



Ceiling Trusses, Private Home, New Orleans, LA

Carpentry

The carpenter's art is difficult to appreciate because it generally lays hidden underneath siding, shingles, or coatings of plaster and stucco. We thus lose sight of the fact that a building's frame, a skeleton of beams and posts that gives a structure its form and volume, is its crucial first element. Wooden buildings were quite numerous in New Orleans until 1794 when, as a result of a terrible fire that destroyed much of the French Quarter, new laws were passed that stipulated use of masonry construction as a safety measure.