

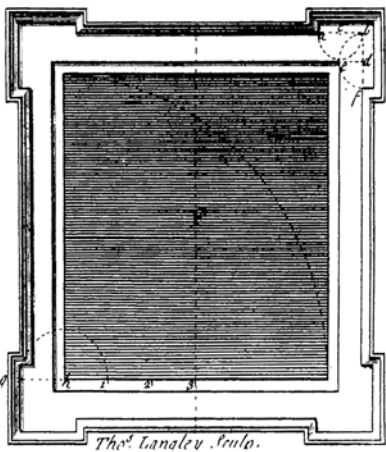
Construct a Crossetted Frame

BY MARK ARNOLD

Projecting corners add architectural interest to a mirror's frame.

Architectural elements on which intersecting vertical and horizontal members extend beyond a simple lapped or mitered joint are said to be “crossetted.” The term has been used to describe any projecting corner treatment and has been a decorative staple employed by artisans and designers for centuries.

Of classical origin, crossetted elements were widely used in baroque and Georgian interiors, and can be found on windows, mantels, doorways and other cased openings as well as on mobile pieces of furniture such as picture and mirror frames. Crossettes can even be



A window on the past. Detail of Plate XXXIX, (*Windows for Attick Story's*), “*The Builder's Jewel, or, The Youth's Instructor, and Workman's Remembrancer*” by Batty Langley, 1741, suggests a crossetted exterior treatment for a window.



Hanging around. The finished mirror frame lends visual interest to the wall above a fireplace.

found on more rustic pieces such as Arts & Crafts frames, for example, whose members simply overlap one another as they extend beyond the outside of the fenestration.

A crossette can be applied to one or both sides of a corner. When a crossetted frame is topped by a decorative entablature, the projection often occurs only on the vertical elements. Its effects are most striking, however, when the “square” formed by the extended members is completely enclosed by a decorative moulding.

The crossetted frame presented here is closely modeled after a cherry frame of Ohio origin made around 1840 that features a particularly ornate moulding. When wrapped around each of the projecting corners, the moulding creates a decorative square detail. In essence, each corner is itself a small square frame that has no aperture because the inside edges all meet at a single point.

An applied rosette can sometimes be found in the center of this square on more sophisticated examples of this type of frame. On this particular