

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS 2:

- ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act
- AIA:** American Institute of Architects
- AIR SPACE:** A void space between building materials.
- BEARING WALL:** A wall capable of supporting an imposed load.
- BRICK:** A solid or hollow masonry unit of clay or shale, molded into a rectangular shape.
- CANTILEVER:** A beam, girder, truss, or other structural member which projects beyond its supporting wall or column.
- CAPITAL:** The topmost member of a column.
- CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE:** Concrete which is deposited in the place where it is required to harden as part of the structure.
- CAVITY WALL:** An exterior wall, usually masonry, consisting of an outer and inner with separated by a continuous air space, but connected together by wire or sheet-metal ties. The dead air space provides improved thermal insulation.
- CHASE/SHAFT:** A continuous recess built into a wall to receive pipes, conduit, and/or ductwork.
- COLUMN:** A vertical structural member that supports a load which acts in the direction of its longitudinal axis.
- CONCRETE:** A composite material which consists essentially of a binding medium within which are embedded particles or fragments of aggregate.
- CORRIDOR:** A long interior passageway providing access to several rooms.
- COURSE:** A layer of masonry units running horizontally in a wall.
- EXIT:** The portion of a means of egress which is separated from the rest of a building by walls, floors, doors, or other means and which provides a reasonably protected path of escape for the occupants of a building in the event of a fire.
- EXIT ACCESS:** The portion of the means of egress that leads to an exit.
- EXIT CORRIDOR:** A corridor or enclosed passageway connecting a stairway, fire tower, or other required exit with a street or alley.
- EXIT DISCHARGE:** The portion of the means of egress between the termination of the exit at the exterior of the building and the ground level.
- FIRE AREA:** Any area in a building, encompassed by fire walls and/or exterior walls, within which a fire would be confined because of the surrounding fire-resistant construction.
- FIRE PARTITION:** A partition which has a fire-resistant rating, but does not qualify as a fire wall, and acts as a barrier against the spread of fire within a building.
- FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING:** The time in hours that a material or construction can withstand fire exposure.
- FIRE SEPARATION:** A floor or wall having a fire-resistance rating and acts as a barrier against the spread of fire within a building.
- FIRE WALL:** An interior or exterior wall having sufficiently high fire resistance and structural stability, under conditions of fire, to restrict its spread to adjoining areas or buildings, usually extending from the lowest floor to about 3' above the roof.
- GYPSUM WALLBOARD/DRYWALL:** A rigid sheet composed of gypsum, or other materials; fastened to the frame of a building to provide an interior surface finish. Typically the standard used in wallboard installation.
- HABITABLE ROOM:** A space used for living, sleeping, eating, or cooking, or combinations thereof, but not including bathrooms, closets, halls, storage rooms, utility and similar spaces.

- HOIZONTAL EXIT:** A means of passage from one building into another building occupied by the same tenant, or from one section of a building to another section of the same building occupied by the same tenant, through a separation wall having a specified fire-resistance rating.
- LOAD-BEARING PARTITION:** A partition capable of supporting an imposed load in addition to its own weight.
- MASONRY UNIT:** A natural or manufactured building unit of stone, clay, glass, etc.
- MEANS OF EGRESS:** A continuous path of travel from any point in a building or structure to the outside at ground level.
- MEZZANINE:** A low-ceilinged story or extensive balcony, usually constructed next above the ground floor.
- NONBEARING WALL:** A wall supporting no load other than its own weight.
- NONCOMBUSTIBLE:** A material of which no part will ignite and burn when subjected to fire.
- PARTITION:** A dividing wall within a building.
- PARTY WALL:** A wall used jointly by two parties under easement agreement, erected upon a line dividing two parcels of land, each of which is separate real estate entity; a common wall.
- P.E.:** Professional Engineer
- PRECAST CONCRETE:** A concrete member that is cast and cured in other than its final position.
- PREFAB:** A factory-built product that is assembled off-site and delivered to the site for installation.
- RESILIENT CHANNEL:** A fabricated metal strip used for attaching gypsum board to studs or joists without a solid connection so as to reduce the transmission of noise and vibration.
- RETAINING WALL:** A wall, either free standing or laterally braced, that bears against an earth or other fill surface and resists lateral forces.
- ROUGHING-IN:** The rough work in any phase of construction; e.g., framing, mechanical, plumbing, or electrical systems.
- ROUGH OPENING:** An opening in the framework of a building, into which a door or window frame is fitted.
- ROWLOCK:** A brick laid on its edge so that it is visible, typically used for exterior window sills or as an architectural detail in the brick façade.
- SOLDIER:** A course of bricks laid on end, typically used over and exterior window or door or as an architectural detail in the brick façade.
- SPLIT FACE BLOCK:** A solid or hollow concrete masonry unit, split lengthwise, so as to provide a rough texture.
- STAGGARD:** Descriptive of fasteners, joints, studs, etc., arranged in two or more rows so that the beginning of each row is offset from the adjacent one.
- TOILET PARTITION:** Panels that create an enclosure around a plumbing fixture, usually toilets and urinals.
- WEEP HOLE:** A small opening in a wall or window member, through which accumulated condensation or water may drain to the building exterior.