

## Designing A-Z (Part 2)

Last week featured a guide to designer terms, with A-M. This week, we complete the glossary with N-Z. Whether you are hiring a design professional, or planning to do work yourself, be sure you understand these terms before you get started.

**Niche**—recessed opening, often arched at the top, set in a wall with a shelf, often lit from the top to display sculpture or objects of art (see Figure 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2

**Organza**—sheer, stiff silk or synthetic fiber, often used for fashionable evening wear (see Figure 2).

**Parquet**—wood floor laid in geometric patterns (see Figure 3).



Figure 3



Figure 4

**Quatrefoil**—rounded, Gothic tracery design with 4-leaves or "foils" (see Figure 4).

**Rosette**—round, elaborately detailed pattern resembling a rose, most often found in a carved wood or plaster mould application.

**Sconce**—wall-mounted electrified or candlelight fixture.

**Torchier**—standing lamp with indirect upward light (see Figure 5).



Figure 5

**Undertone**—The colour obtained when a coloured pigment is reduced with a large proportion of white pigment. The colour seen when a coloured pigment is spread on glass and viewed with light passing through it.



Figure 6

**Vignette**—little displays; using art or decorative pieces to create small decorative displays (see Figure 6).

**Widow's Walk**—rooftop platform, said to have been created for widows seeking their husbands who had been lost at sea, often found on Victorian homes (see Figure 7).



Figure 7

**Yard**—a unit of length, often used to measure fabric, equal to 3' 0" or 36".

**Zigzag**—pattern formed by a continuous line, which turns sharply back and forth making a series of "V's".

Even the simplest of projects can come with challenges. Understanding some basic terms will help to get you started, however it is always best to consult with a professional to ensure that you did it right, the first time.