

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acadian-Creole: Descriptive term for an architectural style that blends French-Canadian, Spanish Colonial, and Carribean influences in response to the local climate and inherited building traditions of the early settlers of the Gulf Coast.

Accessibility: Accessibility for people with disabilities is defined by building standards and codes that apply to new construction, renovations and additions made to existing buildings and facilities that are covered by non-discrimination laws. Accessibility provisions in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Rehabilitation Act, apply to public buildings and facilities and to 5% of the dwelling units in any federally funded program. The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 cover all newly constructed multi-family projects and require a much larger percentage of accessible units but not the same level of accessibility required by the other federal laws. It is important to note that no federal accessibility law currently covers 1-, 2- and 3-family housing units, with the exception of a very small number (5%) that are built through federally funded programs. Contrast with "Visitability" which has fewer requirements.

Apron: A raised panel below a window sill.

Arts & Crafts: Eclectic movement of American domestic architecture in the arts and architecture during the second half of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century, emphasizing craftsmanship in a regional expression.

Balustrade: An entire railing system including a top rail, balusters, and often a bottom rail.

Batten: A narrow strip of wood applied to cover a joint along the edges of two parallel boards in the same plane.

Beaded-Profile Panels: Panels manufactured to resemble traditional bead board.

Biodiversity: The tendency in ecosystems, when undisturbed, to have a great variety of species forming a complex web of interactions. Human population pressure and resource consumption tend to reduce biodiversity dangerously; diverse communities are less subject to catastrophic disruption.

Boxed Eave: (boxed cornice): A hollow eave enclosed by the roofing, the soffit, and building wall.

Brickmold: Window or door trim, typically 2 inches wide.

Building: The complete, outfitted, and furnished 'Structure,' operational in every way, and ready for immediate occupancy and use.

Classical Architecture: The architecture of Hellenic Greece and imperial Rome.

Classical Revival: An architecture movement in the early 19th century based on the use of Roman and Greek forms.

Colonial Revival: The use of Georgian and colonial design in the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Corner Board: A board which is used as trim on the external corner of a wood-frame structure.

Cornice: An ornamental molding at the meeting of the roof and walls; usually consists of bed molding, soffit, fascia, and crown molding.

Crown Molding: Projecting molding forming the top member of a cornice, door, or window frame.

Dentil: One of a band of small, square, tooth-like blocks forming part of the characteristic ornamentation of some classical orders.

Doric Order: The column and entablature developed by the Dorian Greeks, sturdy in proportion, with a simple cushion capital, a frieze of triglyphs and metopes, and mutules in the cornice.

Fascia: Vertical board that terminates a sloped roof at the eave.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency (<http://www.fema.gov>)

Fenestration: Any opening, or arrangement of openings, in a building (normally filled with glazing) that admits daylight and any devices in the immediate proximity of the opening that affect light distribution (such as baffles, louvers, draperies, overhangs, light shelves, jambs, sills, and other light-diffusing materials).

Gable: The vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof, from the level of the cornice or eaves to the ridge of the roof.

Gable L: Describes the massing of a house having a hipped roof with a projecting gable form at the front, typically two-thirds the width of the facade.

Gable Roof: A roof having a gable at one or both ends.

Hipped Roof: A roof which slopes upward from all four sides of a building, requiring a hip rafter at each corner.

Home Energy Ratings Systems (HERS) Rating: A HERS rating is an evaluation of the energy efficiency of a house, compared to a computer-simulated reference house (of the identical size and shape as the rated home) that meets minimum requirements of the Model Energy Code (MEC). The HERS rating results in a score between 0 and 100, with the reference house assigned a score of 80. From the 80 point level, each 1 point increase in the HERS score results in a 5 percent reduction in energy usage (compared to the reference house). Therefore, an ENERGY STAR qualified new house, that is required to be at least 30% more energy-efficient than the reference house, must attain a HERS score of at least 86.

Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs): Rigid foam forms that hold concrete in place during curing and remain in place afterwards to serve as thermal insulation for concrete walls. The foam sections are lightweight and result in energy-efficient, durable construction. Visit www.forms.org to learn more.

Invasive Vegetation: An exotic plant adapted to very similar growing conditions as those found in the region to which it is imported. Because such a species usually has no natural enemies (pests, diseases, or grazers), it flourishes, disrupting the native ecosystem and forcing out native plant species, resulting in habitat loss, water-table modification, and other serious problems.

Ionic Order: The classical order of architecture characterized by its capital with large volutes, a fasciated entablature, continuous frieze, usually dentils in the cornice, and by its elegant detailing.

Jack Arch: A flat or straight masonry arch.

Knee Wall: Short, vertical wall that closes off the low space created by a sloping ceiling and the floor.

Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): LEED is a building environmental certification program developed and operated by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Light: A pane of glass, a window, or a subdivision of a window.

Lintel: A horizontal structural member (such as a beam) over an opening which carries the weight of the wall above it.

Louver: An assembly of sloping, overlapping blades or slats designed to admit air and/or light and exclude rain and snow.

Low-E: Most often used in reference to a coating for high-performance windows, the 'e' stands for emissivity or re-radiated heat flow. The thin metallic oxide coating increases the U-value of the window by reducing heat flow from a warm(er) air space to a cold(er) glazing surface. The best location for the coating is based on whether the primary heat flow you want to control is from the inside out (heating climates) or the outside in (cooling climates).

Manufactured House: A Manufactured House or "HUD-code" house complies with the 1976 Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act. Manufactured houses are constructed on non-removable steel chassis and are generally placed on site in a more temporary manner, anchored to the ground without permanent foundations. Visit www.mfghome.org to learn more.

Massing: The general form or shape of a building.

Modular House: Houses composed of multiple, factory-built units, or modules, that are up to 90% finished when shipped from the factory to the house site. Walls, floors, ceilings, stairs, and some interior work are built in a conditioned factory. The modules are individually shipped on flat-bed trailers to the site where they are placed by crane on permanent foundations. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing are roughed-in at the factory and finished on-site. Visit www.modularhousing.com to learn more.

Mullion and Muntin: The vertical and horizontal members separating (and often supporting) window, doors, or panels set in series.

Native Vegetation: A plant whose presence and survival in a specific region is not due to human intervention. Certain experts argue that plants imported to a region by prehistoric peoples should be considered native. The term for plants that are imported and then adapt to survive without human cultivation is naturalized.

Natural Cooling: Use of environmental phenomena to cool buildings, e.g., natural ventilation, evaporative cooling, and radiative cooling.

Passive Solar Design: Designing a building's architectural elements to collect, store, and distribute solar resources for heating, cooling, and daylighting.

Rafter Tails: A rafter, bracket, or joist which projects beyond the side of a building and supports an overhanging portion of the roof.

Roof Pitch: The slope of a roof expressed as a ratio of its vertical rise to its horizontal rise.

R-value: Quantitative measure of resistance to heat flow or conductivity, the reciprocal of U-factor. The units for R-value are (ft² h °F)/Btu (English) or (m² °C)/W (SI or metric). While many in the building community consider R-value to be the primary or paramount indicator of energy efficiency, it only pertains to conduction, one of three modes of heat flow, (the other two being convection and radiation). As an example of the context into which R-value should be placed, 25% to 40% of a typical house's energy use can be attributed to air infiltration.

Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER): The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio is the efficiency rating for air conditioning units. The higher the SEER rating, the better the energy efficiency. SEER is the ratio of the amount of BTUs used for cooling in normal annual use to the total amount of electrical power (measured in watts) over the same period.

Shed Roof: A roof shape having only one sloping plane.

Shutter Dog: A pivoting bar for fixing shutters in the open position against a wall.

Side Gable: Describes the massing of a house having the gable end (or roof ridgeline) perpendicular to the street.

Side Hall: Narrow residential house type that is one room wide, associated with French settlements and the Mississippi River region.

Simulated Divided Light: Refers to a light in a window sash that is visually subdivided by applied muntins and that simulates a true divided sash.

Site: The natural location intended for the 'Building,' altered, modified, and prepared to the point where 'Construction' activities for the 'Structure' can be initiated.

Site Selection and Preparation: That complete sequence or series of activities and actions that begins with the natural environment and results in some specific geographic location defined in terms of boundaries, and altered and modified to the point where it has become the building 'Site' ready for 'Construction' to begin.

Skirting Board: A board set horizontally at the bottom of wall cladding.

Soffit: The exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building, such as a beam, cornice, lintel, or vault.

Stile-and-rail: Type of door construction that utilizes a framework of vertical and horizontal members infilled with panels.

Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs): High-performance building panels for floors, walls, and roofs in residential and commercial buildings. Each panel is typically made using rigid foam insulation sandwiched between two structural skins of oriented strand board (OSB), though other surface types are available. The result is a building system that is very strong, energy-efficient, and cost-effective. Visit www.sips.org to learn more.

Structure: The completed building envelope on the 'Site,' externally and internally complete, including all operating systems ready for its interior furnishings.

Sustainable: The condition of being able to meet the needs of present generations without compromising those needs for future generations. Achieving a balance among extraction and renewal and environmental inputs and outputs, as to cause no overall net environmental burden or deficit. To be truly sustainable, a human community must not decrease biodiversity, must not consume resources faster than they are renewed, must recycle and reuse virtually all materials, and must rely primarily on resources of its own region.

Tongue-and-groove: Method of joining materials, usually wood, where a tongue or projection in one board fits the groove of its neighbor.

V Zone: (Velocity Zones): Areas within the floodplain subject to potential high damage from waves.

Verge: The edge projecting over the gable of a roof. Also, the area of planting, lawn or pavement between the sidewalk and the curb on a street.

Vergeboard: An ornamental board hanging from the rake, or verge, of a gable roof.

Vernacular Architecture: A mode of building based on regional forms and materials.

Victorian Architecture: Revival and eclectic architecture of Great Britain named after the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901); also its American counterpart which reached its zenith in the U.S. during the latter half of the 19th century.

Visitability: Unlike the more extensive features legally required by accessibility standards and codes, visitability involves a short list of features recommended for voluntary inclusion in virtually all new homes—single-family detached, rowhouses, etc. Visitability features are those most crucial for people to remain in their homes if they develop an impairment, and to visit their neighbors as full members of the community. These features include at least one entrance without any steps on an accessible path at the front, side or back of the home, depending on topography; all interior passage doors providing at least 32 inches of clear passage space; and at least a half bath (preferably a full bath) on the floor served by the zero-step entrance that has minimum space requirements for access by a person who uses a wheelchair. Refer also to "accessibility" which has more extensive requirements.

Vocabulary: A collection of related architectural elements, materials, or stylistic conventions used to describe a building or structure.

Water Course or Water Table: A board or masonry projection fixed to the foot of a wall to shoot water away from it.

Wetland: In stormwater management, a shallow, vegetated, ponded area that serves to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Window-to-floor Ratio: The ratio of total, unobstructed window glass area to total floor area served by the windows, expressed as a percentage. This value can also be further subdivided by solar orientation (such as south-facing window-to-floor ratio).

Wing: a subsidiary part of a building extending out from the main portion or body.

Zero Energy House: Any house that averages out to net zero energy consumption. A zero energy house can supply more than its needs during peak demand, typically using one or more solar energy strategies, energy storage and/or net metering. In a zero energy house, efficiencies in the building enclosure and HVAC are great enough that plug loads tend to dominate and so these houses must have the added focus of high efficiency appliances and lighting.

RESOURCES

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Reichel, Claudette, Ann Berry and Pat Skinner 2005 Louisiana State University AgCenter.
This guide is a comprehensive planning and analysis tool to assist homeowners in Louisiana to find information on advantageous components of a sustainable house in Louisiana. It outlines a range of low-cost options to higher-end, higher-performance solutions, and basic principles of building science that should be considered when choosing and installing any building system or technology in a hot-humid or mixed-humid climate. Download: <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/0DF04281-3A2F-45B5-ADDA-B85AAEED74CC/10859/FULL.pdf>
- My House, My Home.
Louisiana House Home and Landscape Resource Center. LSU AgCenter.
Whatever its style or age, your home can be more sustainable—able to meet your needs today, tomorrow and years from now—while being kind to the environment and a great investment. Whenever you build, remodel or restore a home, make it more: Energy Efficient and Comfortable; Termite Resistant; Wind Resistant; Flood Resistant; Mold and Decay Resistant; Healthy; Convenient. www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/home/la_house/my_house/index.htm
- Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC) Clearinghouse for whole building design, product information, professional training, consumer education, and analytical tools: www.sbicouncil.org
- City of New Orleans Vieux Carré Commission regulates all demolition, new construction, and additions or alterations to existing structures in the French Quarter. Similar activities in 13 other locally-designated historic districts in New Orleans are regulated by the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission and the CBD Historic District Landmarks Commission. These three commissions offer detailed guidance on virtually every aspect of building in historic districts—in effect, a New Orleans-specific Pattern Book. You can access the resources available from all three of these commissions at www.cityofno.com.
- Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans maintains a typology of vernacular and historical building types particular to and characteristic of the city at www.prcno.org. The PRC also details which building types are typically found in which of New Orleans' 17 National Register Historic District neighborhoods. These cover an area larger than the city's designated historic districts, including much of the land area developed prior to the 20th century.

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Four complementary initiatives are an integral part of the Louisiana Speaks program for the recovery of South Louisiana.

THE PARISH RECOVERY PLANNING PROCESS engaged citizens actively in developing their vision, goals, strategies, and a list of high priority, high impact projects to jump start the recovery in their area.

A series of three demonstration **PLANNING CHARRETTES** was conducted by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company in three separate locations that have distinctly different urban conditions.

A REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM, led by Calthorpe Associates, undertook the development of a long-term vision for Louisiana.

THE LOUISIANA SPEAKS PATTERN BOOK and **TOOL KIT**, developed by Urban Design Associates, form the bridge between these initiatives. These two documents present tools and techniques from both the planning charrettes and the regional vision processes in a form that can be used by communities throughout the state for both rehabilitation and new construction.

For more information on the Louisiana Speaks program for the recovery of South Louisiana visit www.louisianaspeaks.org