

About building elements

Up to the end of the 1900s, the majority of ordinary buildings could generally be described as consisting of five primary elements, these being: exterior walls, interior walls, storey partitions, roofs and foundations.

Most of the standard building technology literature and, to an extent, the building legislation also recognise these divisions, which were in use up to the middle of the 1900s.

The same divisions have therefore been used in these articles. Each of the building elements is described in detail with regards to its construction and materials as well as its temporal prevalence.

Utilities in their present sense were largely absent in ordinary (residential) buildings in the middle of the 1800s: most of what we find familiar today came after that time.

We have grouped utilities as a single building element, but have described the various types in more detail in the overview.