

PEDIMENT MOULDINGS

A PEDIMENT may be either triangular or a portion of one or more circles in elevation.

That portion between the horizontal and raking cornices is termed the tympanum and is either left plain or finished with sculpture or carving. The raking mouldings whether curved or straight may continue as one cornice, intersect at the apex, or be left open at the top, when they are called broken pediments.

Pediments most probably owe their origin to the inclined roofs of primitive buildings. In classic architecture they are mainly triangular as seen on the ends of Greek temples over the porticoes.

In the Renaissance period they were used with varying broken or unbroken outlines over doors and windows.

The pediment is of great value in architectural composition to give variety, by virtue of the contrast between the raking or curved and the horizontal cornices; besides which the definite apex can emphasize an opening as a focal point of design.

Both the examples shown are of broken pediments; the same section has been used in each case and the same plan has been made to serve both elevations.

The principal members must intersect at the springing in a straight line mitre, 45° on plan, which produces a section that is wider normal to the inclined surface than normal to the horizontal.

To obtain the intersection line at the springing, draw the plan of the mouldings including some additional points in the curves, and project the elevation from the mitre line on plan.

The true shape of the raking section is found by projecting, normal to the slope, the plan projection of the principal member as at points 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The remainder of the section is unchanged being equal in both directions.

The broken portion of the pediment is obtained by returning the moulding at right angles to the wall face. Again, this will appear as a 45° mitre on plan and the elevation is found by projecting from plan to the corresponding lines in elevation.

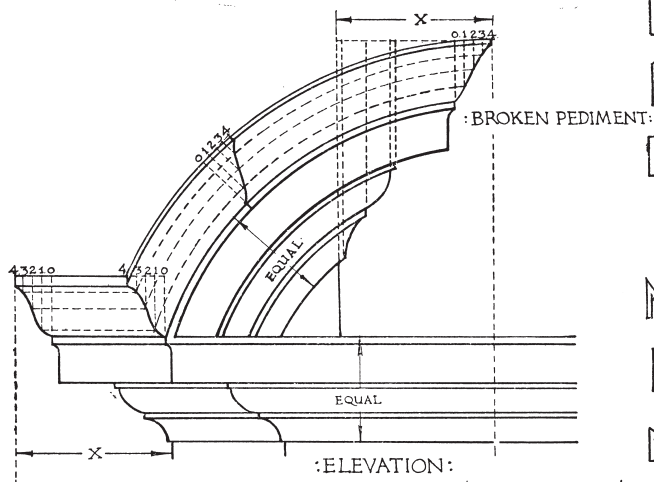


FIG. 1.

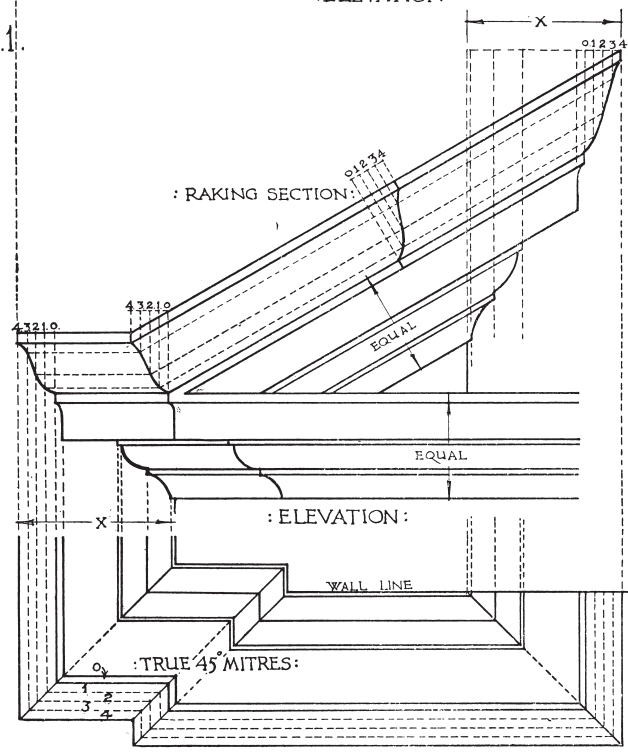


FIG. 2.