



SEASONS GREETINGS

The staff of Ehlinger & Associates extends Seasons Greetings to all of our friends who receive the Newsletter. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year!



N.D.-sur-l'EAU

DOMFRONT, NORMANDY, FRANCE

Notre Dame-sur-l'Eau (Our Lady by the Water) is an early Romanesque style church in the town of Domfront (meaning St. Front or Frontius) in Normandy, France. Domfront is a small town built on a rock crest 200' (70m) above the gorge that commands the Varenne River that flows through the gorge

in Lower Normandy. The population of Domfront is only slightly more than 4,000 today. It was always rather small, yet it was one of the earliest towns to build a church after the end of the Dark Ages in the 11th century.

Romanesque architecture is the name given to the style of buildings built during this time because the forms and structure are derived from the forms and structure used by the Romans. Large round arches, cylindrical (barrel) vaults, engaged buttresses, and thick walls characterized Romanesque buildings. In addition these buildings were designed and executed with great timidity due to the ignorance and lack of experience of their builders.

The walls of Romanesque style buildings were quite thick, because of the builder's inability to calculate structural strength as well. Caution prevailed. Windows were quite small, especially in comparison with the Gothic period that came later, probably due to fear of weakening the walls and an inability to determine how much light would be admitted. The walls were strengthened by buttresses that were usually expressed on the inside rather than on the outside of the building, from the Roman tradition, and probably also because the builders had a limited understanding of the structural functioning of the buttresses.

The horizontal spanning components were usually barrel vaults that were supported on the side walls. In some instances, the barrel vaults were at right angles to the main axis of the building, each side by side so that each vault braced its neighbor's thrust, and in turn all thrust was transferred to the ends where large buttresses resisted it.

Despite the crudeness of the Romanesque buildings, they were quite expressive of the fervor and power of their builders. Their simplicity and directness rendered great meaning to the observer.

The Perfect Crown

The use of highly decorative ceilings and walls in America is associated with the "Greek Revival" or "Neoclassical" periods of the first part of the 19th Century.

The interiors of the better houses built in the period carried out the classic motifs on cornices, ceilings, friezes, and mantels.

Every aspect of design required strict attention to detail, including, and most importantly, an attention to proper proportioning.

A molding is a construction member of wood, stucco, and in today's world, plastic or other similar material. It is used to introduce varieties of outline or contour in edges or surfaces, and to cover the joint where vertical and horizontal surfaces join.

A crown molding, so called because it "crowns" or finishes the part to which it is attached, is an ornamental cornice, running around the walls of a room just below the ceiling. It can also be found forming the top member of a door or window frame, or on the exterior trim of a structure at the meeting of the roof and wall.

The American Builder's Companion by Architect Asher Benjamin, 1806, was widely used at the time for its practical text, illustrations, and designs.

Of special interest is the treatment of the design of cornices, which represents the best of the Neoclassic methods.

Moldings composed of parts of a circle and straight lines are called Roman, because the Romans seldom used any other curve than that of a circle.

Moldings made of part of an ellipse, or a parabola or hyperbole are in the Grecian Style.

The rules were a guide line. The final designs did not have to be strictly true to the rules and in great measure depended on the judgment of the designer:

1. "To proportion cornices for rooms:

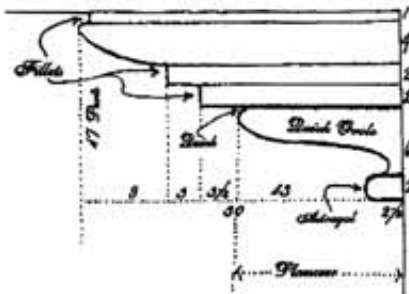
Give one fortieth part of the height of the room."

10 ft high walls = 3" high cornice
(120 inches/40 = 3")
15 ft high walls = 4-1/2"
20 ft high walls = 6"

2. "The projection of cornices, for rooms, ought to be at least 1/4 more than their height; the parts should be as few as possible, and those well proportioned"

3" cornice = 3-3/4" projection
4-1/2" cornice = 5-1/2" projection
6" cornice = 7-1/2" projection

3. "About half of the projection ought to be given to the planceer (the lower portion indicated below that is an "S" curve), which will prevent its looking bulky, and give it a light appearance."



4. "Their fillets ought not to be too small, give them a good projection before each moulding; at least as much as they rise."

5. "Their quirks (V shaped grooves) ought to be large, as the principal beauty of plain cornices depends on the shows of their quirks."

6. "When mouldings are ornamented, they may be larger than when plain, as carving lightens them. They ought never to be too much crowded with ornaments, but always leave a sufficiency of plain space to form a contrast."

7. "Three embellishments are generally sufficient for any cornice, and one may be in the planceer."

8. "The bending, or turning inward, of the upper edge of the Grecian,

or quirk ovolo, when a light shines on its surface, causes a beautiful variety of light and shade, which greatly relieves it from plane surfaces."

INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE



Several years ago Ehlinger & Associates had the opportunity of working with TADD Services Corp. of Belmont, California in an investigation for termites in a New Orleans church.

A "TADD" dog sent for the specific purpose of helping to locate subterranean termites. On the day of the inspection the dog was brought to the church in an air-conditioned van. It was a small beagle, friendly and playful until its trainer placed the Red Collar around its neck.

The Red Collar meant "time to work". The dog immediately began to sniff. It sniffed up and down and all along the outside and inside of the church, on every floor and wall in every room.

When it detected an active termite area it would stop and point, much in the same manner as a bird dog would, and then paw the ground surface.

Wherever it pointed and pawed, the "human" crews would follow with tools to pick and dig through the floor and walls at the identified area. The dog worked like a charm. Several colonies of termites were discovered in the foundation and walls that might otherwise have gone undetected for a long time.

The animal behaviorist owner of TADD Services selected male beagles for training because of their keen sense

of smell and hearing (even more so than the female beagles), their intelligence, and their small, non-intimidating size. Beagles can crawl into spaces that no human is capable of entering. This selection occurred after they tested numerous species of animals, and then of dogs.

The owner of TADD Services got very interested in the problem of undetected termites after he bought a house which came with a "termite free certificate". When he demolished a few walls in beginning a remodeling after purchase of the house, he discovered that the house was termite ridden. When he complained to the maker of the "termite free certificate" that the house was totally infested with termites, he was reminded that the certificate said that the house was free of any evidence of visible termites -- and that those termites that were found were all concealed.

Being an animal behaviorist, he felt that there had to be a better way -- that there had to be some other type of animal that could detect termites by smell or some other means or facility that humans didn't have. He then began a series of tests to determine which type of animal could best detect termites. After settling on male beagles, he then invented a methodology of training the dogs to be virtually perfect in their detection of termites, and patented his invention.

The TADD dogs' uncanny ability to locate as few as twenty live wood destroying insects in hidden places has been demonstrated and documented in thousands of searches.

All the dogs are owned by TADD services. They are never sold, but can be leased to a licensed pest control operator, provided the operator agrees to maintain the dog in a beneficial environment, and to have a handler trained by TADD.

So, the next time you suspect that you may have termites, insist that your pest control company utilize a trained dog, such as a TADD dog (there are competitors now), to locate the termites. One word of caution: if you have Formosan termites or dry wood termites that are not in contact with the ground, a trained dog may have problems locating them by smell.