

BUILDING TERMS F

FACADE

The face or front wall of a building.

FACE CO-ORDINATING

That part of a building component or assembly profile required to co-ordinate with the co-ordinating face of other building components or assemblies.

See **ASSEMBLY, COMPONENT, PROFILE**

FACE BRICK

The better quality of brick.

FACED WALL

A wall in which one or both sides is faced with a different material but so bonded that they will act as a unit.

FACE JOINT

In masonry, a joint set ween the stones or bricks in the face of a wall.

FACE PUTTYING

The process of applying putty to the edge faces of a window sash after inserting the glass in a rebate.

FACIA

See **FASCIA**

FALSE CEILING

See **CEILING, suspended or false**

FANLIGHT

A glazed sash above a transom in a door or window frame.

FASCIA

A board fixed horizontally to the lower ends of the rafters, to which spouting may be fixed. Also forms the outside board of a boxed eave.

FASTENER - Corrugated or Wiggle Nail

A corrugated metal strip, used to hold together timbers that are butt jointed.

FAT

Fat or fatty sand is sand not completely washed and containing some clay. Fat mortar is a mortar which sticks to the trowel and is difficult to work with.

FENCE OR FENCING

A wall or railing, defining a boundary to or enclosing an open area.

FENESTRATION

Arrangement of windows or openings in a building.

FERROCONCRETE

Concrete reinforced with steel bars or mesh embedded in the material before it sets, to provide increased strength.

FIBREBOARD

A building board composed of fibrous material (e.g. wood, cane).

FIBRO-CEMENT OR ASBESTOS cement

A building sheet composed of asbestos fibres and cement.

FIBROUS PLASTER SHEETING

A sheeting for lining internal wall and ceiling surfaces, manufactured from Gypsum plaster with sisal or other fibre as reinforcement.

FILLET

A small strip of wood or a flat moulding of small section.
Tilting: See **BATTENS**, Tilting

FINISHES

The final applied coat or natural surface of a material used in walls, ceilings or floors of a building.

FINISH, Flat

The appearance of a painted surface which, after drying out is not glossy.

FINISH HARDWARE

Exposed hardware in a house (e.g. door knobs, door hinges, locks).

FIRE BARRIERS

Fire-resisting doors, enclosed stairway⁵, and similar obstructions for preventing the spread of fire in a building.

FIREBREAKS

See FIRE Barriers.

FIREBRICK

A brick especially manufacture a to resist high temperatures in fireplaces, furnaces.

FIRE DOOR

A door set comprising:

- the door leaf or leaves with glazing, if any, and hardware or other built-in features;
- the door frame with its fixing to the wall and, in the case of a sliding door, with all guides and their respective fixings to the wall or sill; and
- in the case of any automatic door, the approved sensing devices and the closing mechanism, or in the case of a self losing door, the door closer. he set is identical in assembly, construction, and installation with a prototype that has been submitted to a fire test as set out in ASA30 and has fulfilled all relevant test requirements and is installed to protect openings in fire rated walls and partitions against the passage of fire.

FIRE ESCAPE

A fire-rated stairway to provide a means of escape, in case of fire, for persons within the building.

FIRE EXTINGUISHING EQUIPMENT

Drenchers, fire hydrants, sprinklers, emulsifiers. hand operated foam sprays and chemical sprays.

FIRE HAZARD

Danger of fire. An internal hazard arises from the structure or the contents of the building. An external hazard arises outside the building.

FIRE HYDRANT

An outlet from a water main to which a fire man can connect their hose and control the flow as they wish.

FIRE ISOLATED STAIR

A stairway which is isolated from the remainder or a building by components which will prevent the spread of fire to the stair, thus providing an area of safe refuge or escape.

FISHED JOINT

An alternative joint to scarfing, formed by butting squared ends of timber together and connecting them by means of 2 metal or wood fish plates on opposite sides, all bolted together.

FITTING - Electrical

Any device for supporting one or more lamps, together with lampholders, shades, and reflectors e.g. a bracket, pendant, ceiling rose, or portable standard.

FIXED-PIN BUTT - FAST-JOINT BUTT

A hinge with the pin riveted or otherwise fastened, holding the two parts of the hinge together permanently.

FLANGE

A projecting edge, rib or rim (e.g. the flange of a bath), flashing, galvanized iron, lead or other impervious material used in parts of a building to prevent the penetration of moisture.

***Apron:* A horizontal flashing used, for example, where the roof is parallel to and abuts a wall.**

***Stepped:* Shaped pieces of material used for flashing where a sloping roof abuts a wall or chimney. Each piece of material is inserted into the wall joints and dressed over the roofing material.**

FLAT

A self-contained dwelling unit other than a house.

FLAT-ROOF

A roof with just enough pitch to provide drainage of rain water or melting snow.

FLEMISH BOND

A bond of headers and stretchers alternating in every course, laid as to always break joints, each header placed in the middle of the stretchers in courses above and below.

FIRE LOAD

The amount of heat generated/square metre of a building floor in the event of its contents and combustible parts being completely burnt on the assumption that the burning material is spread uniformly over the floor.

FIREPLACE

A space (usually an unclosed recess in a wall) in which fuel is burned for the purpose of heating the room into which it opens.

FIRE POINT

The lowest temperature at which a substance ignites and continues to burn when aflame is put to it.

FIREPROOF

A term which should not be used since no practical construction can withstand fire indefinitely See **FIRE RESISTING**

FIRE PROTECTION OF STRUCTURAL STEELWORK

The covering provided to structural steelwork such that the transmission of heat from a fire to the steel is delayed.

NOTE: Bare steel frames are liable to fail rapidly in fires, much more quickly even than thick wood joists. Suitable covering may consist of reinforced concrete, brick, asbestos, plaster on metal lathing or similar materials.

FIRE RATED CONSTRUCTION

A structure which is constructed in a manner and with materials which resists the spread of fire for a specified period of time.

FIRE RESISTANCE RATING

A fire resistance rating as determined in the Standard Fire Test.

FIRE-RESISTING

A more precise term than fireproof referring to a building part which will not burn.

FIRE-RESISTING FINISHES

Paints based on silicons, polyvinyl chloride, chlorinated waxes, urea formaldehyde resins, casein, borax, and other incombustible substances which form a coating and thus considerably reduce the rate of flame spread of a combustible material .

FIRE-RESISTING GLAZING

Wired glass or electro-copper glazing built into a frame and having a fire rating.

FIRESTAIR

See **FIRE ESCAPE**

FIRE STOP

A construction of non combustible material: located in a roof void, false floor void or other voids to reduce the

volume of the void: designed and installed to limit the radiation of heat and the transmission of smoke and gases from one compartment to another with a void.

See also FIRE BARRIERS

Note: Technical advice should be sought in regard to location and extent of fire stopping.

FIRE WALL

An internal wall that divides a storey or building into sections to resist the spread of fire.

FIRRING PIECES OR FURRING PIECES

Members used for framing to cover engineering and plumbing services and to produce continuous surfaces.

FIRSTFLOOR

The floor which is next above the floor at ground level.

FIRSTSTOREY

The space between the first floor and the floor above.

FLEXIBLE CONDUIT

A nonrigid conduit

FLEXIBLE CORD

An insulated conductor consisting of stranded wire.

FLIGHT

A series of steps from one stair landing to another.

FLITCHED BEAM

Consists of 2 timber with a wrought iron or steel plate sandwiched in between, the whole assembly being bolted together.

FLOATING

In 2-coat work. the first coat of plaster. When used as the final or finished coat it is scaled 'float finish'.

FLOATING FLOOR

Discontinuous construction for sound insulation, by separating the wearing surface of the floor from the load bearing part, whether concrete or wooden. In both cases, a glass-wool quilt is laid on the rough floor with battens laid on it without nailing, and finished floor boards nailed to the battens. If the finished floor is to be a concrete screed, this is laid direct on the glass wool.

FLOATING SLAB

A raftlike slab composed of concrete, reinforced with steel rods or mesh, usually erected on unstable soil.

FLOOR - Finished Floor

A floor covering, usually of highgrade material, laid over the subfloor or structural floor.

FLOOR FRAMING

The framework for a floor, consisting of bearers and joists

FLOOR JOISTS

See JOISTS, floor

FLOOR SURFACING

Bringing a floor to an even finished surface, e.g. when a timber floor is sand papered by mechanical means. (See 'SANDING'.)

FLOOR-TO-CEILING HEIGHT

See HEIGHT, Floor-to-ceiling

FLOOR-TO-FLOOR HEIGHT

See HEIGHT, Floor to-floor

FLOOR-TO-ROOF HEIGHT

See HEIGHT, Floor-to-roof

FLOOR VENTILATION

The free movement of cross currents of air beneath a building provide a by vents and other openings in the foundation walls.

FLOOR ZONE HEIGHT

See HEIGHT, Floor Zone

FLUE

An enclosed passageway or duct (eg pipe, chimney) for carrying off smoke, gases, or air.

FLUFFING

The increase in volume that occurs when cement is poured from its bag.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

See COLD-CATHODE LAMP

FLUSH JOINT

- to place two adjacent surfaces together in the same plane.
- to form an invisible joint between two such surfaces, e.g. sheets of plaster-board.

FLUTING

Decorated with grooves or channels (e.g. a fluted column).

FOOT

The lowest part of (eg a rafter, a column).

FOOTING

The construction whereby the weight of the structure is transferred from the base structure to the foundation. See also FOUNDATION

FOOTINGS, STEPPED

Footings formed in steps to rise or fall from one level to another.

FORCED CIRCULATION

A pumped circulation, as opposed to a gravity circulation.

FORMS

Prepared forms of timber or other material for the casting of concrete.

FOUNDATION

The ground upon which the footings of a building are constructed

FRAME OR FRAMEWORK

- in joinery, the name given to the frame around a door or window opening;
- in carpentry, the main members of a structure when fitted and joined together.

FRAME

Hurdle: An open timber frame composed of two vertical members and one or more horizontal members.

Solid: A door or window frame constructed from solid timbers, as distinct from built-up sections.

FREESTONE

Stone that can be easily shaped with tools, e.g. most sandstones.

FRIEZE

The upper portion of a wall immediately below the cornice.

FROG

The indent on one of the larger faces of a brick which forms a key for mortar (see also 'KEY').

FRONTAGE

The line or lines marking the division between a building site and a street.

FRONTAGE, width of

The shortest distance between the points of intersection of the side boundaries of a building site with the street frontage.

FURNACE

An apparatus in which heat is generated and maintained by the combustion of fuel; a heating plant.

FURRING

Term applied to spacer elements used to maintain a space between a finish and the structural element behind it.

FUSE (Fuse Link)

That part of a cut-out that is designed to open an electric circuit under an excessive load. (See, 'CUT OUT')

FUSE SWITCH

An electric switch in which one or more fuse links are included in the portion that, in its closed position, forms the connection through the switch

FUSIBLE LINK

A metal part which, until it melts, holds open a fire door. It then releases the fire door, which closes.

FUSIBLE PLUG

A metal plug of low melting point, in part of a boiler just above the furnace, under the water. If the water level drops below the fusible plug, this will melt and steam will blow down in to the fire and put the fire out. A similar plug is used in sprinklers and drencher.