



COMPOSITE ENTABLATURE

CLASSICAL PRIMER

THE COMPOSITE ENTABLATURE

by Martin Brandwein

The Composite entablature has the same general proportions as the Corinthian with $\frac{3}{4} D$ for the architrave, $\frac{3}{4} D$ for the frieze and $1 D$ for the cornice. The projection of the cornice is also $1 D$. Five equal divisions define the elements of the cornice. A cyma recta (cymatium) sits at the top of cornice followed by the corona with its cyma reversa and flat fascia. Cut into the underside of the corona at the drip is a shallow cyma recta which leads into a cyma reversa. A dentil band below the cyma reversa is the most distinguishing

feature of this entablature. Each dentil is $\frac{1}{6} D$ wide by $\frac{1}{5} D$ tall so that the dentils are larger and squatter in appearance than in the Ionic or Corinthian orders. An ovolo sits below the dentils. A conge slopes down into the upper moldings of the architrave. There are two distinct bands below these moldings.

Palladio's version of the entablature has blocks which are large brackets resembling simplified modillions which take the place of dentils.