

# WINDOWS ON YOUR WORLD

## ARCHITECTURAL GLOSSARY



The following architectural terms are relevant to the Seeing Project, 'Windows on Your World' workshop sequences, regardless of your location in the western world.



### Semi-circular or rounded arched windows

Round arches first appeared in Mesopotamia in the second millennia BC – as much as four thousand years ago. The Ancient Romans were the first to use these on a wide range of building types.



### Pointy arched window

'Gothic' is another word for describing pointed arched windows. Gothic architecture started in France in the 12th century and continued until the 16th century. There was a Gothic revival in Britain during the reign of Queen Victoria. Lots of British 19th century public buildings and churches were designed in the Gothic style.



### Segmental arch window

Segmental arches are just that – a segment (or part of) a semi-circular arch. This kind of arch often featured in Victorian architecture, especially in housing and industrial buildings like warehouses, shirt factories and mills.



### Tudor arch windows

The Guildhall in Derry has lots of Tudor arches.



### Casement windows

Casement windows open outwards in the UK and Ireland like the lid of an old fashioned suit case or trunk. In mainland Europe they often open inwards.

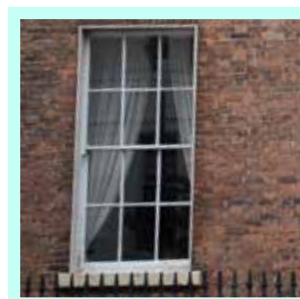


**Stained glass window**



**Rose window**

Gothic churches often have a rose window. These are usually above the entrance door



**Twelve pane (or six over six) sliding sash windows**



**Quarter pane sliding sash windows**



**One over one pane sliding sash windows**

Quarter pane and one over one pane sliding sash windows feature in Victorian and Edwardian architecture.

For more information on Victorian architecture contact [www.victoriansociety.org.uk](http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk)

## 12 pane sliding sash windows

**Frame** – holds panes of glass and sometimes has opening frames, called sashes, letting air in

**Sash** – the parts of the window that opens, either sliding up or down, or in or out

**Astragals** – the slender framing members within an overall frame. These are horizontal and vertical subdivisions that create smaller rectangular shapes for panes of glass.

**Old window frames were made of wood** (timber). In countries where there was a lot of rain these were often painted to protect the wood – very durable wood, like oak, was sometimes left unpainted. One example of this is unpainted oak doors at Trinity College.



**Pane** – a flat piece of glass in a window frame

**Clear float glass** – modern glass made in a factory. This has a completely flat surface. Reflections in this type of glass are sharply defined mirror images.

**Hand blown glass** – old glass. This usually has ripples in the surface that result in very interesting reflections. Old hand blown glass is very special and an important part of an old window's character. Try to save it if you can.

**Putty** – a soft material used to hold the panes of glass into the frame. After a while it hardens.

**Lintel** (or lintol) – a horizontal beam across the top of the window (or door). Lintels carry the weight of the wall above. Lintels in old buildings were sometimes made of stone on the outside and timber on the inside. Usually timber lintels inside were plastered over.

- o In old brick buildings, the weight of the outside wall above windows (and doors) was carried by bricks built into a flat, rounded or pointy arch – this is different to a lintel.

- o Today lintels behind brick or stone are usually made of concrete or steel.

**Cill** – this is the part of the window opening beneath the bottom of the frame. In parts of the world where it rains a lot, old cills were designed to stick out a bit beyond the wall. This stopped rain dripping onto the wall below, helping to keep the wall drier.

## Stained glass window

**Frame** –the outer frame was made of stone, iron or sometimes wood

**Mullions** – vertical divisions in an overall window opening, made of stone or wood

**Transomes** – horizontal divisions in an overall window opening, made of stone or wood

**Tracery** – intricately shaped carved stone framing in Gothic windows

**Ferramenta** – horizontal cast iron bars built into the walls on each side of the window. The panels of stained glass windows are tied onto these for support.

**Cams** – hold the small pieces of glass together. They are made of lead. Lead in pencils is hard but the lead in cams is softer and bends to follow the shape of each piece of glass. Lead cams are too soft to carry the weight of the glass. Rectangular panels of stained glass are each tied to the horizontal ferramenta for support.

**Coloured glass** – has no pictures on the surface

**Cathedral glass** – textured glass, often pale yellow

**Fine detail** – like hands and hair is created by painting glazes onto the coloured glass with a brush

**How do you stop the pictures washing off in the rain?** Coloured glass and glaze are fired in a kiln to bake the glaze. This stops it washing off in the rain.

**Stained glass artists** create the design of the pictures in stained glass windows





Some examples of 'Classical' windows:



Some examples of 'Gothic' windows:



## What's around an old window on the outside?

- Stone quoins
- Lintels
- **Yellow sandstone**
  - o In Derry~Londonderry's old buildings this often came from Dungiven



- Old red sandstone
- Portland stone – this is a limestone and is a pale putty colour. It comes from Portland in Dorset, England and was often used for civic buildings. Derry's courthouse is an example of a Portland Stone building.

- **Red clay bricks**
  - o Long ago clay bricks were made at Campsie outside Derry
  - o Other places famous for historic brick making in Northern Ireland include:



- Bann Brick made from clay around the River Bann
- Arney brick made from the boulder clay beside Arney River, Co Fermanagh
- Brown clay bricks
- Sandstone cill – sandstone, softer than granite, basalt or carboniferous limestone (found in Fermanagh) was more easily carved or 'dressed'. It was often chosen for cills, quoin stones and other details on the building.
- **Rubble stone** – this is usually a local stone. Builders used whatever was handy.
  - o In Derry~Londonderry the local stone is called schist or 'whinstone'. It's a grey-green colour and very special because we can't get it anymore. Derry's local schist stone was used to build the famous city walls, lots of the city's churches – like St Columb's Cathedral, St Eugene's Cathedral, St Augustine's –also known as 'the wee church on the walls', as well as old yard and alley walls too.

o What's the local stone in your area? If you're not sure have a look at the old buildings and old walls, maybe the pavements too, and see if you can identify a stone that seems to be used a lot. If you're not quite sure what it is, a local stone mason or conservation architect would probably be able to tell you.

o Interestingly the rubble stone walling at Long Tower Church, in Derry~Londonderry, is not a local stone. This church was built with rubble stone salvaged from the demolition of the Old Gaol in Lifford, Co Donegal.

- Joints – the spaces between stones and bricks in a wall
- Pointing – the material that is pushed into the joints between stone or brick
- Old pointing was made of lime and sand
- Modern pointing is usually made of lime, sand and cement



# Classical Window



Flat window head or Lintel

Red clay bricks

Plaster reveal

Glass held in with putty

Pane of modern clear float glass

Upper sash slides down

Outer frame

Lower sash slides up

Astragals

Painted wood or timber frame

Cast iron railings

Cill (painted stone)



# Stained Glass Window

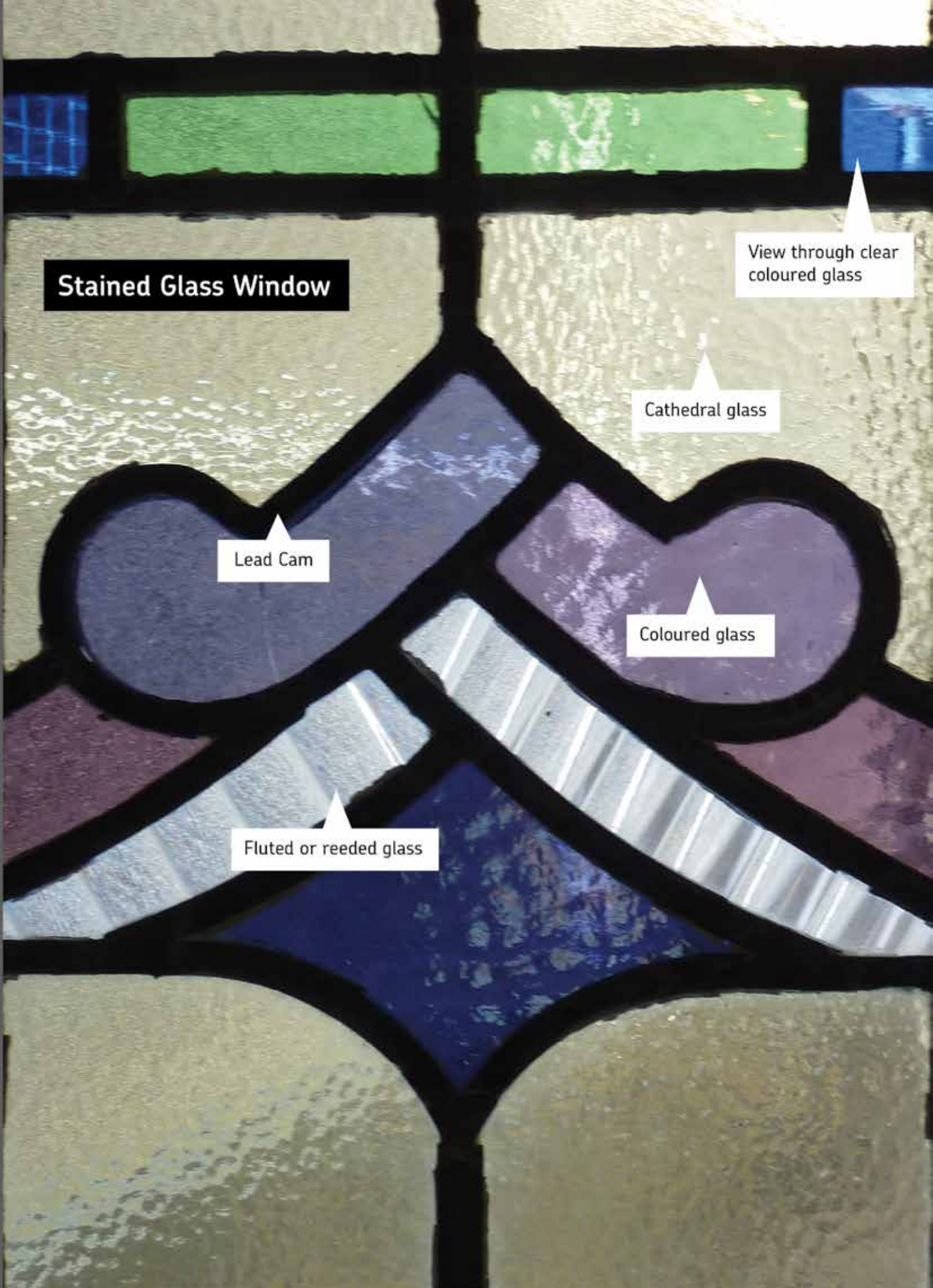
View through clear coloured glass

Cathedral glass

Lead Cam

Coloured glass

Fluted or reeded glass







**Gothic Windows**

Perpendicular style of stone tracery

Carved sandstone tracery

Carved sandstone quoins

Carved sandstone cill

Derry's local stone - schist or "whinstone"

**Derry's St. Columba's Cathedral, c.1628 Planters Gothic**



# Tudor Arch Window

Red clay brick

Tudor arch

Astragal

Painted timber sliding sash windows

Old red sandstone quions

Sandstone cill

University of Ulster, Magee College, former professors houses



# Classical door (Georgian)

Brown clay brick

Painted plaster reveal

Clear handblown glass

Brick voussoirs form round arch

Painted wooden lintel

Brass door bell

Painted 4 panel door

Sandstone steps

Georgian door and fanlight above The Deanery, Derry

