

## Week 3 – Glossary of Terms: Application Techniques & Surface Finishes

Term	Definition
<b>Base Coat</b>	The initial layer of plaster applied to the wall, designed to even out the surface and provide a stable foundation for additional coats.
<b>Finish Coat</b>	The final, visible layer of plaster that determines the texture, color, and appearance of the surface.
<b>Trowel</b>	A flat-bladed hand tool used to apply, smooth, and shape plaster on the wall. Comes in different sizes for different tasks.
<b>Hawk</b>	A handheld platform used to hold plaster while it's being applied with a trowel.
<b>Float</b>	A tool (often wooden or sponge-faced) used to smooth or texture plaster, particularly helpful in the finishing stages.
<b>Burnishing</b>	The process of compressing the surface of the final coat of plaster to create a smoother, sometimes shiny finish, usually with a metal trowel.
<b>Sponge Float</b>	A float with a sponge face used to soften the plaster surface or to blend joints and create texture.
<b>Setting Time</b>	The period it takes for plaster to begin hardening after application. Can vary based on thickness, temperature, and mix components.
<b>Open Time</b>	The time during which plaster remains workable before it begins to set. Critical for multi-layered or decorative finishes.
<b>Skim Coat</b>	A very thin application of plaster (1–3 mm) meant to smooth or refine an existing surface.
<b>Scratch Coat</b>	A rough first coat scored with a tool to help subsequent layers bond better.
<b>Keying</b>	The act of creating mechanical texture in a plaster layer (such as with a comb or wire brush) to aid adhesion of the next coat.

<b>Layering</b>	Building up multiple coats of plaster in succession, allowing partial or complete drying between layers.
<b>Pigment Wash</b>	A diluted mix of pigment and water or binder applied to dry plaster for added color depth and variation.
<b>Texture Finish</b>	A decorative technique that intentionally leaves the surface rough, patterned, or uneven to enhance visual interest or material feel.
<b>Velatura</b>	A thin, semi-transparent tinted plaster wash used to tone a surface and create visual depth.
<b>Scagliola</b>	A traditional Italian plaster technique using pigmented plaster to imitate marble or stone.
<b>Crack Bridging</b>	A plaster system's ability to span or mask small substrate cracks without breaking or detaching.
<b>Plaster Bloom</b>	A subtle mottling or clouding effect that can occur naturally in some finishes as they cure, often desirable in decorative applications.
<b>Feathering</b>	The process of blending plaster edges into surrounding areas to create a seamless transition between layers or patches.
<b>Slip Coat</b>	A preliminary, thin liquid coat of plaster or binder used to help adhesion before the main coat is applied.
<b>Seam Blending</b>	The technique of smoothing over joints or transitions in plaster to ensure a uniform finish without visible lines.
<b>Tadelakt (Referenced)</b>	A Moroccan waterproof lime plaster technique often burnished with soap. Mentioned as reference for burnishing effects and finishes.
<b>Knife Marks</b>	Intentional or accidental lines left by the plastering tool—often embraced as part of a natural, hand-applied aesthetic
<b>Pull Time</b>	The moment in the setting process when the plaster starts to stiffen—ideal for certain finish techniques like compression or pigment wash.

<b>Substrate</b>	The surface on which plaster is applied (e.g., brick, wood, gypsum board, or clay board). It must be properly prepared to receive plaster.
<b>Working Edge</b>	The section of fresh plaster being actively worked during application. Keeping a clean, wet edge is important for seamless results.
<b>Compression</b>	The action of pressing or compacting plaster during the setting phase to densify the surface and bring out sheen or pattern.