



Dormers:

Do you have an existing attic that needs light or lacks head room? Are you tired of bending over and crawling on your knees? Want to add a bedroom upstairs? Or are you designing a new house and want to maximize the floor space? All of these problems have the same solution: a dormer.

Dormers are an architectural invention that create more head room in an attic space or allows natural light in through the roof. They project outward from a sloping roof so that a person can stand up straight and have the use of increased floor space. Without a dormer, most attic roofs pitch so steeply and start to slope close to the attic floor that it's hard to stand up straight. Dormers will typically include a window to allow natural light into the attic space.

There are several styles of dormers and a particular style of dormer is usually chosen to compliment the main roof design or the overall design of the building. The most basic dormer is a gable dormer with a triangular gable roof facing towards the exterior. These dormers are narrow in width and are often repeated several times in a building.)

When more width or useable floor space was desired from a dormer design, a shed dormer was built. A Shed dormer's eave line is parallel with the eave line of the main roof. They are quite simple looking and very easy to frame up. They can be extended to be as wide as you like and frequently extend over the entire back facade of a Cape style house.

Another style of dormer is the hipped dormer. In this configuration, the roof slopes on three sides. Hipped dormers are similar to gable dormers because they are narrow and therefore, are usually repeated several times in the roof design.

Finally, eyebrow dormers are quite unique, and take their name from the graceful curve of the roof line above the window. A unique design can be created by combining two or even three different styles of dormers and contrasting them side by side in the same roof.