

## **Glossary for the Virtual Tour (Junior High-High School Edition)**

### **A**

**Acanthus** – Representation of Acanthus plant leaf used in architecture and decorative arts as an ornamental motif, specifically in Classical architecture of the Greeks and Romans. Also used in the capital of the Corinthian order.

**Ad valorem taxes** – *Ad valorem* is a Latin phrase meaning “according to the value,” meaning it is a tax proportional to the value of the underlying asset. Usually a type of property tax.

**Alabaster** – A type of fine-grained gypsum that has been used for statuary, carvings, ornaments, church fittings, and monuments. Normally snow-white in color, however, it can be dyed or even be translucent depending on the treatment.

**Ante-chamber** – A room that serves as a waiting area and entry to a larger chamber.

**Anthemion** – A decoration in architecture consisting of radiating petals and used widely in Classical architecture.

**Arch** – A curved structure, usually a doorway or gateway, that serves as support for a structure.

**Architect** – A skilled person in the art of building, who designs complex structures such as government buildings, monuments, housing, etc.

**Architecture** – The art and technique of designing and building.

**Architrave** – In Classical architecture, the lowest section of the entablature (see **entablature**) directly above the capital of a column.

**Art Nouveau** – Meaning “new art,” Art Nouveau is a style of art and architecture that was popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is known by its floral designs, flowing lines, and curved tendrils.

**Attic** – Denotes any portion of a wall above the main cornice (see **cornice**).

## **B**

**Balustrade** – A row of short, molded pillars (also called balusters) supporting a handrail designed to prevent falls from elevated architectural elements. Interior balustrades are commonly made of wood or metal.

**Barrel-vaulted ceiling** – A barrel vault is the simplest variety of vaults appearing as an elongated cylinder spanning between two parallel walls or supports, resembling half of a barrel.

**Bas-relief** – A type of decorative sculpture in which shapes and figures are cut from surrounding stone and project slightly from the background.

**Bead** – Curved or rounded molding that appears in the shape of a bead. Sometimes called a reed.

**Bead-and-reel** – Molding carved to resemble a continuous row of bead-like and reel-like shapes.

**Beaux Arts** – An architectural style based on Classical architecture known for being scholarly, self-confident, grand, and lush. It was popular during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Bond** – A loan agreement issued by local, state, or national governments requiring the return borrowed money.

## **C**

**Capital** – The top or head part of a column, pilaster, or pier which is ornamented in a way to distinguish the order of architecture. A capital is also the city in a state which is the seat of the state government.

**Capitol** – A building in which a state or federal legislative body meets.

**Cartouche** – A carved element resembling a scroll, or an oval shape or decorative shield.

**Cast-iron** – Type of hard iron that will not bend easily and is made into shapes by being poured into a mold when melted.

**Chamber** – A hall for the meetings of a deliberative, legislative, or judicial body.

**Classical architecture** – Architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. A type of architecture seen as having authoritative excellence and associated with a desire to establish laws, order, and rules in artistic matters.

**Coat of Arms** – A special shield or shield-shaped crest that is the sign of a family, university, city, or state.

**Coffered ceiling** – A ceiling with square, polygonal, or spherical shapes sunken into it as decoration.

**Colonnade** – A row of columns supporting part of a structure.

**Column** – A vertical or standing post that has a base, shaft, and capital. It is often used for structural support in Classical architecture. There are five orders of Classical architecture: Doric, Ionic, Tuscan, Corinthian, and Composite; all of which are distinguishable by their capitals.

**Composite order** – A Roman order of architecture. An ornate version of Ionic using acanthus leaves of the Corinthian order, giving composite its name.

**Console** – A type of bracket (support) or corbel, usually with a scroll-shaped profile (side).

**Corbel** – A bracket (support) or weight-carrying element built deeply into a wall for structural support.

**Corinthian order** – Found in both Greek and Roman architecture, it is characterized by its capital, which consists of acanthus leaves.

**Cornice** – Decorative projection designed to protect wall face or to ornament eaves.

**Cupola** – A small dome that sits above a larger dome.

## **D**

**Dentil** – A row of small blocks, forming a molding, usually underneath a cornice (see **cornice**) in Classical architecture.

**Dome** – A curved ceiling formed from a vault that usually forms a roof of a structure.

**Doric order** – An order of Classical architecture with a simple column and capital.

**Drum** – A circular wall that supports a cupola or a dome, often pierced by windows.

## **E**

**Egg-and-dart** – A series of oval and arrow shaped moldings that alternate to form a pattern.

**Entablature** – The horizontal band of moldings above columns, consisting of an architrave, frieze, and cornice. (see **architrave**, **cornice**, and **frieze**).

**Executive Branch** - One of the three branches of state or federal government. This body, usually the governor of a state or the president of the United States, is responsible for the completion and enforcement of laws and policies.

## **F**

**Façade** – External face of a building, especially the main front.

**Finial** – Decorative end or top of a pinnacle, spire, canopy, etc.

**Flute** – Vertical groove on columns or pilasters.

**Foundation** - A level bearing built into the ground to support a building constructed over it.

**Frieze** – The middle of the entablature set above the architrave and beneath the cornice (see **architrave**, **cornice**, and **entablature**).

## **G**

**Gallery** – A seating elevated above the chambers, which is intended for spectators of the Legislative Session.

**Garland** – Ornamental molding of leaf or floral wreath-like bundles.

**Gilding** – The art of decorating with gold leaf or gold in powdered form.

**Gilt** – Covered with gold or gold leaf (see **gilding**).

**Gold leaf** – Extremely thin sheet of gold used for gilding.

**Governor** – Elected official who is head of a state.

**Granite** – Coarse-grained hard rock composed of feldspar, mica, and quartz. Usually grey or dark red in color.

**Greek key** – Geometrical pattern consisting of horizontal and vertical lines joining at angles to form a row of key-like shapes.

**Guilloche** – Ornamental pattern of intermediate circular shapes all the same size surrounded by curved bands.

**Gutta** – (*pl. guttae*) An ornament resembling a cone under the eaves or overhang.

## **I**

**Ionic order** – One of the Classical orders of architecture known by its scroll-like capital.

## **J**

**Judicial Branch** – One of the three branches of government, state or federal. Responsible for the interpretation of laws and administering justice.

## **L**

**Legislative Branch** – One of the three branches of federal or state government. The body that is responsible for making laws.

**Lieutenant Governor** – An elected official just under the governor in state government. In Mississippi, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate as President of the Senate.

**Limestone** – A sedimentary rock usually used in building construction.

## **M**

**Marble** – Granular limestone. It can be polished and comes in a variety of colors; some colors may be veined. Used in the sculptural arts and architecture.

**Medallion** – Panel or tablet, usually circular or oval, that has either a portrait or figures in relief.

**Modillion** – Ornamental block or bracket under the cornice.

**Mosaic** – A decoration usually found on floors or walls consisting of squares of different colors and materials (i.e., glass, stone, tiles, shells, etc.) to make a design or picture. Done by placing squares onto a prepared surface of adhesive.

**Motif** – A distinctive recurring shape or form in design.

**Molding** – Any continuing projecting element of architecture that has definition, casts shadows, or outlines edges. Usually found along ceilings and walls.

## N

**National Historic Landmark** – A historic place that holds national significance.

**Niche** – A shallow, ornamental recess in a wall. Sometimes used to display statues, urns, or other ornaments. Often arched with a half-dome carved to look like a scallop-shell.

## O

**Order** – Also called **order of architecture**. Any of several classical styles of architecture that are defined by the particular type of column and entablature used in a basic unit.

## P

**Pediment** – Triangular shape forming the end of a roof slope over a portico (see **portico**).

**Pilaster** – A rectangular column attached to a wall, projecting slightly from the wall.

**Plan** – Drawing of a building showing the arrangement of rooms.

**Plaque** – A metal plate, stone slab, or any kind of tablet that is usually inscribed and planted or inserted in a surface such as a wall or pavement.

**Podium** – A raised area on which a person stands to speak to a large number of people.

**Port-cochère** – A roofed structure extending from the entrance of a building over an adjacent driveway.

**Portico** – Covered porch or entrance supported by regularly spaced columns supporting a roof.

## **R**

**Relief** – A form of sculpture where figures project from a background.

**Repoussé** – Metalworking in which metal is hammered into a mold from the back.

**Representative** – An elected official who serves as representative of a constituency in a legislative body.

**Restoration** – A process of carrying out alterations or repairs to a building in order to restore them to their original forms.

**Rosette** – A circular ornament with floral design, usually found on ceilings.

**Rotunda** – Cylindrical shaped room contained within a larger building, usually under the drum or dome.

## **S**

**Scagliola** – Also known as faux marble or imitation marble. It is made from plaster of Paris (crushed gypsum), mixed with gelatin (or similar substances) and then painted to look like marble.

**Senator** – An elected official who works in the Legislative Branch of the government to represent voters.

**Session** – 1. A period of time in which a legislative body meets; 2. A formal meeting or a series of meetings in which a legislative body conducts business.

**Speaker of the House** – The presiding officer of the House of Representatives elected by members of the House.

**Stained glass** – Colored glass used for making decorative windows.

**Supreme Court** – A state Supreme Court acts as part of the Judicial Branch of government and is the highest level of courts in a state. Primarily responsible for correcting or upholding rulings from lower courts.

## T

**Terracotta** – Specifically, glazed architectural terracotta. A type of complex terracotta used in building construction, particularly popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a clay-based material that is molded or carved, glazed, then fired. Often imitates stone appearing like granite or limestone.

**Terrazzo** – A type of flooring made of small pieces of marble set in cement or resin that is poured and then smoothed when dried.

**Triglyph** – Upright block in a Doric frieze that projects slightly.

**Tuscan order** – Of the five orders of architecture, Tuscan is the simplest of the orders. It resembles Doric but lacks triglyphs on the frieze and has a very plain base.

**Tympanum** – The triangular, or semicircular, face of a pediment, or the area enclosed by a pediment, often containing sculptures.

## V

**Vault** – An arrangement of arches that usually form a ceiling or roof.

**Vestibule** – Entrance-lobby or hall immediately located between an entryway and a building's interior.

**Volute** – Spiral scroll element usually found in fours on Ionic capitals and eights on Composite capitals.

## W

**Wainscot** – Paneling that covers the lower part of interior walls. Usually made of wood, but sometimes marble or tile as well.

## Y

**Yazoo Clay** – An expansive clay found in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Being an expansive clay, it absorbs large quantities of water during rainfall or flooding, which causes the



soil to expand greatly. Then when dry it shrinks. The constant swelling and drying causes foundational problems.

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