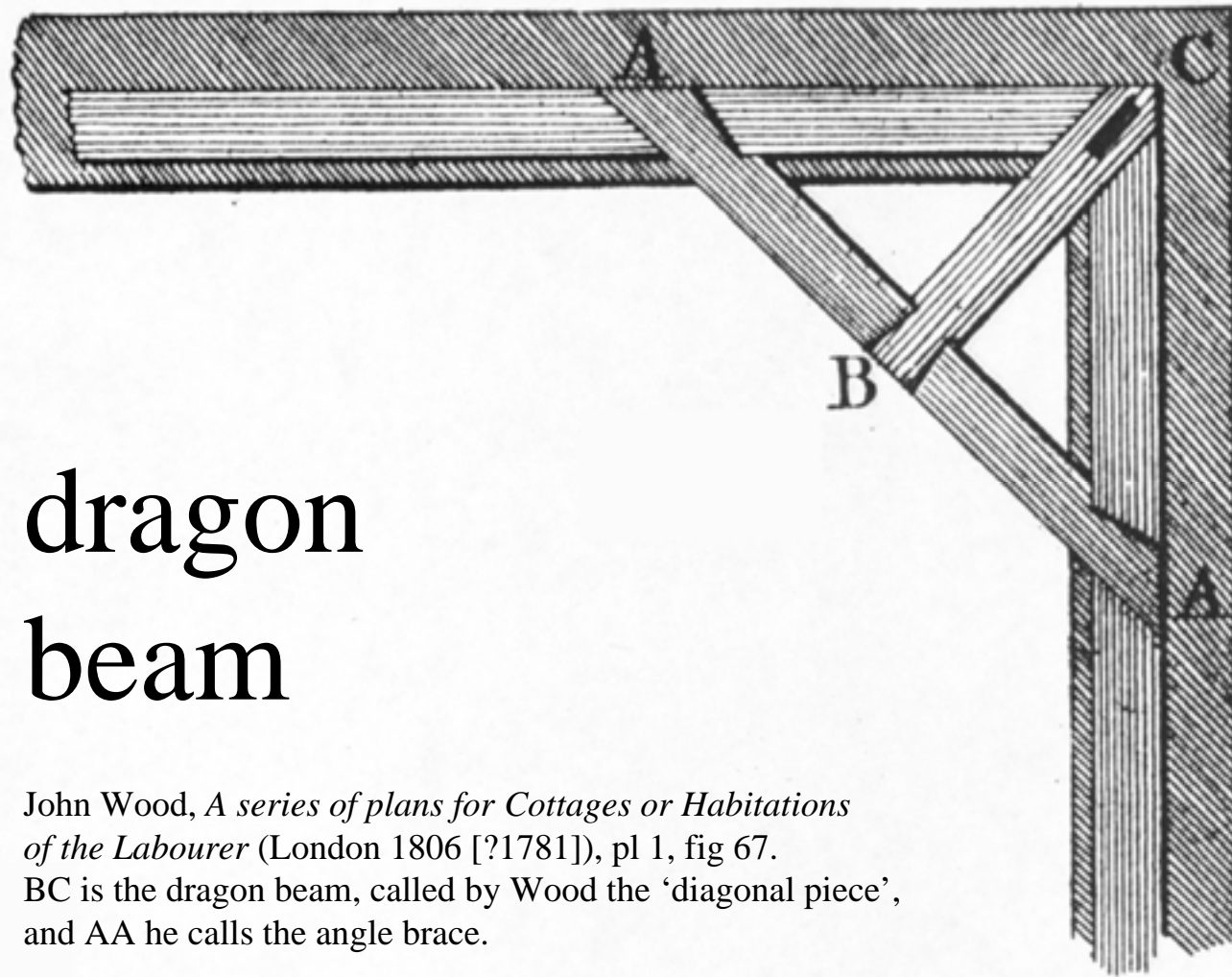


Miles Lewis

# PUNCHEONS & DRAGONS

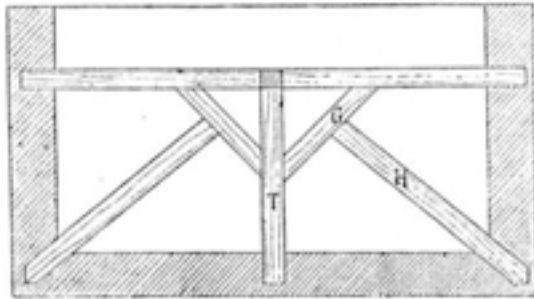
Renaissance carpentry and semantics



# dragon beam

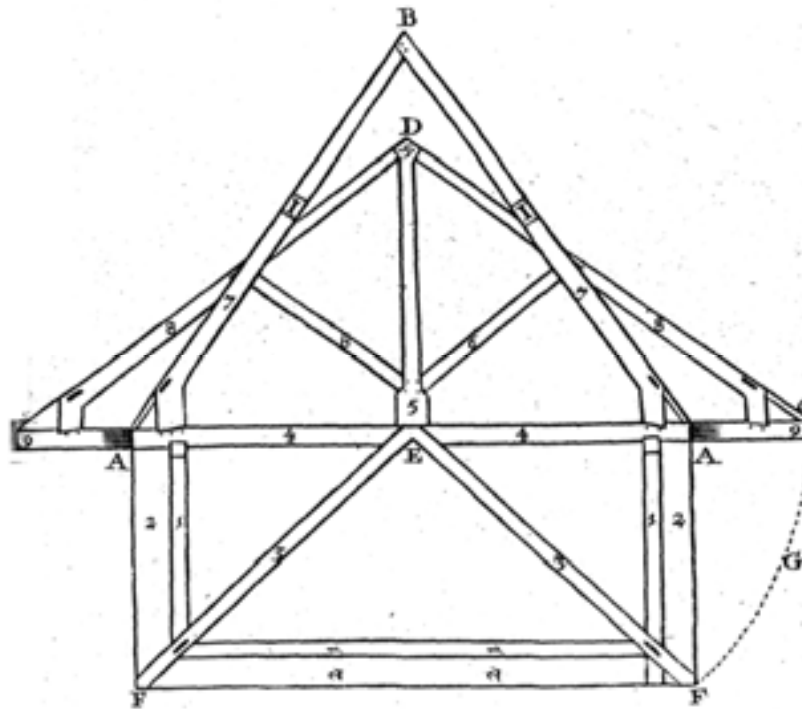
John Wood, *A series of plans for Cottages or Habitations of the Labourer* (London 1806 [?1781]), pl 1, fig 67.

BC is the dragon beam, called by Wood the 'diagonal piece', and AA he calls the angle brace.



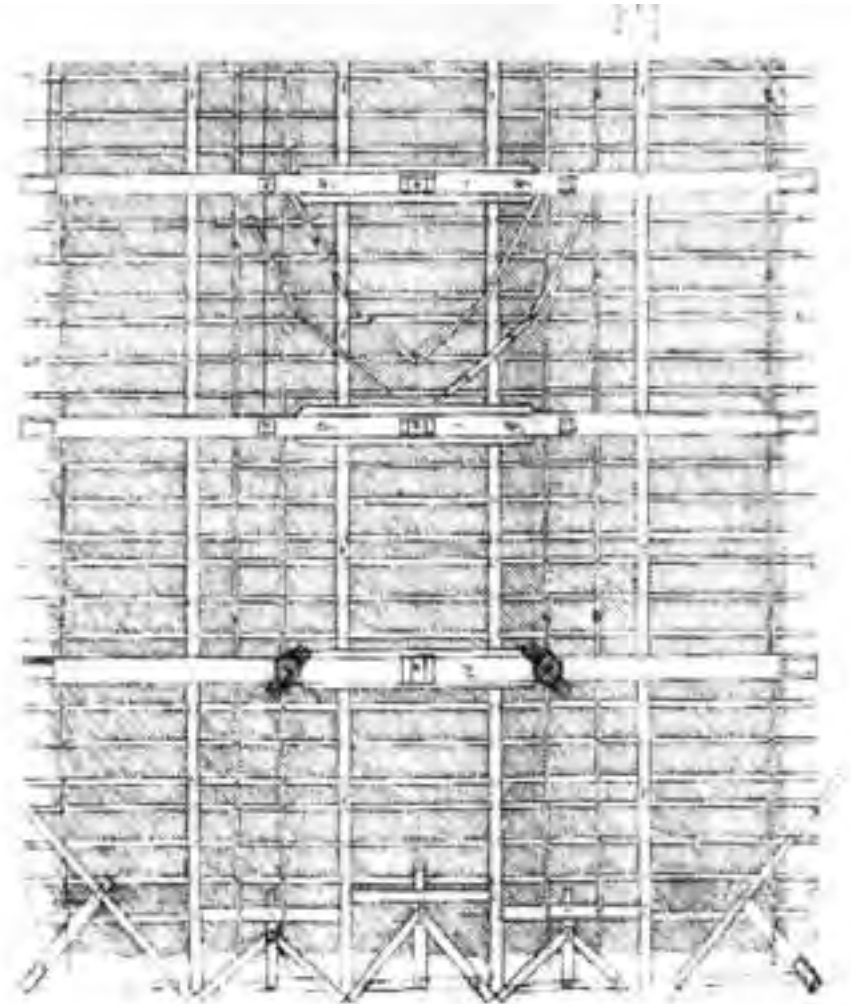
**Ceiling for a French hipped  
roof with coyers (H) and  
gaussets (G)**

Pierre Chabat, *Dictionnaire des  
Termes Employés dans la  
Construction*, Paris 1875), p 376.



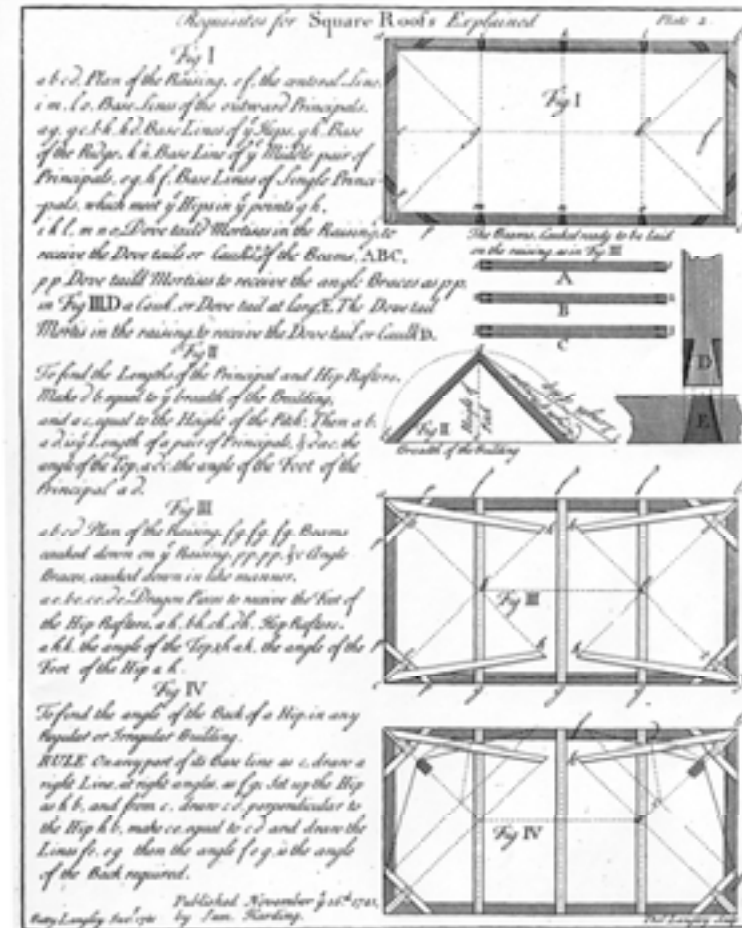
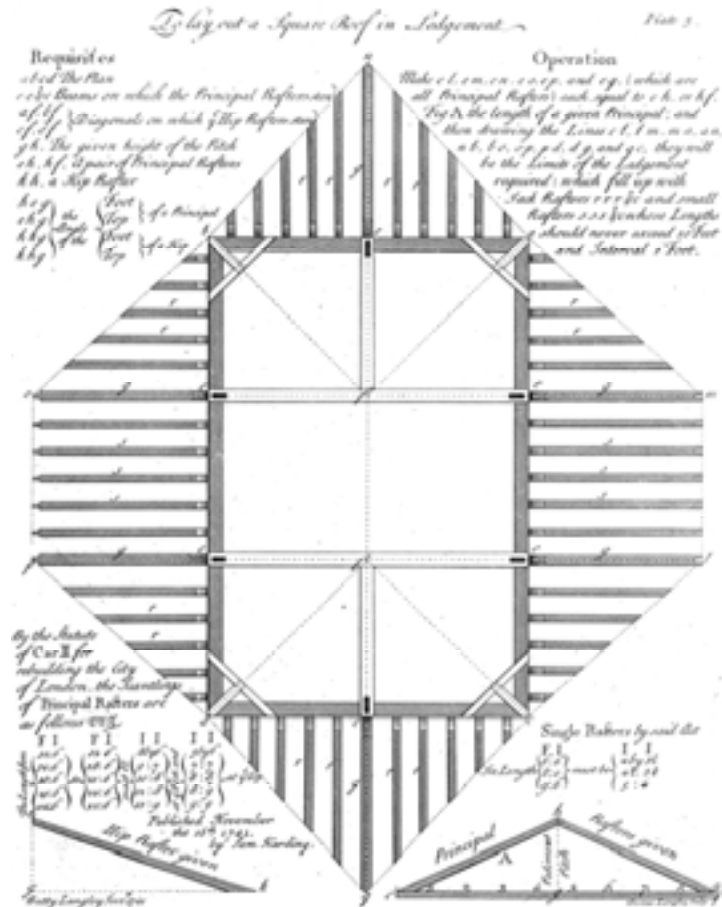
**‘Of the Italian or hip roof’**

Andrea Palladio [ed Godfrey  
Richards], *The First Book of  
Architecture*, (London 1773  
[1663]), p 199.



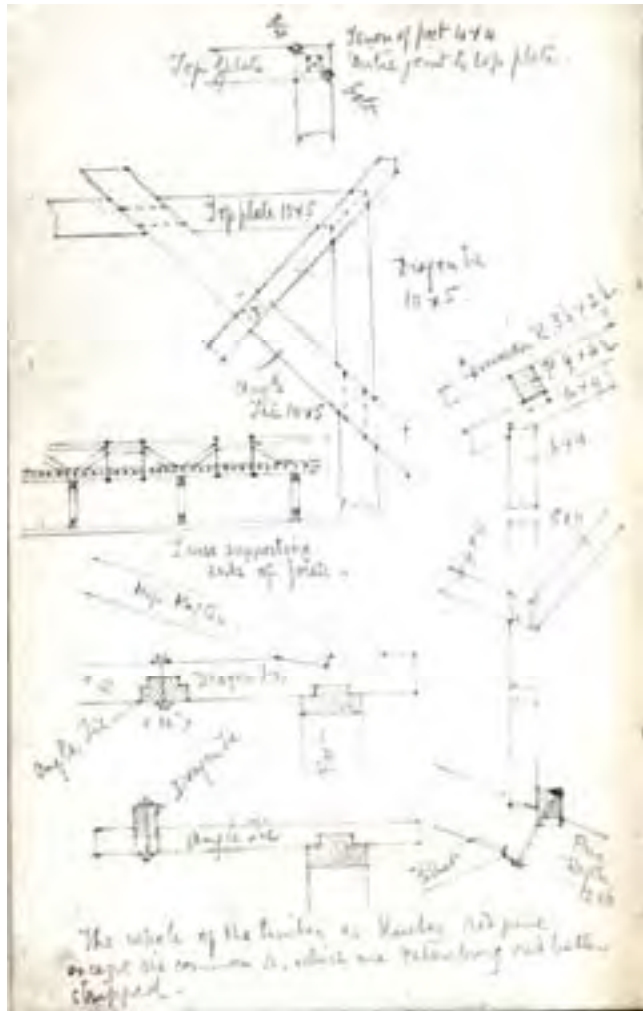
dragon beams and sub-dragon beams at Inigo Jones's  
Banqueting House, Whitehall, from 1619: record  
drawing by John Webb in the Chatsworth Collection

D T Yeomans, *The Trussed Roof: its History and Development*(Aldershot [Hampshire] 1992), p 41



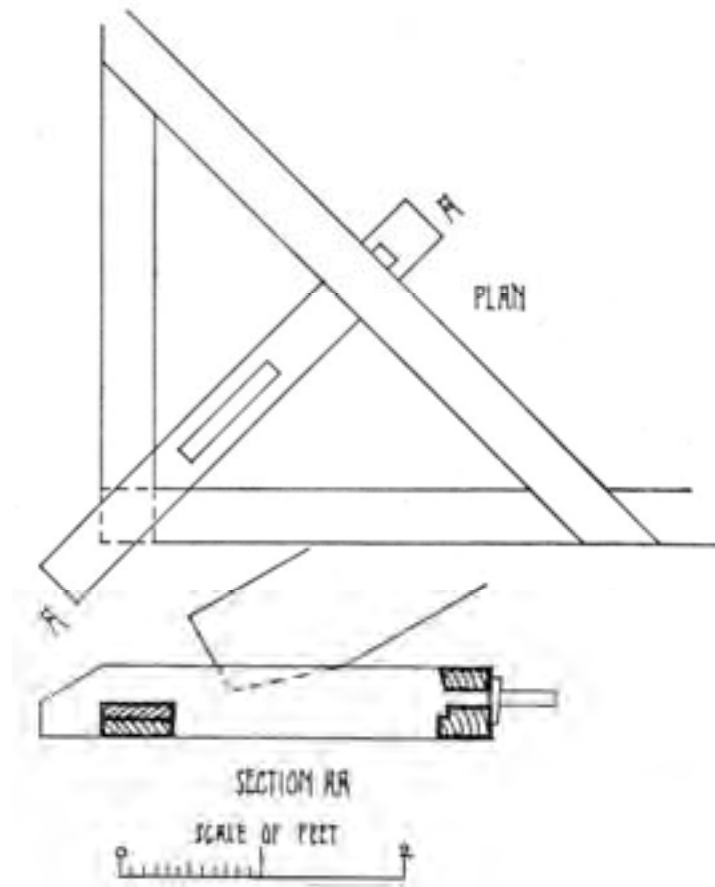
Batty Langley's roof frames with dragon beams, from the pages on roofs dated 16 November 1741, additional to the work as originally published

Batty Langley, *The City and Country Builder's and Workman's Treasury of Design.* (London 1756 [1740]), pls 2 & 5.



Thomas Hardy's sketch of dragon beams, probably copied from a text

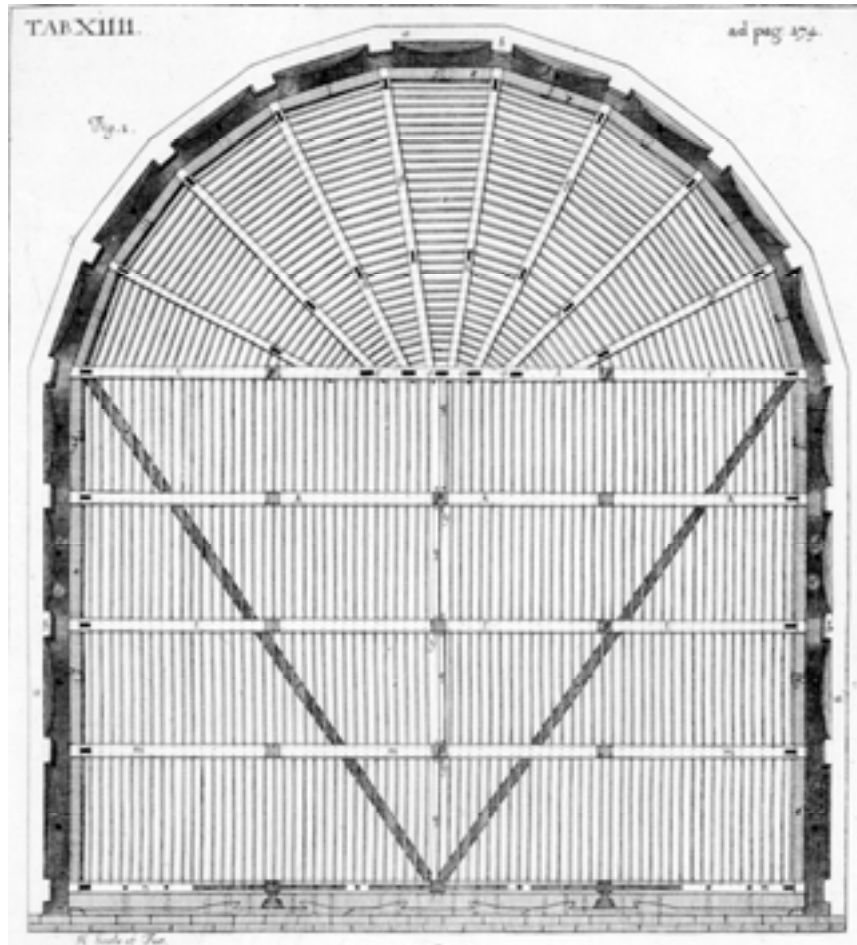
Thomas Hardy [introduced C J P Beatty], 1966. *The Architectural Notebook of Thomas Hardy* (Dorchester [Dorset] 1966), p 85.



Sutcliffe's rationalised detail

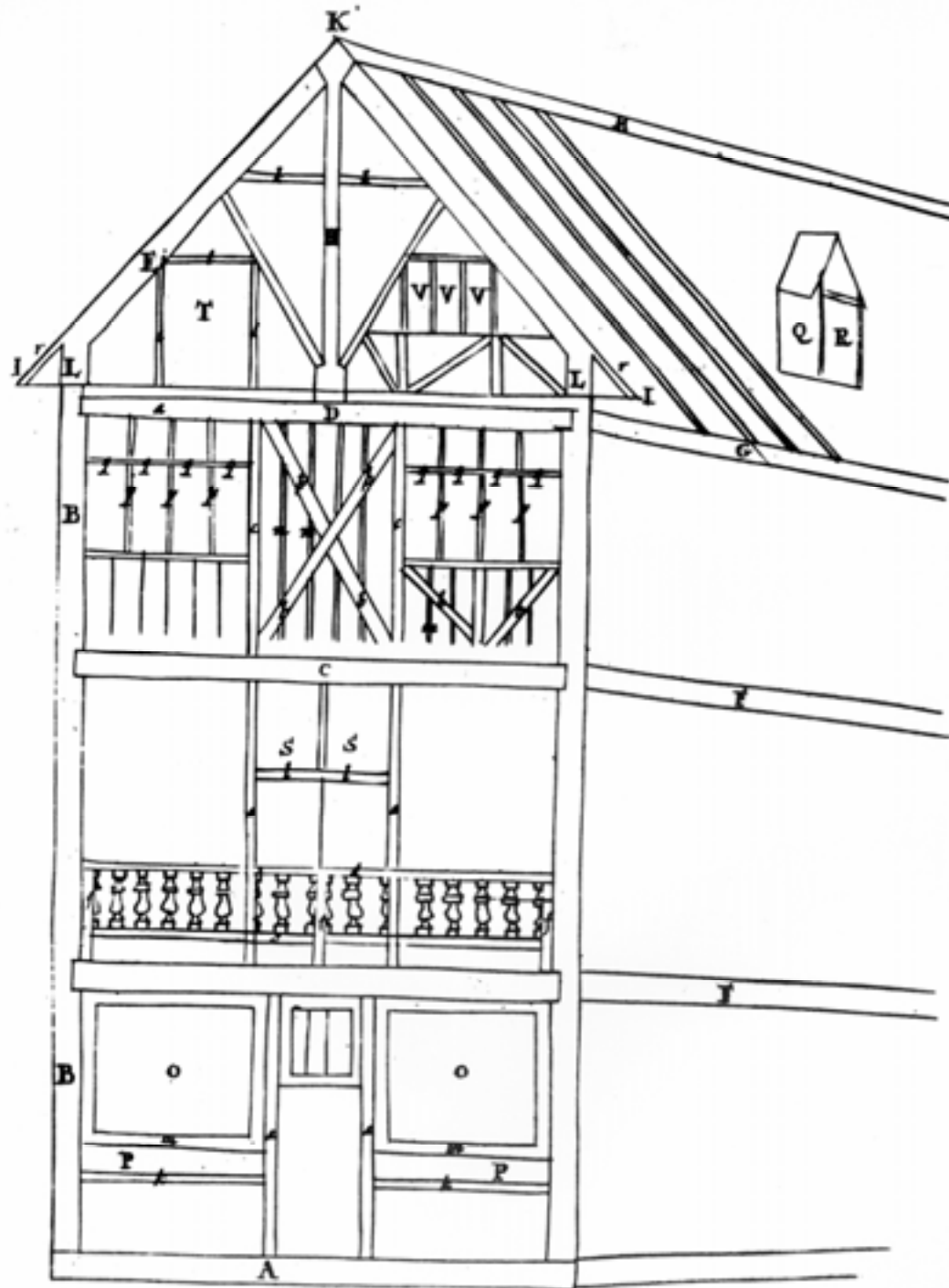
G L Sutcliffe [ed], *The Modern Carpenter, Joiner and Cabinet Maker* (8 vols, London 1903), V, p 72





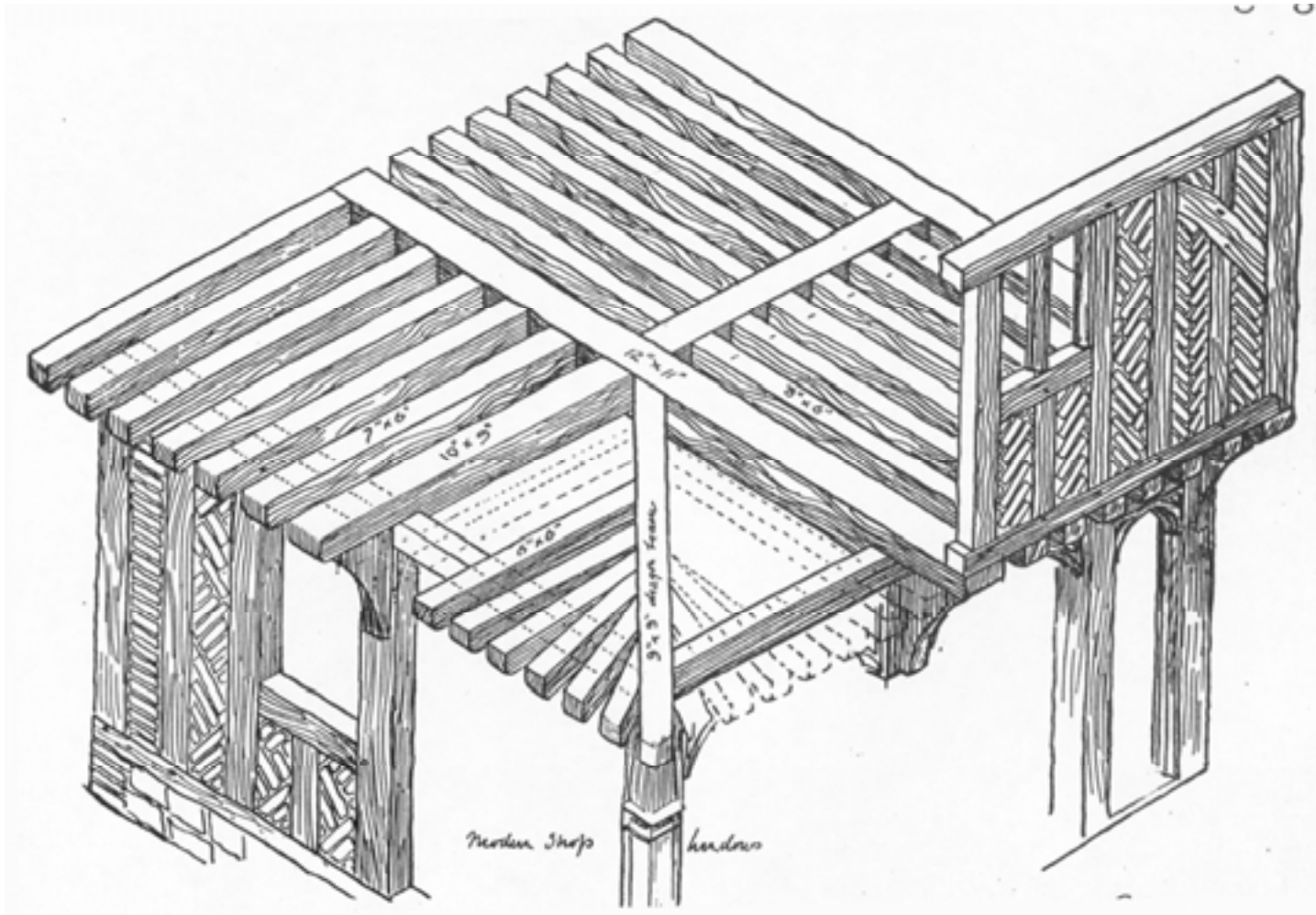
dragon or diagon beams at Christopher Wren's  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 1664-9

Robert Plot, *The Natural History of Oxford-Shire: being an essay towards the  
Natural History of England* (Oxford 1677), pl xiii.



‘dragon beams’ (angled struts or puncheons) within a king post truss, from Joseph Moxon, *Mechanick Exercises, or the Doctrine of Handy Work* (London 1678), p 160.





‘dragon beam’ in a jettied-out upper floor,  
as generally understood in the twentieth century

Shop in Lingfield, from W C Green, *Old Cottages and  
Farm-Houses in Surrey* (London 1908), p 29.

# dragon beams

- **1663 Richards:** a full-length diagonal beam, receiving the base of the hip rafter
- **1677 Wren/Plot:** a diagonal member under ceiling joists, possibly providing bracing in the horizontal plane
- **1677 Moxon:** unintelligible, but intended to be a diagonal strut in a kingpost truss
- **1740 Langley:** a diagonal beam receiving the base of the hip rafter, but running in only a short distance to meet an angle brace.
- **1908 Green:** a full-length diagonal beam in a jettied-out floor.