLOSSARY

- BUILT-IN APPLIANCES.** Those appliances which are permanent fixtures generally found in a residence. They are not included in the base costs and should be added separately.
- BULB TEE.** A rolled steel shape with a cross section resembling a bulbous T, often used as a purlin.
- BUILT-UP COMPOSITION.** A roof covering consisting of successive layers of ply, felt and hot asphalt, topped by a mineral surfaced layer (cap sheet) or by embedded rock or gravel.
- BULKHEAD.** A retaining wall. Also the wall beneath a store display window.
- BUTTRESS.** An abutting pier or brace which strengthens or supports a wall at a right angle by opposing the horizontal forces.
- BX.** Electrical cable consisting of a flexible metal covering enclosing two or more wires.
- CAMPANILE.** A tall bell tower, usually detached from the building.
- CANOPY.** A roof, not covering a building, but extending over an exterior area such as a loading area, building entrance or window to protect against sun or rain.
- CANTILEVER.** A beam or slab supported at one end only, or which projects beyond its support.
- CAPITAL.** The top portion of a column enlarged to provide a larger bearing surface, or for ornamentation.
- CARPORIT.** An open automobile shelter. May be only a roof and supports or may be enclosed on three sides with one completely open side.
- CASEMENT WINDOW.** A window hinged vertically, swinging open horizontally like a door.
- CASING.** A pipe inserted in wells to prevent the sides from collapsing. It may also function to exclude undesirable elements, or prevent the escape of the contents.
- CAST STONE.** Precast decorative concrete panels and cast symmetrical shapes, giving a massive stone appearance applied on older monumental buildings as a special feature of an entrance or front elevation.
- CATCH BASIN.** A small underground structure for surface drainage, in which sediment may settle before water reaches the drain lines.
- CAULKING.** Material used to seal cracks, fill joints and prevent seepage. Includes mastic compounds with silicone, asphalt or rubber bases.
- CEILING, DROPPED.** A ceiling built below the normal ceiling height such as over a store vestibule or window display.
- CEILING JOISTS.** The structural members to which the ceiling is fastened.
- CEILING, SUSPENDED.** A ceiling which is hung from the floor or roof structure above.
- CELLULAR STEEL DECK.** A structural floor system, consisting of two layers of sheet metal shaped to form cells and welded together. Cells serve as raceways for electrical conduit or other utilities.
- CEMENT FIBER SIDING.** Siding composed of asbestos-free fiber and Portland cement combined under pressure. Typically, the natural siding or shingle is light gray. Board or shingle siding may be applied over sheathing or a building paper attached to either wood or steel stud framing. Sheet siding can be found with two basic profiles, either ribbed or corrugated or as a sandwich panel attached to a structural frame.
- CENTER TO CENTER.** The measurement between centers of two adjoining parallel structural members. Also spoken of as "on center".
- CESSPOOL.** A pit which serves for storage of liquid sewage which is disposed of through seepage into the surrounding soil.
- CHIMNEY STACK.** A vertical vent designed to dispose of waste gases and heat and to create a draft for furnaces or boilers.
- CINDER BLOCK.** A lightweight concrete block using cinders as the coarse aggregate to minimize weight. Sometimes used as a generic term for all lightweight block.
- CLAPBOARD.** An exterior wood siding having one edge thicker than the other and laid so that the thick butt overlaps the thin edge of the board below.
- CLEAN ROOM.** A room built to prevent the entrance of dust or lint, usually it will also have closely controlled humidity and temperature.
- CLEAR SPAN.** A term used to designate a building or an area within a building, free of columns.
- CLERESTORY WINDOW.** A series or band of vertical windows set above the primary roof line.
- COLONNADE.** A series of columns.
- COLUMN.** A vertical structural member; a pillar. False columns are designed for architectural ornamentation rather than load-bearing qualities.
- COMMON BRICK.** A solid masonry unit of clay for general building purposes not especially treated for texture or uniformity.
- COMMON WALL.** A single wall used jointly by two buildings, also called a party wall.
- COMPOSITE STONE PANELS.** A stone wall and glass panel system comprising embedded and exposed aggregates or homogeneous crushed stone in a reconstituted stone-like composite panel. Epoxy embedded aggregates, bonded to a cement board backing attached to steel studs is one of the least expensive stone curtain walls.
- COMPOSITION SHINGLE.** A roofing shingle made of either felt saturated with asphalt and surfaced with mineral granules or inorganic fiberglass saturated with asphalt and surfaced with ceramic granules.
- COMPOSITION WOOD SHINGLES.** A roofing shingle panel composed of hardboard.
- COMPUTER FLOOR.** A prefabricated floor system installed over pedestal grid supports to provide a raised or access floor.
- CONCRETE BLOCK.** A solid masonry wall typically built with one or two rows of concrete block and mortar. The amount of reinforcing varies due to the structural requirements of the wall. Reinforcing is laid horizontally with various courses and vertically in the hollow core of the concrete block.

## GLOSSARY

- CONCRETE BRICK.** A concrete masonry unit, sized and often colored and textured to simulate clay brick.
- CONCRETE AND GLASS PANELS.** A combination of concrete panels (precast or poured-in-place) and glass attached to the concrete panels with the use of a metal frame. Generally these walls carry no load other than their own weight. Some perimeter or shear wall load-bearing units can be found in some low- to mid-rise structures.
- CONDUIT.** A pipe or channel carrying electric wiring, water or other fluids. May be rigid or flexible.
- CONVECTOR.** A radiator for either hot water or steam heat with many radiation surfaces, such as fins, to increase contact with air moved either by natural or forced convection.
- COOLING TOWER.** A water tower designed to cool water by evaporation.
- COPING.** The capping of masonry or other material applied to the top of a wall as a watershed and to give a finished appearance.
- CORBEL.** A beam or bracket projecting from a wall to support some other object or structural part of the building; also may be an embellishment rather than a structural element.
- CORNICE.** A projecting horizontal moulding at the top of a wall or building.
- COST.** Purchase price to a buyer.
- COURSE.** Continuous horizontal layer of materials, i.e., masonry or shingles.
- COVERED CEILING.** A ceiling which curves down at the edges where it meets the wall, providing a smooth transition from ceiling to walls instead of a sharp angle of intersection.
- CRAWL SPACE.** A space of limited height sufficient to permit access to underfloor piping or wiring.
- CUPOLA.** A small square or rectangular structure located along the roof ridge used for ventilation and/or ornamentation.
- CURTAIN WALL.** A nonbearing exterior wall supported by the structural frame of a building. These walls carry no load other than their own weight.
- DEAD LOAD.** The constant weight of a building or structure including all built-in equipment; does not include variable live loads such as furniture, merchandise, people or business and industrial machines.
- DECKING.** The surfacing material applied to the rafters, or floor joists to which the material is applied. Also called roof or floor sheathing.
- DESMISING WALL.** An area separation wall between tenants or space uses.
- DIATOMITE.** Lightweight concrete made with diatomaceous earth aggregate generally troweled over wood or concrete exterior steps and balconies; has a light marshmallow appearance.
- DISTRIBUTION PANEL.** A panelboard containing fuses or circuit breakers and which receives and distributes high-capacity electricity to various circuits of lower capacities.
- DOCK.** An elevated platform at the proper height to facilitate loading or unloading of trucks, ships or boats.
- DORMER.** A projection from a sloping roof to provide more headroom under the roof and allow the installation of dormer windows.
- DOUBLE GLAZING.** A double-glass pane in a door or window, with an air space between the two panes, which may be sealed hermetically to provide insulation.
- DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOW.** A window with an upper and lower sash, each balanced by springs or weights to be capable of moving vertically in its own grooves.
- DOWEL.** A pin tying two structural pieces together.
- DOWNSPOUT.** A vertical drain.
- DRAIN TILE.** Short lengths of clay or concrete pipe laid underground with loose joints to drain away excess water.
- DRAINAGE SYSTEM.** All piping provided for carrying waste water, sewage or other drainage, from a building to a street sewer or place of disposal.
- DRYWALL.** Any finish material applied to an interior wall in a dry state as opposed to plaster. It may be plywood or fiberboard, but is generally referred to as gypsum board or sheet rock.
- DUCTS.** Enclosures, usually round or rectangular in shape, for distributing warm or cool air from the central unit to the various rooms. Duct costs are included with the appropriate heating or cooling system.
- DUMB WAITER.** A small utility elevator, used to convey articles, and not people, between floors.
- EAVES.** The portion of a roof projecting beyond wall line.
- ELASTOMERIC ROOFING.** Single sheet (ply) of rubber-like, layered membrane consisting of several combinations of plastics and synthetic rubber stretched into place as a roof cover. It may be loosely laid, ballasted, mechanically fastened or fully adhered. Also used to describe a single component liquid or spray applied to the roof surface to yield elastomeric films (Hypalon-Neoprene, Silicone) for high-strength waterproof membranes.
- ELECTRIC WALL HEATERS.** Individual electric unit in the wall capable of heating only small areas. When used as supplemental heating to the main heating plant, such as in a bathroom, it might be considered as a built-in appliance. For electric radiant, see Radiant Heat.
- ELEVATED SLAB.** A horizontal reinforced concrete structure which is formed and poured in place above ground level, requiring shoring.
- ELEVATION.** A scale drawing of the front, rear or side of a building.
- EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System).** See synthetic plaster on rigid insulation.
- EVAPORATIVE COOLER.** An air conditioner which cools the air by the effect of water evaporation. Outdoor air is drawn through a moistened filter pad in a cabinet, and the cooled air is then circulated throughout the building. It is used in regions with low humidity.

## GLOSSARY

- FACADE.** The exterior face of a building, usually applying to the face with the principal entrance, but often applied to any important face.
- FACE BRICK.** A clay brick made especially for exterior use with special consideration of color, texture and uniformity.
- FASCIA.** A horizontal band of material applied at the top of the wall or the end of the eaves as ornamentation and/or to cover the rafter ends.
- FENESTRATION.** The arrangement of windows in the walls of a building.
- FIBERBOARD.** A general term applied to sheets of material made from wood or other vegetable fibers, having some insulating qualities and usually used as roof or wall sheathing.
- FINISH HARDWARE.** All of the exposed hardware in a structure, such as door knobs, door hinges, locks and clothes hooks, etc.
- FIRE DOORS AND WALLS.** Doors and walls constructed of fire-resistant materials designed to prevent the spread of fires. A true fire wall will extend from the foundation or concrete floor to above the roof, completely separating parts of the building.
- FLASHING.** Strips of metal sheet or other materials, used to weather-proof construction joints.
- FLEXIBLE CONDUIT.** A circular spiral-wound raceway through which wires and cables may be pulled after the conduit is in place.
- FLOOR AREA.** An area on any floor, enclosed by exterior walls and/or partitions. Measurement for total floor area should include the thickness of the exterior walls.
- FOAMED CONCRETE.** Concrete in which bubbles of air are entrained, either by chemical or mechanical means, producing a concrete of low unit weight used as a subfloor covering.
- FOOTING.** The projecting base of a foundation, which transmits the building load to the ground.
- FORCED-AIR HEATING.** A warm air heating system in which circulation of air is effected by a motor-driven fan. Such a system includes air-cleaning devices and the ductwork. Costs include simple single-zoned and multi-zoned ducted systems.
- FORMED CONCRETE WALLS.** Generally constructed of poured-in-place concrete. The reinforcing is usually a bar set in a grid pattern within the form for the concrete wall. Forms used for the wall are usually some type of a metal or wood panel. Thickness of these walls varies depending on the structural requirements of the building.
- FORMICA.** A trade name for a hard laminated plastic surfacing, often used as a generic name for all such finishes.
- FOUNDATION.** The part of the structure on which the superstructure rests. It includes all construction which transmits the loads of the superstructure to the earth.
- FRENCH DOORS OR WINDOWS.** A pair of hinged glazed doors, functioning as both doors and windows.
- FRESCO.** Watercolor painting on damp plaster.
- FURRING.** Strips of wood or metal fastened to structural members or surfaces to provide a place on which to nail or fasten another surface, or to separate the finish materials from the structure.
- GABLE.** The triangular upper portion of an exterior wall extending from the ceiling line to the underside of a gable roof.
- GABLE ROOF.** A roof forming an inverted V.
- GALBESTOS.** A trade name for protected metal building panels consisting of textured waterproof outer coatings of a special hot-melt layered application of resin or asphalt giving the appearance of a stucco-like granular finish.
- GAUGE.** A measurement of thickness in metal sheet or wire. The smaller the gauge, the heavier the material.
- GIRDER.** A horizontal structural member which supports loads from smaller beams and joists and transmits them to columns or foundations.
- GIRT.** A horizontal framing member to aid in providing rigidity to columns and act as support for siding or sheathing.
- GLASS BLOCK.** A hollow structural glass block laid as masonry for translucent effect in wall construction.
- GLASS FIBER REINFORCED CONCRETE.** A lightweight precast glass-fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) and glass panel wall system which is attached to a supporting frame. GFRC is a Portland cement-based composite reinforced with randomly dispersed glass fibers to form a variety of shaped and textured panels, many of which are integrated with a steel stud support system.
- GLASS PANEL WALL.** An all-glass-paneled curtain wall attached to a structural frame typically found in modern residences.
- GLAZED ATRIUM.** A structural, frameless area where the glass walls are either self supporting, or supported from behind by glass fin mullions or thin wall trusses.
- GLAZED FACING TILE.** A hollow clay tile having one or two faces finished with a glazed surface.
- GLULAM.** A trade name often used to describe all glued, laminated wood structural members.
- GRADE BEAM.** A beam placed at or near ground level performing some of the functions of a foundation, and may be resting on piers or pilings.
- GRAVITY HEATING.** A warm air system usually located in a basement, which operates on the principle of warm air rising through ducts to the upper levels. Since it does not contain a fan, as does the conventional forced-air furnace, a large burner surface as well as larger ducts are used.
- GROUT.** A thin concrete mixture used to fill various voids in masonry work or in other work which requires a very fluid mixture.
- GUNITE.** Pneumatically placed concrete, sometimes refers to pneumatically placed plaster. Also called shotcrete.
- GUTTER.** A horizontal or slightly sloping, open collector and drain, i.e., roof gutters, street gutters.
- GYPSONUM.** Usually used generically to designate all products made of plaster of Paris, such as gypsum board, gypsum lath, gypsum tile, etc.

## GLOSSARY

- GYPSUM BLOCK.** A plaster of Paris building block, not suitable for load-bearing walls because of its friable nature.
- HALF-TIMBER CONSTRUCTION.** Heavy timber construction of vertical, diagonal and horizontal exposed members, with the open spaces filled with brick and plaster. This is often simulated by nailing boards to a wood frame and stuccoing the spaces between them.
- HANGER.** A wire, strap or rod attached to an overhead structure to support conduit, pipe, suspended ceilings, etc. Also a U-shaped stirrup to support the end of a joist.
- HARDBOARD.** A highly compressed wood fiberboard with many uses as exterior siding, interior wall covering and formboard. Exterior panels may be a lap or sheet siding.
- HARDENER AND SEALER.** Treatments applied to a concrete slab floor structure. Hardeners generally fall into two categories: 1) integral, when the chemical treatment is mixed with the cement and becomes actually part of the topping mix and, 2) surface, when it is applied as the floors are being finished and have become hard enough for traffic. A sealer is also a chemical mixture which is composed of a pigment and a reducer. It is designed to minimize stains, seal in moisture and assist in curing the topping.
- HEADER.** In brick masonry construction, a course of brick in which the masonry units are laid perpendicular to the face of the wall to tie two wythes of brick together. In carpentry, a beam carrying a load over an opening, a lintel.
- HEATING AND COOLING.** A combined heating and cooling system which is broken into three general categories of descending cost ranges as described below.
- Hot and chilled water:** A zoned heating and cooling system that uses hot or chilled water. The water is generated from a central location and piped to various sections of a building. Each section of the building has fin coils or convectors with fans. These are used to produce warm or cooled air which is then circulated throughout that portion of the building. This system is normally found in Class A and B high-rise buildings where fire barriers must be penetrated from floor to floor.
- Warm and cool air:** Similar to hot and chilled water except that the warm and cooled air is generated at the main plant and distributed to numerous zoned areas throughout the building by a long, complex duct system.
- Package heating and cooling:** Basically the same as central air (warm and cool air) except for the capacity and amount of ductwork involved. Typically, a package system contains one short duct and thermostat per unit, and it is not uncommon to find a number of individual units servicing one building. A split system is a type of package which has gas-fired, forced-air heating with either gas or electric refrigerated cooling. These are complete, individual, roof-mounted units or ground units each having its own individual compressor and furnace.
- HEAT PUMP.** A reverse-cycle refrigeration unit which can be used for heating or cooling.
- HIGH-RISE BUILDING.** A building which is considerably higher than either plan dimension. Generally over five stories or 75 feet in height.
- HIP.** The inclined ridge formed by the intersection of two sloping roof surfaces whose eave lines are not parallel.
- HIPPED ROOF.** A pitched roof having sloping ends rather than gable ends.
- HOLLOW CLAY BLOCK.** A solid masonry wall typically built with one row of hollow clay textured block and mortar. Reinforcing is laid horizontally with various courses and vertically in the hollow core of the clay block.
- HOPPER.** An elevated bin whose bottom is in the shape of a V or inverted cone which, due to its sloping sides, will empty its stored material when a gate at the bottom is opened.
- HORSEPOWER.** A measure of work output equivalent, for practical purposes, to 750 watts of electricity or 33,500 B.T.U.
- HOT WATER HEATING.** The circulation of hot water from a boiler through a system of pipes and radiators or convectors, by either gravity or a circulating pump, allowing the heat to radiate into the room. For hot water radiant, see Radiant Heat.
- H.V.A.C.** Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning.
- INSULATION.** Any material used to obstruct the passage of sound, heat, vibration or electricity from one place to another.
- INTERIOR WALL LINER.** The additional cost for site-installed finished interior sheathing, wood, drywall or metal liner applied to single wall construction.
- INTERSTITIAL SPACE.** The walk-on platform or subfloor space between the finished structural ceiling and floor above for access to the overhead mechanical and electrical services for a building.
- JALOUSIE.** An adjustable glass louver. Also refers to doors or windows containing jalousies.
- JAMB.** The finished members of a door, window or similar opening.
- JOIST.** One of several parallel beams carrying a floor or ceiling, sometimes acting both as ceiling joist and rafter.
- JOIST HANGER.** A metal stirrup supporting the end of a joist and which is fastened to a supporting structural member.
- KEENE'S CEMENT.** A hard, water-resistant plaster.
- K FACTOR.** A measure of heat transmission, used to rate the insulating value of materials.
- KIOSK.** A small, free-standing structure used for the purpose of sales and display of merchandise, typically found in malls.
- KIP.** A unit of force equal to 1,000 pounds.
- LALLY COLUMN.** A concrete-filled steel pipe used as a column.
- LAMELLA ROOF STRUCTURE.** An arched roof-framing structure identified by the diamond-shaped arrangements of the pieces of plank or steel from which it is formed.
- LAMINATED FLOOR.** A floor deck made up by spiking 2 x 4's or planks together with the wide side vertical, a mill-type floor.
- LATH.** Any material used as a base for plaster including wood lath, gypsum lath, wire and metal lath.
- LEACH LINE.** In sewage disposal, a loose tile or perforated pipe line used to distribute sewage effluent through the soil.

## GLOSSARY

- LIFT SLAB.** A construction system in which the floor and roof slabs are cast one on top of the other at ground level and are then jacked into position and fastened to the columns.
- LIGHT WELL.** A vertical unroofed shaft within a building, designed to bring light and air to inside rooms.
- LINTEL.** A horizontal framing member carrying a load over a wall opening, a header.
- LIVE LOAD.** The variable load imposed on a structure by people, furnishings, merchandise and equipment not inherent to the structure.
- LOCAL STONE WALL.** A solid cut-stone masonry block wall of local sandstone or brownstone. The thickness of the wall varies depending on the thickness of the block used.
- LOOSE FILL INSULATION.** This type of insulation is made from a variety of materials in the form of loose, fluffy pieces of fiber such as cellulose or rockwood or inorganic granular pellets of plastic or expanded mica.
- LOUVER.** Slats or fins over an opening, pitched so as to keep out rain, snow or sun, but allowing the movement of air. A finned sunshade on a building. A diffusion grill on a fluorescent light fixture.
- MAGNESITE.** Flooring material made of calcined magnesium carbonate with asbestos, powdered wood and silica to which magnesium chloride is added to form a seamless floor covering.
- MALL.** A wide public walkway between rows of shops or store buildings.
- MANLIFT.** A small elevator designed to lift one man. Often a continuous belt with attached platforms.
- MARQUEE.** A roof-like structure over the entrance to a building and projecting from it. It is usually cantilevered out from the building.
- MASONRY WALLS.** Walls that are constructed entirely of masonry units (or concrete) which are bonded together with mortar or some other type of cementitious material.
- MASONRY AND GLASS PANEL.** An exterior curtain wall system, consisting of thin set or modular brick or tile panels or veneer on steel studs and glass panels, which is hung on a frame.
- MASTIC.** A heavy-bodied adhesive material used to cement two surfaces together; also an elastic caulking compound.
- MAT FOOTING.** A heavy concrete slab designed to spread the vertical forces from walls or columns over a wide area, after removing earth equal to the weight of superstructure. Often used to designate large spread footings.
- MEMBRANE.** A thin sheet or film of waterproof material used to prevent the movement of moisture through a floor, wall or roof.
- MESH.** Heavy steel wire welded together in a grid pattern used as a reinforcement for concrete work.
- METAL-CLAD BUILDING.** A building sheathed in metal.
- MEZZANINE.** A partial floor between two floors, occupying a lesser area than the full floors. For stepped seating structures, see Balcony.
- MILL CONSTRUCTION.** A type of building with heavy timber frame, masonry bearing walls and laminated floors.
- MILLWORK.** Wooden portions of a building which have been pre-built and finished in a shop and brought to the site for installation, such as cabinets, door jambs, mouldings, trim, etc.
- MODULE.** A standard measure, of any size, used in construction and design, adopted to allow representation in design and construction.
- MONITOR.** A narrow gable- or shed-roofed structure built onto the roof of a building, with the function of providing light and ventilation through its sides. The narrow structure on top of grain tanks, housing conveyors and equipment.
- MONOLITHIC.** One piece. Monolithic concrete is poured in a continuous process so there are no separations.
- MORTAR.** A pasty mixture of cement, lime, sand and water, used as a bonding agent for brick, stone or other masonry units.
- MORTISE.** A notch or hole cut in a piece of wood or other material designed to receive a projecting part, called the tenon, of another piece of material for the purpose of joining the two.
- MOSAIC.** A decoration in which small pieces of glass, stone or other material are laid in mortar or mastic to form a design.
- MOTIF.** The concept and treatment of the building decor.
- MUD SILL.** Timber or plank laid directly on the ground to form the building foundation.
- MULLION.** Vertical dividing member between a series of adjoining doors, windows or wall panels.
- NEWEL.** The post at the bottom of a stair or the end of a flight of stairs, to which the balustrade is anchored. The center pole of a spiral staircase.
- OPEN OFFICE.** An office area partitioning concept using shoulder-height free-standing manufactured partition units. They are interlocked to form cubicles called "work stations".
- OPEN SYSTEM FOR CORRUGATED METAL.** A roof system consisting of secondary members acting as a purlin support system. Light purlin supports will rest perpendicular to and directly on the pre-engineered steel or wood pole frame members to support a metal roof cover.
- OPEN WEB JOISTS.** Lightweight, prefabricated metal, parallel chord trusses.
- PANEL.** Any flat raised or recessed surface in a door, wall, ceiling, etc. Any flat sheet of material used as a construction component.
- PANEL, PREFABRICATED.** Any assemblage of construction components into relatively thin units which allows placement as a unit, i.e., wall panels, floor and roof panels, etc.
- PANELIZED ROOF.** A wood roof comprising pre-assembled plywood panels, generally one or a pair of 4' x 8' sheets, having attached longitudinal framing members, usually 2 x 4s, called "subpurlins", such that the panel is placed to span between purlins, attached to Glulam girders.
- PARAMETER.** Any characteristic of a statistical universe which is measurable. In construction square foot, cubic yard, board feet, etc., are cost parameters.
- PARAPET WALL.** The portion of a wall which projects above the roof line.

## GLOSSARY

**PARGING.** A thin coating of mortar applied to masonry walls. Used on the exterior face of belowgrade walls as waterproofing or to smooth a rough masonry wall.

**PARQUET FLOORING.** Wood blocks or strips laid in decorative patterns.

**PENTHOUSE.** In construction, a building constructed on the roof of another building and smaller in area than the roof. Sometimes used loosely to designate the top floor of a building.

**PERCOLATION.** The movement of water into soil. In sewage disposal, speed of effluent absorption.

**PERIMETER.** The total length of all the exterior walls of a building.

**PIER.** A platform structure supported by pilings, extending from land into water. Also a short column which supports a superstructure.

**PILASTER.** A column, usually formed of the same material and integral with but projecting from, a wall.

**PILINGS.** Columns extending below the ground to bear the loads of a structure when the surface soil cannot. They may extend down to bearing soil or support the load by skin friction. Sheet piling is used to form bulkheads or retaining walls.

**PLAN.** A horizontal cross-section of a structure at any level, showing room arrangement, location of doors, windows, etc. Subdivisions of construction plans are floor plans, foundation plans, etc. A site plan will show boundaries of the site and location of structures.

**PLATE.** In carpentry, horizontal framing members which provide the anchorage and bearing for floor, ceiling and roof framing. Any flat construction component designed to distribute loads over a wider area, such as bearing plate, gusset plate, etc.

**PLATE GLASS.** A high-quality glass which has been ground and polished on both sides to decrease distortion.

**PLYWOOD.** A construction material formed by cementing several sheets of wood face to face, the grain running at right angles in alternate layers.

**POINTING.** The process of removing deteriorated mortar from masonry and replacing it with new mortar; also the final patching, filling or finishing of mortar joints in new masonry work.

**POLE BUILDINGS.** Buildings whose principal frame and foundation are treated posts or poles (such as telephone poles) sunk into the ground, with prefabricated trusses and metal siding.

**PORCELAIN ENAMEL.** A highly vitrified glazed surface heat-bonded to a metal surface.

**PORCH.** A wood or concrete platform, often with a roof, found at a building entrance.

**POSTSTRESSED CONCRETE.** Concrete in which tension is placed on the stressing cables after the concrete has set. Concrete may be precast or poured in place.

**PRECAST CONCRETE.** Concrete structural components which are not formed and poured in place in the structure, but are cast separately either at a separate location or on site. Panels may be flat, textured or with extended ribs called tees.

**PRE-ENGINEERED FRAME.** A light, open, steel-skeleton frame consisting of open web, post-and-beam and/or rigid bent configurations.

**PRE-ENGINEERED WALLS.** These walls are prefabricated panels constructed with two sheets or "skins" (interior and exterior) bonded to a core material. The core material is some type of wood fiber, urethane, polystyrene, perlite, foam insulation or some other type of material which has a low density. The thickness and the panel size vary. The panels can be anchored to brackets or connected to the structural frame of a building.

**PRE-FABRICATED WALL PANELS.** These walls are preengineered, unitized single-wall sections for small pre-fabricated booths and buildings, such as service stations.

**PRESTRESSED CONCRETE.** Concrete in which tension is placed on the stressing cables before the concrete has set. The concrete then bonds to the cables.

**PRIME COAT.** The first coat of paint, an undercoat, to prepare the surface for finish coats.

**PUMICE BLOCK.** Lightweight concrete block made with crushed pumice aggregate. Similar to cinder block and called by both names.

**PURLIN.** A horizontal structural member supporting the roof deck and resting on the trusses, girders, beams or rafters.

**QUANTITY SURVEY.** A method of cost estimation which considers a detailed count of all materials going into a structure, together with the cost of labor to install each unit of material.

**QUARRY TILE.** A hard-burned, unglazed clay or shale-type ceramic tile generally used as floor pavers.

**QUONSET BUILDINGS.** A prefabricated metal building having a semicircular (culvert) roof that curves to the ground to form the sides.

**RADIANT HEATING.** A system in which a space is heated by the use of concealed hot water pipe coils or electric resistance wires, normally placed in the floor or ceiling, allowing the heat to radiate into the room.

**RADIANT GAS HEATING.** Gas-fired suspended radiant unit heaters which may be connected to a continuous pipe loop system with vacuum pumps and reflectors.

**RAFTERS.** Structural members supporting the roof deck and covering.

**RATE OF RISE DETECTOR.** A fire detector that indicates the presence of fire based on a sudden temperature increase, generally exceeding 15 degrees.

**REFRACTORY.** A material used to withstand high temperatures, such as refractory brick and concrete.

**RIDGE.** The peak of a double-pitched roof.

**RIGID CONDUIT.** A rigid pipe used as a raceway and protective cover for electrical wiring.

**REINFORCED GROUTED MASONRY.** Reinforced masonry which is laid up in spaced wythes with horizontal reinforcing and with the cavity filled with concrete grouting and vertical reinforcing bars.



## GLOSSARY

- REINFORCING.** Strengthening. Steel rods or mesh are embedded in concrete to increase the strength in tension. Frequently used reinforcements for plaster are asbestos, wood and glass fibers.
- RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING.** Floor covering products characterized by having dense, nonabsorbent surfaces, available in sheet or tile form. Among the various types are vinyl composition (asbestos) tile, asphalt tile, vinyl tile and linoleum.
- RIDGE.** The peak of a double-pitched roof.
- RIGID CONDUIT.** A rigid pipe used as a raceway and protective cover for electrical wiring.
- RIGID FRAME.** A framing system in which columns and roof girders are joined rigidly at the knee.
- RIGID INSULATION.** Insulation made of foamed plastic or glass, cork or pulp (wood, cane, etc.) and assembled into lightweight boards.
- RISER.** The vertical face between two stair treads. Pipe for water, steam, or vent going vertically at least one story and servicing several fixtures.
- ROMAN or NORMAN BRICK.** Styles of jumbo brick that are normally 12" in length. Denotes bricks that are oversize in comparison with the common 8" in length.
- ROMEX.** A wiring trade name for nonmetallic sheathed electrical cable.
- ROUGH-IN.** Drain and water line hookups for laundry facilities or for future plumbing fixture installation.
- RUBBER FABRIC TILE.** A fibrous rubber, velvet-like floor covering made from recycled tires with a vulcanized backing, normally found in entryways.
- RUBBLE.** A local field stone. Masonry constructed from rough, unshaped stone without coursing or regularity laid as a veneer wall facing or as a solid wall.
- RUSTIC LOG WALL.** A solid wall using logs of various diameters. The logs are usually tongue and groove, spiked or doweled using weather sealant or caulking. Normally, the logs are pretreated with preservative.
- R VALUE.** The standard measurement of resistance to heat loss related to a given thickness of insulation required by climatic demands.
- SANDWICH PANEL.** Any wall or roof panel constructed in three layers. Examples include: two sheets of plywood with insulation between, metal one side, gypsum board on the other and insulation between, metal on both sides with insulation between, etc.
- SAWTOOTH ROOF.** A roof with serrated cross-section whose shorter, steep or vertical sides have fenestration for light and ventilation.
- SCR BRICK.** A patent brick with standard dimensions of 5-1/2" x 2-5/16" x 11-1/2". Holes through the brick provide a mechanical mortar bond designed for single-tier (course) walls.
- SCRATCH COAT.** The first coat of plaster, which is scratched or scored to provide a bond for second coat.
- SEALANT.** Any pliable or mastic material used to seal cracks, joints or other small openings to make them weathertight. Also liquids and tars used to seal the pores in concrete work.
- SEAMLESS PLASTIC.** A urethane or neoprene coating which is spray (thincoat) applied or troweled, generally with colored chips added, as a finished floor covering.
- SEPTIC TANK.** A watertight settling tank in which solid sewage is decomposed by natural bacterial action.
- SHAKE.** A shingle split (not sawed) from a bolt of wood and used for roofing and siding, or it can refer to a manufactured imitation.
- SHEAR WALL.** A bracing wall, either interior or exterior, designed to resist lateral forces, especially important in seismic and high wind-load design.
- SHORING.** Temporary structural columns, beams, and bracing, used to support loads during construction.
- SHUTTER.** A movable cover or screen to cover an opening.
- SIAMESE CONNECTION.** A Y-type plumbing inlet for fire hoses; usually found outside for a fire department connection.
- SILL.** The lowest horizontal framing member of a structure, resting on the ground or on a foundation. Also, the lowest horizontal member of a window or door casing.
- SINGLE-WALL CONSTRUCTION.** Each of the wall types listed under the single-wall construction category refers to a wall enclosure which is typically applied over an open skeleton prefabricated metal or wood pole-framed building. That frame characteristically has the same configuration for each cover. The costs include the costs of the horizontal wall supporting girts and cover but not the framing.
- SKYLIGHT.** An opening in a roof, covered with plastic or glass, for light and ventilation.
- SLEEPERS.** A nonstructural timber, board, or metal strip laid on the ground or a basic floor to provide a component to which the finish floor may be fastened. It also may provide spacing for utility runs.
- SLIP FORM CONSTRUCTION.** In concrete construction, forms that move continuously are jacked upward or forward supported by the concrete which was poured previously, shaping the new pour as it moves.
- SLOPE.** The ratio of rise to run to express the angle of a roof pitch.
- SLUMPED BLOCK.** Concrete blocks having a rough surface resembling adobe brick.
- SMOKE DETECTOR.** A fire detector that indicates the presence of smoke based on a light-obscuring principle using photoelectric cells.
- SOFFIT.** The underside or lower horizontal face of any building component such as an overhang, stairs, arch, marquee, etc.
- SPACE HEAT.** A complete individual suspended unit heater which uses a fan or blower system to move warm air. Typically found in large, open, shop areas.
- SPACE FRAME.** A three-dimensional roof structure. Architectural frames are decorative, usually used in atrium areas and may be chrome plated.

## GLOSSARY

- SPAN.** The clear horizontal distance between two supports.
- SPANDREL BEAM.** The beam connecting two exterior columns and supporting the curtain wall.
- SPECIFICATION.** A written description of the materials, construction details, and quality of workmanship required to construct a building in accordance with a related set of plans.
- SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.** A fire-protective system of overhead pipes and outlet heads on a single main connection. There are two basic systems: a wet system, in which the pipes are always filled with water so that a head can be immediately discharged, and a dry system, in which the pipes are filled with air under pressure, with water flowing into the pipes with a drop in air pressure when the head is opened. The dry system can have a separate early alarm to counteract the time delay with closed heads, and this open head and independent detection is known as a preaction system. If a maximum of water is discharged from all the open heads, it is called a deluge system. The type of system, the spacing, the number and type of heads, and water pressure pipe sizing will depend on the hazard involved. There are three classifications: Extra Hazard (certain chemical/oil plants, paint shops, etc.); Ordinary Hazard (most industrial/warehouse facilities); and Light Hazard (almost all other occupancies).
- STACKED BOND.** Masonry units laid so that all joints are in line.
- STACKED PLUMBING.** In multistory buildings, placement of plumbing units one above the other.
- STAGGERED STUDS.** Wood framing in which the studs do not go completely through the wall. The lath or gypsum board wall finish on each side will be fastened to alternate studs. An insulation blanket may be woven between the studs to improve sound insulation.
- STANDPIPE.** An interior or exterior pipe to conduct water to upper floors for fighting fires. May be dry, with connection for pumper at street level, or wet, with water always at the upper floors. Also, a tall cylindrical water storage tank.
- STAY-IN-PLACE FORMING.** A wall constructed of poured-in-place concrete, where the forming material remains in place. The reinforcing is usually a bar set in a grid pattern within the form for the concrete wall. Forms used for the wall are usually some type of a rigid insulation board or metal panel and finish system. Thickness of these walls varies depending on the structural requirements of the building.
- STEAM HEAT.** A heating system in which steam is generated using a boiler and piped to radiators throughout the building by its own pressure. Steam without a boiler is a radiator system receiving steam from an external source such as a central steam plant or adjoining building.
- STEEL FRAME CONSTRUCTION.** A framing system in which the weight of the superstructure is carried to the foundations by steel beams and columns.
- STORM DOOR.** An extra outside or additional door for protection against inclement weather. Such a door also serves the purpose of lessening the chill of the interior of a building, making it easier to heat, and helps to avoid the effects of wind and rain at the entrance doorway.
- STORM WINDOW.** A window placed outside an ordinary window for additional protection against severe winter weather. Also called a storm sash.
- STRESS.** The internal distributed force that resists the change in shape and size of a body subjected to external forces.
- STRESSED SKIN CONSTRUCTION.** A design in which frame and skin, or sheathing, are joined so that the skin may aid in resisting strains.
- STRESSKIN SANDWICH PANEL.** The additional cost for a stressskin sandwich panel wall is the difference between the cost of a solid insulated panel and stud framing as part of a wall. This unfinished bearing panel is composed of two skins of board sheathing bonded to a rigid insulation core. The core thickness can vary.
- STRETCHER COURSE.** Any course of masonry in which the units are laid lengthwise.
- STRUCTURAL.** Describing an element designed to resist stress or wear as opposed to architectural or art elements which are designed for appearance only.
- STRUCTURAL POLYCARBONATE.** A structural honeycombed plastic sandwich panel used for roofing and siding of greenhouses.
- STUCCO.** A coating for exterior walls in which cement is put on wet in layers and when dry becomes exceedingly hard and durable.
- STUD.** A vertical framing member, either wood or steel, to which wall finishes are attached. Usually, only lumber of dimensions of 2" x 4" or less or its steel equivalent is considered as studs. Also, bolt-like components, either threaded or unthreaded, fixed to structural elements to which other elements may be fastened.
- STRUT.** A brace or other member which resists stresses in the direction of its own length.
- SUBFLOOR.** Any surface on which finish flooring is laid.
- SUMP PUMP.** A suction device, usually operated to remove water or waste which collects at the sump pit or tank.
- SUPER FLAT SLAB.** This component is used to adjust for the cost of additional concrete finishing used to create an extremely level and smooth surface on a concrete slab. This type of finish is generally used in industrial applications with low cost representing normal labor with special care, while the high cost range represents mechanical grinding and finishing.
- SUSPENDED CEILING.** This is the grid (track, T-bar, etc.) suspension system that supports an acoustical panel or tile ceiling.
- SYNTHETIC MASONRY VENEER.** A synthetic thin masonry veneer composed of light plaster cement or fiberglass panels to give the appearance of real brick or stone, attached to stud framing.
- SYNTHETIC PLASTER ON RIGID INSULATION.** An exterior wall insulation and finish system (EIFS) consisting of rigid insulation board, reinforcing mesh and a synthetic plaster or stucco coating. Some common trade names are: Dryvit, Insul-Crete, R-wall, Powerwall and Sure-wall to name a few.
- TEDLAR.** A top finish system or coating found on fabrics used for roofs and air-supported structures. Tedlar is a polyvinyl fluoride film manufactured by Dupont.

## GLOSSARY

- TENDONS.** A term applied in construction to the bars or cables used in prestressing or poststressing concrete.
- TERNE.** Steel sheet coated with lead/tin alloy, used primarily for roofing.
- TERRA COTTA.** Hard-burned unglazed or glazed clay, usually molded into shapes for ornamentation of structural surfaces.
- TERRAZZO.** A flooring surface of marble chips in concrete. After the concrete has hardened, the floor is ground and polished to expose the marble chips. In epoxy terrazzo, the concrete filler material is replaced with plastic.
- TEXTURED FACE BLOCK.** Solid masonry wall typically built with one or two rows of exposed, textured split, fluted or ground-face hollow-core concrete block and mortar.
- TEXTURED PLYWOOD.** Plywood siding usually applied in sheets. Exposed surface has been treated or vinyl coated to give the plywood a solid woodboard, stucco or lap siding effect. Panels are found in various grades, thicknesses and species of wood, with redwood and cedar being the most expensive and fir Texture 1-11 the cheapest. Generally, thicker pieces are more expensive. Normal application requires some type of a blocking material to be used for nailing purposes.
- THRU-WALL HEAT PUMP.** A small, self-contained heat pump that is designed to be installed in a window opening or wall. Typically there is no ductwork with this unit. Unlike the larger heat pump, it only services one room.
- TIE.** Any structural member that acts in tension to hold separated structural components together.
- TILT-UP CONSTRUCTION.** A method of construction where concrete wall sections are cast horizontally and tilted or lifted into position.
- TENANT IMPROVEMENTS (TIs).** Improvements to land or buildings to meet the needs of the tenants; may be paid for by the landlord or tenant or be shared between them. Generally, TI's include those items or upgrades beyond the standard TI's include those items or upgrades beyond the standard workletter, or common elements supplied by the landlord.
- TONGUE AND GROOVE JOINT.** Abbreviated T & G. Any joint made by one member with a projecting tongue fitting into another member with a matching groove.
- TORQUE.** A force tending to produce rotation.
- TRANSITE.** A trade name commonly used as a general name for a very dense material made from Portland cement and asbestos fibers and used for roofing and siding. It is also used for pipe and electrical conduit.
- TRUSS.** A rigid, open-web structural member designed and engineered to carry roof or floor loads.
- U FACTOR.** The heat transmission factor of a wall, roof or floor assembly measured in B.T.U. per square foot per degree Fahrenheit.
- UNIFORM BUILDING CODE.** A model code published by the International Conference of Building Officials. It is the largest and probably most influential of the building code groups.
- VAPOR BARRIER.** Material used to retard the passage of moisture through floors, roofs or exterior walls and thus prevent condensation within them; also called moisture barrier. See waterproofing below. The segregated floor component considers a sand or gravel fill base also.
- VENEER.** A layer of material applied to another surface for ornamental or protective purposes. Masonry veneer is brick or stone attached to wood or metal studs.
- VIERENDEEL TRUSS.** An open truss composed of upper and lower chords joined by vertical struts. Since there is no diagonal bracing, horizontal forces are resisted by using hollow tubing for all components which are welded together into a rigid structure.
- VITROLITE.** An opaque structural sheet of glass generally found as a storefront feature.
- WAFFLE SLAB.** A two-way concrete slab formed with metal or plastic pans making a waffle pattern.
- WAINSCOT.** The lower part of an interior wall, which is finished with a different material than the upper part, for protection or appearance.
- WATERPROOFING.** Any material designed to stop the passage of moisture. Plastic sheets or treated papers and asphalt are used for membranes, while various chemical sealants and asphalt applications are used to seal pores and cracks.
- WEATHERSTRIPPING.** Strips of felt, rubber, metal or other suitable material fixed along the edges of a door or window to keep out drafts and reduce heat loss.
- WIRE GLASS.** Glass which is reinforced with wire mesh.
- WOOD AND GLASS PANEL.** An exterior curtain wall system, consisting of high-cost wood siding and glass panels, which is hung on a frame.
- WORKING DRAWING.** A scale drawing showing construction details for use by the contractor or fabricator, showing details for the erection or manufacturing of a particular structural element.
- ZOLOTONE.** A graffiti-resistant interior paint finish system typically found in restroom applications and denoted by its speckled appearance.

