

BUILDING AREA. The term *building area* describes that portion of the building's floor area to be utilized in the determination of whether or not a structure complies with the provisions of Chapter 5 for allowable building size. It is not to be confused with the term *floor area*, which is the basis for occupant-load determination in Chapter 10 for means of egress evaluation, nor the term *fire area* as used in the application of automatic sprinkler requirements in Chapter 9.

The definition of building area is the area included within the surrounding exterior walls of the building, and the definition further states that the floor area of a building or portion thereof not provided with surrounding exterior walls shall be the usable area under the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above. The intent of this latter provision is to address where a structure may not have exterior walls or may have one or more sides open without an enclosing exterior wall. Examples would include a canopy covering pump islands at a service station, or the drive-through area of a fast food restaurant. Where a column line establishes the outer perimeter of the usable space under the roof, it is also typically the extent of building area. Beyond the column line, the overhead cover is simply viewed as a projection. See Figure 202-3. If all of the area beneath the roof above can be considered usable space, then the building area is measured to the leading edge of the roof above. See Figure 202-4.

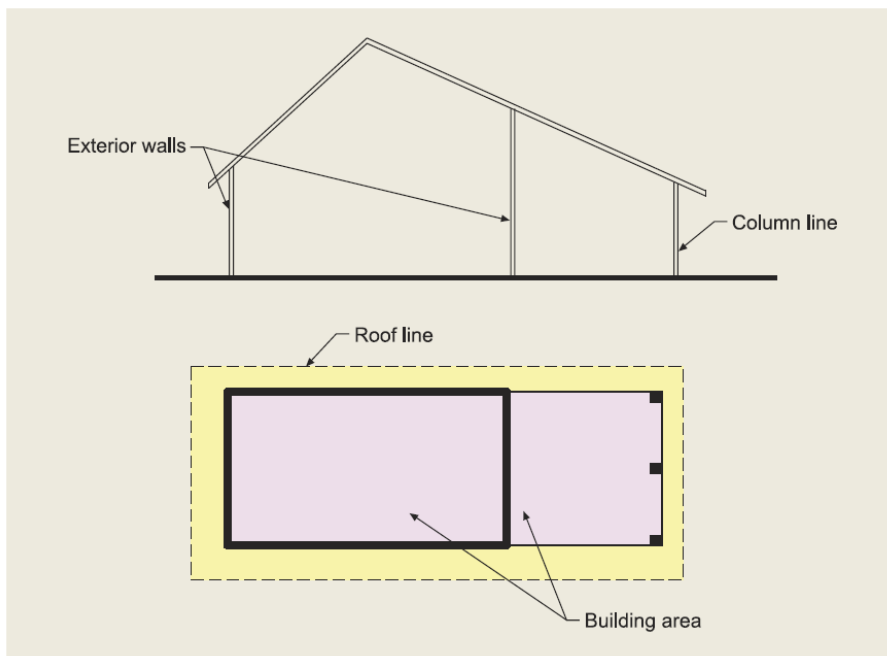


Figure 202-3
Building area.

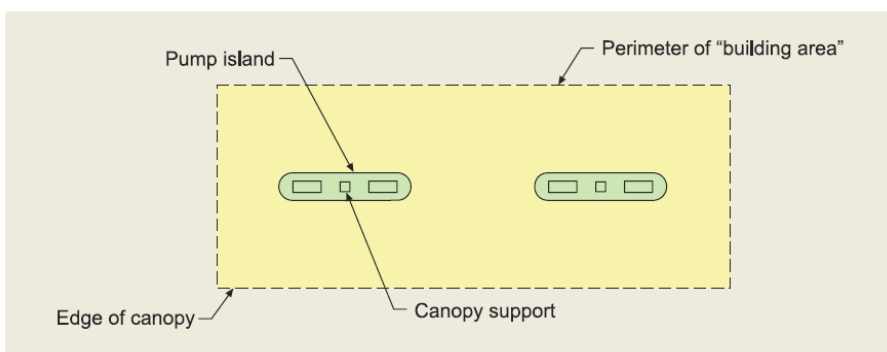


Figure 202-4
Building area.