FLOOR TERMINOLOGY

Aperture
1. An opening, such as a hole or gap
2. A opening in a building that controls the amount of light and air that can enter

Balcony
1. A platform projecting from the wall of a building, surrounded by a railing, balustrade, or parapet
2. A gallery that projects over the main floor in a theater or auditorium

Blend
1. A transitioning of things, such as color or surfaces, into each other

Chamfer
1. A beveled edge connecting two surfaces at an exterior corner; (A rounding of an exterior corner is called a round or a radius).

Embarkment
1. A man-made ridge, usually of earth or stone, that carries a road or railway or confines a waterway

Entresol
1. Intermediate floor just above the ground floor; a mezzanine

Fillet
1. The concave rounding an interior corner between surfaces

Floor
1. An open level surface or area often used for a specified purpose, such as a dance floor
2. The building surface upon which one stands and on upon which objects sit
3. The entire level or story of a building

Gallery
1. A narrow balcony, usually having a railing or balustrade, along the outside of a building.
2. A projecting or recessed passageway along an upper story on the interior or exterior of a large building, generally marked by a colonnade or arcade.
3. An upper section, often with a sloping floor, projecting from the rear or side walls of a theater or an auditorium to provide additional seating.

Helicline
1. A curved or spiral-shaped ramp

Interstice
1. A small opening, space or gap between things or parts

Landing
1. An intermediate platform in a staircase

Level
1. A flat, smooth surface
2. A structure consisting of a room or set of rooms at a single position along a vertical axis
Mezzanine
1. A partial story between two main stories of a building.
2. The lowest balcony in a theater (or the first few rows of that balcony)

Piano Nobile
1. (Italian, "noble floor" or "great level") is the principal floor of a palazzo or large house. This floor contains the principal reception and bedrooms of the house. The piano nobile is often the first (European terminology, 2nd floor in US terms) or sometimes the second storey, located above an (often rusticated) ground floor containing minor rooms and service rooms. The piano nobile was elevated for reasons of view and to avoid the dampness or odors of the street level.

Parterre
1. A formal garden construction on a level surface consisting of planting beds, edged in stone or tightly clipped hedging, and gravel paths arranged to form a pleasing, usually symmetrical pattern.

Plenum
1. The interstitial space between a ceiling surface and the floor surface above.

Perforate
1. To pierce, punch, or bore a hole or holes in; penetrate.

Platform
1. A horizontal surface raised above the level of the adjacent area.

Pitch
1. The angle or slope of a staircase or ramp; rake.

Podium
1. An elevated platform, as for a public speaker; dais.
2. A plinth that supports a colonnade or wall.

Slope
1. An inclined line, surface, plane, position, or direction.
2. The gradient of a slope or surface; grade.
3. The amount or degree of a deviation from the horizontal.

Spandrel
1. The space between the underside of a stair and the floor it rests on.

Stage
1. A raised platform on which performances or events are presented.

Stair
1. Stair, stairs, stairway, staircase and stairwell are terms for a vertical connection using steps. One step consists of a horizontal tread and a vertical riser.
2. A flight of stairs is an uninterrupted series of steps reaching from one landing to the next. A flight may be straight or curved.
3. An open stair is a stair that is on one or both sides; an open well stair is a stair with two or more flights around an open space.
Stairwell
1. A well or shaft in a multi-story building enclosing a stairway; a void space for stairs.

Story
1. A complete horizontal division of a building, constituting the area between two adjacent levels.
2. The set of rooms on the same level of a building.