



à Patrimoine

Matières

L'ART DE BÂTIR
EN RÉGION CENTRE
DU MOYEN ÂGE
À NOS JOURS

GLOSSARY



www.inventaire-patrimoine.region-centre.fr

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Slate

Slate is a schistous rock extracted from quarries and split into sheets to cover roofs. These sheets called slates are named after the material and can last up to 300 years. The main French deposit is located near Angers.

Wallow

This construction technique requires raw earth mixed with vegetal fibres. The wall is built in successive layers. A drying time is required between each layer.

Concrete

Although well known in ancient Rome, it was rediscovered in the 18th century and reproduced from the second half of the 19th century onwards, particularly in its reinforced form. Composed of sand, gravel and cement, it is noncombustible and its resistance leaves the space of the load-bearing structures free, giving rise to spacious buildings. It can be poured in any mould and offers great formal freedom to the architect.

Wood

Solid but flexible, insulating, light and durable, it has been an essential resource since Antiquity. The house in timber frames, which was common in the Middle Ages and Modern era cities is easy to build. Wood is also used as fuel in forges, ironworks, lime kilns, brick, ceramic and other buildings.

Brick

Made of clay, a very present material in the Centre region, it has a good thermal inertia and regulates humidity. It is called "raw" when it has been dried in the sun and "cooked" when it has been cooked on fire. Bricks are lighter than stone and require less stonework

Coating

Coating is applied to a surface to protect it. Usually made of lime mortar or plaster, it preserves the structural work from bad weather. Coating also has a decorative role and its shade varies according to the sands used, often extracted nearby.

Weatherboarding

Cladding with wood planks (shingles) or slate, protecting fragile walls (timber framing, cob...) from bad weather. It is usually installed on the side of the house that is exposed to rain.

Metal

Long used in ironwork and as a backup to consolidate the stone, its triumph started with the Industrial Revolution. Being non-flammable, cast iron and steel also have a better range than wood and enable a rapid construction of large structures with longer roof frames, which are decisive factors in raising factories and hangars.

Timber framing

Also called "half-timbering", it is a wall made up of pieces of wooden framework, most frequently filled with cob or brick. It has often been covered with plaster to avoid the propagation of fires. Nowadays some timber frames are rediscovered.

Stone

It provides a certain nobility and an undeniable solidity. Soft, the limestone can be used in rubble or finely carved. Sandstone is more resistant precisely making it an excellent component, particularly for substructures. Flint is extremely hard and is used in lump, often with brick.

Raw earth

It is still used for its insulating properties and its easy use. Nevertheless, it remains fragile when confronted with bad weather.

Cob

Mixture of raw earth and hay or straw, used as a filling, especially in timber framing. The filling obtained is called slab.

Tile

Having the same qualities that brick has. In the Centre region flat tile is traditionally used because adapted to steep slopes that favour water drainage.

Translation: Sao Sadio (University of Orléans)



Mosaic decoration with
foliage of thistles on a house
in Orléans (Loiret)

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