

# North Sacramento Residential and Commercial Design Standards and Guidelines



## North Sacramento Redevelopment Area And Design Review District



OCTOBER 2006

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# Introduction

## **PURPOSE OF THE DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

The North Sacramento Residential and Commercial Design Standards and Guidelines (Design Standards and Guidelines) have been developed for the North Sacramento Redevelopment Area and Design Review District. They are intended to provide consistent design principles for residential and commercial structures that can contribute to the creation of neighborhoods with a strong, cohesive sense of place, and can improve the character of neighborhoods by making them more attractive and inviting places to live.

The Design Standards and Guidelines have been created for use by residents, developers, design professionals, City of Sacramento (City) planning staff, and design review boards. They are intended to facilitate the design review process by helping applicants and City planning staff identify major design issues and devise solutions early in the application process. In summary, these Design Standards and Guidelines are intended to:

- create a positive sense of place and enhance community identity;
- promote neighborhood pride;
- encourage high-quality development and provide creative design solutions and options;
- provide clear and usable design direction to project applicants, developers, designers, and City planning staff;
- protect and enhance property values and community economic viability; and
- facilitate a clear and expeditious project review process.

Projects will be reviewed for compliance with the design principles identified in this document. Although it is understood that not all design principles will be applicable to all proposed projects, conformance with relevant principles is required.

Overall, the Design Standards and Guidelines are intended to encourage consistent design while allowing for variety and innovation. City staff do not advocate a particular architectural style or styles, and will review all applications on the basis of the guidelines in this document.

### THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

In 2006, the Sacramento City Council adopted a vision for the city reflecting the Council's commitment to "sustainability and livability." Based on the Council's vision, the City continues to develop and refine standards and guidelines intended to influence the design of future development in Sacramento.

In the meantime, these Design Standards and Guidelines include a number of specific guidelines that address environmentally responsive site, building, and landscaping design. In addition, Appendix E provides additional resources and information.

### HOW TO USE THE DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Each subsection within the Design Standards and Guidelines is organized to include the following elements:

#### **Design Principle**

The *design principle* is a general concept that must be met by all projects, and is further delineated by the individual design guidelines.

#### **Rationale**

The *rationale* explains the key features of the design principle and how it relates to the neighborhood context.

#### **Design Standards and Guidelines**

The *Design Standards and Guidelines* provide a list of specific recommendations to ensure that appropriate Design Principles are applied to project design.

#### **Sustainability Design Guidelines**

The *sustainability design guidelines* provide suggestions for high performance building and landscape design.

#### **Graphics**

Each section within the Design Standards and Guidelines is supplemented by drawings and photos that are intended to provide visual support for the principles and guidelines.

### DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

City planning staff must review the design of any proposed infill project or major renovation of or addition to an existing structure within the North Sacramento Redevelopment Area and Design Review District. City staff will then provide early notification to adjacent property owners and community groups of the proposed project. Applicants should expect to communicate with planning staff at several key junctures in the application process, including a pre-application meeting and a meeting following the review process to discuss any revisions. Once a project has been approved by City planning staff and the appropriate review board, as necessary, an application for a building permit may be submitted, provided that any other planning entitlements needed for the project have been approved.

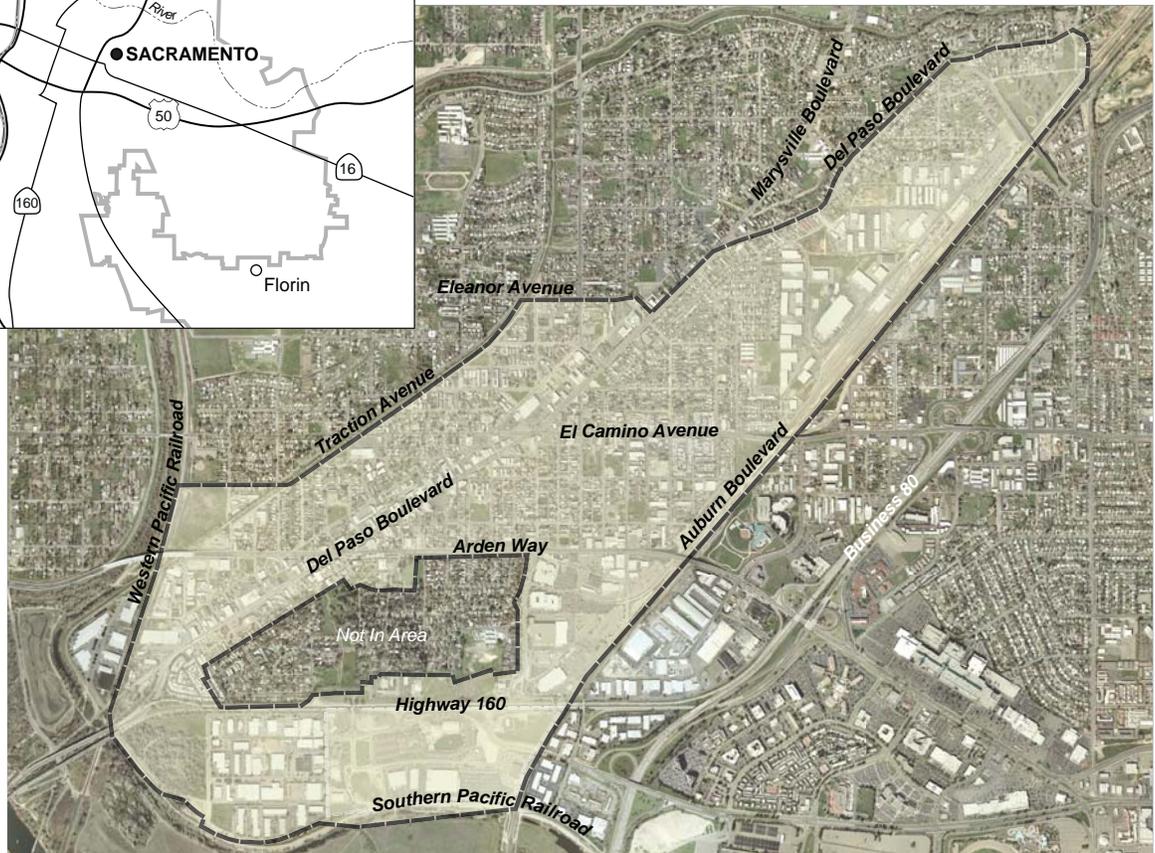
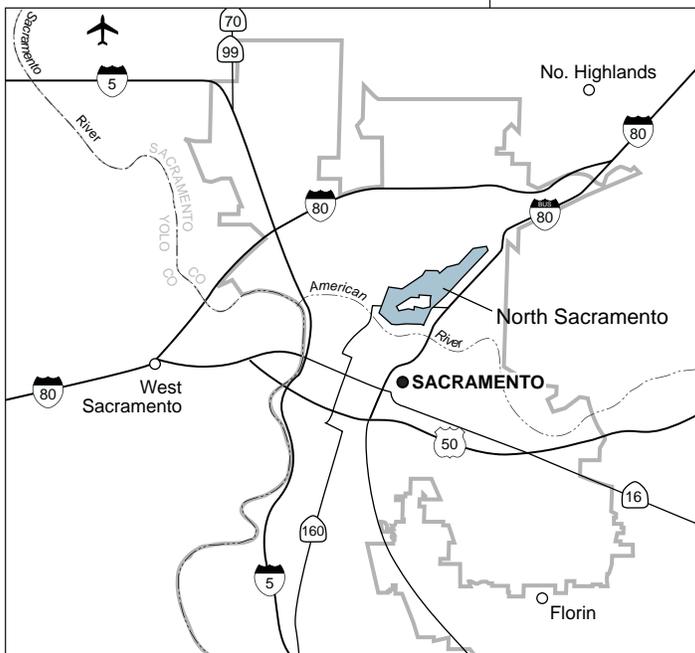
## INTRODUCTION

### LOCATION OF THE NORTH SACRAMENTO REDEVELOPMENT AREA AND DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICT

The North Sacramento Redevelopment Area and Design Review District is located within the City of Sacramento, west of business Interstate 80, as shown on the maps below.

Residents and business owners who wish to determine whether their property is within the North Sacramento Design Review District may call the help line at (916) 808-5656, or view maps at the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/maps/DesignReviewMaps.cfm>



# Residential Design Guidelines





# Residential Design Standards and Guidelines

The Residential Design Standards and Guidelines are intended to be applied to all residential infill construction, as well as additions and renovations to existing dwellings. Separate sections in this document address the design of single-family and multi-family dwellings and manufactured homes

North Sacramento is a long-established neighborhood with an ongoing pattern of infill construction resulting in a diverse and interesting residential neighborhood fabric. However, this variety of residential structures poses unique challenges for North Sacramento applicants who wish to construct new infill homes or make renovations or additions to existing structures.

One recent trend in infill construction is market demand for moderately priced new homes in close proximity to the city center. These infill homes are often significantly larger than older existing homes. In addition, new construction methods and current architectural styles often differ from those of older, established homes, sometimes resulting in homes that are noticeably different in appearance from established homes.

Despite these challenges, it is essential that applicants balance contemporary construction methods and architectural styles with respect for the neighborhood's established scale, form, and patterns of existing development. Finding that balance lies in the continued creation of neighborhoods that are visually cohesive, yet variable and adaptable. These Design Standards and Guidelines are intended to provide principles and guidelines that support the established residential context while providing room for new infill that can enliven and revitalize neighborhoods.

## Introduction

### RESIDENTIAL HISTORY AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

North Sacramento displays a rich and diverse residential character. This section reviews the unique historical influences that resulted in the residential patterns found in North Sacramento today.

Rancho Del Paso, a horse-training and stud farm renowned for its racehorses, was the source of land for the city that was to become North Sacramento. Daniel Johnston bought approximately 4,000 acres of the ranch in 1910 under the auspices of the North Sacramento Land Company, and he and his son, Carl Edward, established basic services and infrastructure and subdivided the area into lots. Many of the existing streets established at that time, including Calvados, Cantalier, Frianza, Dixieanne, and Bassetlaw (now Arden), were named after Rancho Del Paso's racehorses. The City of North Sacramento was formally established in 1924, and forty years later, in 1964, voted to become part of the City of Sacramento.

Many of North Sacramento's residential neighborhoods still reflect the lot and street patterns that were established under the influence of the Johnstons in the early twentieth century, with lots ranging from 50 feet by 100 feet to 50 feet by 130 feet. Early homes constructed during the 1920s through the 1940s range in size from 750 square feet to approximately 1,200 square feet.

Residential infill development in North Sacramento has been ongoing throughout the area's history, and was particularly common during the 1950s and 1960s, and again since the 1990s. Despite the resulting variety of home styles, most of the residential streets have a cohesive appearance based on similar lot sizes, street width, common setbacks, and the presence of mature landscaping. Homes constructed before the 1990s are predominantly wood frame with lap siding, and also include some brick and stucco homes. Homes built since the 1990s reflect current construction trends and are predominantly stucco.



*Older North Sacramento home*

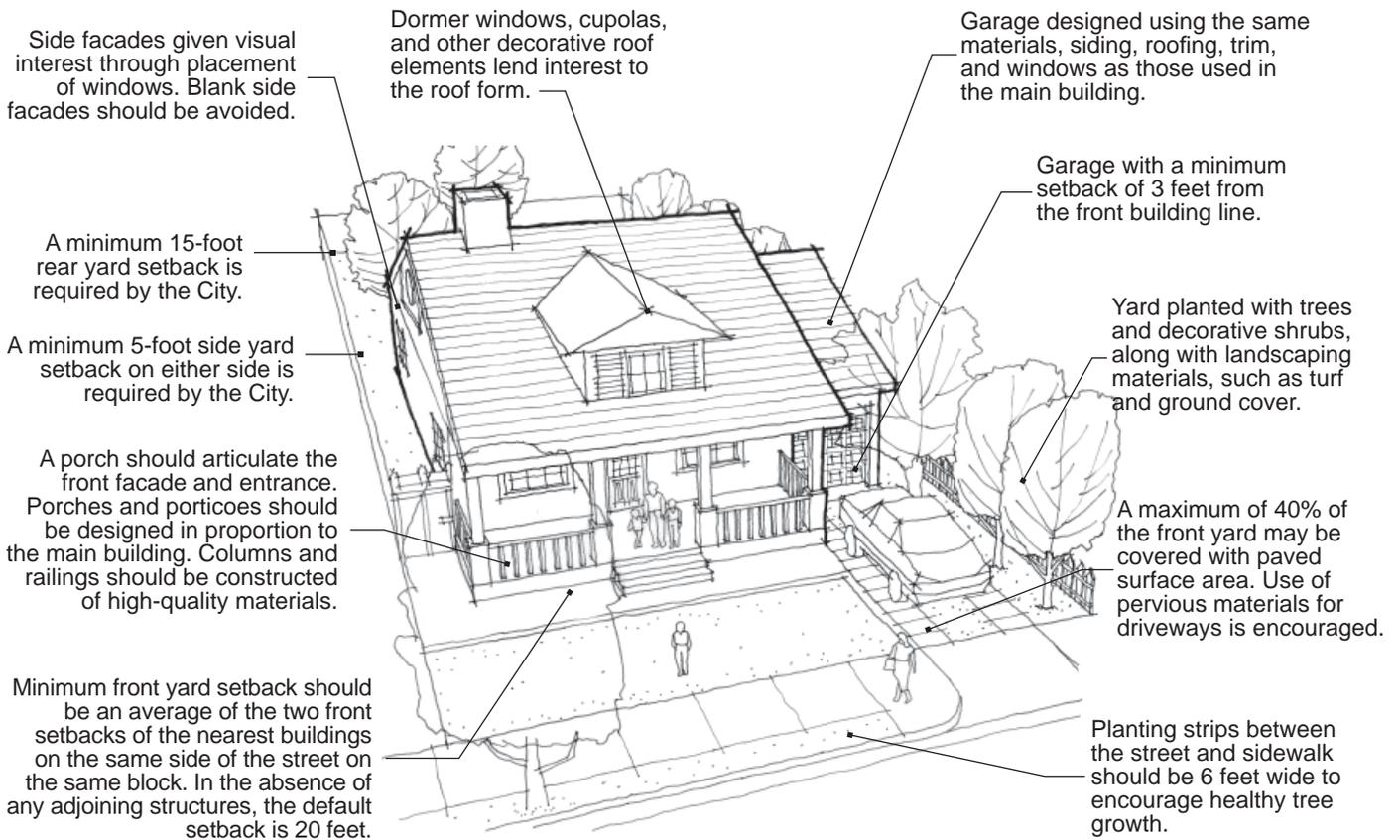


*Typical North Sacramento home*

# Single-family Residential

There are many ways to design a good home. The City Development Services Department has pre-approved plans that can reduce application time and aid the new home builder, and these plans do not exhaust the many possible design options.

The home shown below displays some of the key characteristics that are recommended in the Design Standards and Guidelines, and how these design features might be applied to residential infill, additions, and renovations. This sample home is intended as an example only, since the Guidelines are sufficiently flexible to allow for many variations in home style and design.



## Single-family Residential Home with Required and Recommended Design Features

### SITE DESIGN

Site design addresses a home's location on the lot, its orientation toward the street and adjacent buildings, and its overall layout relative to the site. The site design of infill homes and additions to existing homes should emphasize respect for the context of established structures. In addition, infill homes and some additions, where appropriate, should:

- reflect the scale of existing homes on the block;
- in most cases, be located toward the front of the lot;
- provide an entry facing the street to create a welcoming appearance and to give homes "curb appeal";
- minimize the appearance of the garage, which should be recessed from the front of the main structure, and located at the side or rear of the home; and
- minimize the appearance of mass in two-story homes with an articulated facade.

# Single-family Residential

## 1 Setbacks and Orientation

### Design Principle

The front setback and the placement of the home on the lot shall correspond to the prevailing setbacks of other homes on the block to create a consistent appearance along the street.

### Rationale

Well-designed homes enhance their street by respecting the existing context while not succumbing to uniformity. Front yard setbacks may be slightly varied to create interest, but should contribute to the established assemblage of homes on the block. Since many older homes in North Sacramento have front setbacks that are less than that required by the City's current standards, front setbacks in new infill development may also be less than City standards, as appropriate.

### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 1-1 Homes should be oriented toward the front of the lot to encourage an active visual relationship with the street.
- 1-2 Homes and front entries should face the street.
- 1-3 The front setback of an infill home or addition should be an average of the setbacks of existing homes on the block.
- 1-4 Infill structures should reinforce the existing rhythm of building widths and side setbacks.
- 1-5 Infill construction footprints should generally be parallel to lot lines. Residential structures should not be placed at odd angles to the street and neighboring properties.

### Sustainability Guidelines

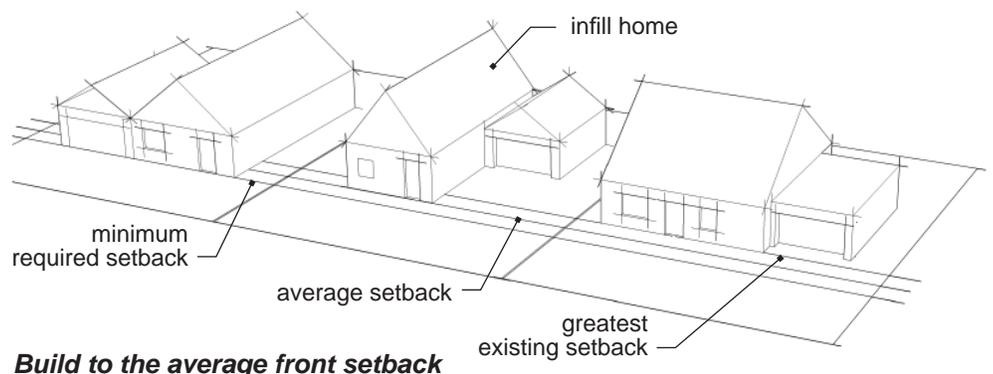
- 1-6 Homes should be designed and oriented on the lot to maximize solar access on southern exposures so that such features as photovoltaic solar panels and daylighting can be incorporated into the design of the home, when feasible.



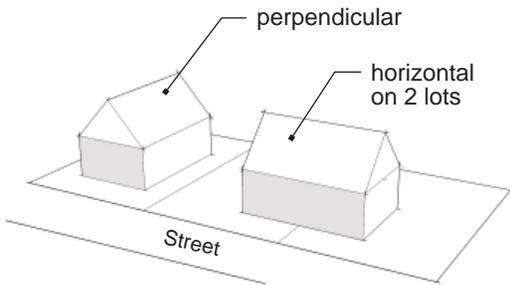
*The front yard setback on this home smaller than current standards, which is typical of older homes in the southern portion of North Sacramento.*



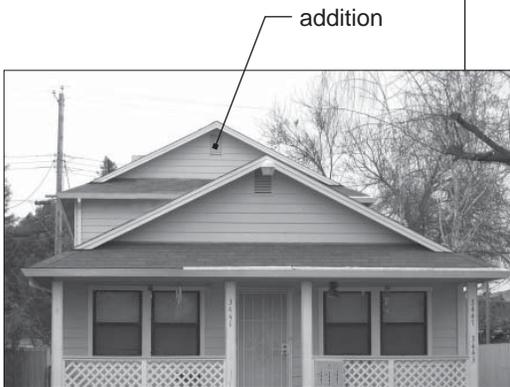
*This front yard setback on an infill home in North Sacramento is designed to meet current City standards.*



## Single-family Residential



*Orient homes on small lots perpendicular to the street. These buildings have identical square footage, but the home on the left appears smaller because it is perpendicular to the street.*



*Additions should be located at the rear so as not to overpower the original structure.*



*The facade of this home has been broken down into smaller components to reduce the appearance of mass.*

### 2 Scale and Mass

#### Design Principle

An infill home shall be compatible with the overall scale and mass of other homes on the block. An addition shall be compatible with the scale and mass of the existing home, as well as with the scale and mass of other homes on the block.

#### Rationale

Although new infill homes and additions to existing homes are addressing demand for more square footage, they also should respect earlier, established homes by minimizing the appearance of bulk and mass through site layout and architectural design.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines for Infill Construction

- 2-1 Homes on long, narrow lots should be oriented perpendicular to the street to minimize the appearance of mass.
- 2-2 The mass of a larger structure should be broken down into smaller components that are similar in scale to other buildings in the neighborhood.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines for Additions

- 2-3 Additions should respect the massing, scale, and height of the primary structure.
- 2-4 Additions should not visually interfere with the original structure.
- 2-5 Additions that are taller than the original building should be located at the rear of the building so that the new addition does not visually overpower the original structure.
- 2-6 Large additions should be broken down into smaller, varied components that relate to the scale and massing of the original structure.
- 2-7 Additions should not damage the character-defining features of the original house, such as the porch, columns, or windows.
- 2-8 When constructing an addition beneath a home, the home should be excavated rather than raised. Visual impacts to the home should be minimized, with the design of the raised portion compatible in scale and character to the original structure.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 2-9 Solar access for daylighting and solar panels should be considered in massing design. Glazing should be located predominantly on the north and south sides of the structure. Glazing on the west side of the structure should be minimized, unless the west side of the structure is the street side.

### 3 Number of Stories

#### Design Principle

Two-story homes are acceptable in areas where one-story homes predominate, but they shall be designed to minimize the appearance of mass of the second story.

#### Rationale

Although many streets in North Sacramento have the occasional two-story home, the majority of homes are one story. Because two-story infill structures have the capacity to appear out of scale with other homes on a block, they should be carefully designed so as not to overwhelm adjacent one-story homes.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 3-1 The front of the home should not present an unbroken two-story wall to the street. Facades should be articulated to break up the surface, add interest, and minimize the appearance of mass. Articulation should include at least two of the following features:
- protruding or recessed facade surfaces
  - bow, bay, or dormer windows
  - horizontal elements such as cornices, window lintels, or horizontal bands
  - porches or porticoes
- 3-2 All sides of the homes should be given visual interest through the careful placement of windows, while also protecting the privacy of the adjacent home. No side of a two-story home should present an entirely blank facade.
- 3-3 Porches and porticoes in two-story homes should be one story to maintain the proportion and context of the surrounding homes on the block (see Category 8, “Entry Features”).
- 3-4 Architectural elements, such as dormers, multiple gables, and windows, shall be added to the second story to impose articulation on the facade, as feasible.
- 3-5 Infill duplexes constructed on narrow lots (40 feet wide or less) should be designed as two-story stacked units. These structures should conform to the same principles outlined above, with articulation of the facade and the addition of architectural elements.



*Articulated facades and architectural details can help to minimize the appearance of two-story infill homes.*



*Bay windows and architectural detailing help to articulate the facade and reduce the appearance of mass in these two-story duplex units.*



*Dormer windows and other decorative roof elements help to break up the mass of a two-story home.*

## Single-family Residential



Front access to detached garage at rear of home



Attached garage recessed from the front facade of the home

### 4 Garages

#### Design Principle

The garage shall be placed at the side or rear of the home to minimize its visibility from the street, and shall match the character and materials of the primary residence.

#### Rationale

Many existing homes in North Sacramento have been designed with the garage extending from the front of the home. New infill homes should not follow this established pattern, but should be constructed with garages recessed behind the front facade at the side or rear of the home.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 4-1 Garages shall conform to all relevant City regulations and guidelines, including the City Municipal Code Section 17.80.040, "Residential Accessory Structures and Use Regulations."
- 4-2 On-site parking may be an attached or detached garage. Attached garages should be recessed a minimum of 3 feet behind the front facade (the main front wall) of the home. However, garages that are recessed 3 feet behind the front of the porch will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 4-3 Garages should be recessed a minimum of 3 feet behind the front facade.
- 4-4 Alley access to garages in North Sacramento is discouraged, but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- 4-5 Garage design, siding, roofing, trim, and window materials should match the materials used on the home.
- 4-6 City Municipal Code permits a carport if 50% or more of the dwellings on the block do not have enclosed parking. The carport should be designed to the same standards as an enclosed garage, with similar roofing materials and roof pitch.
- 4-7 The simplest, least adorned garage door that can be used is a raised panel metal sectional door.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 4-8 Single-car garages or tandem garages are encouraged to reduce the extent of paved driveway areas.

### 5 Parking and Driveway Location

#### Design Principle

On-site parking shall be located at the side or rear of the lot, whenever feasible, to minimize parking along the facade facing the street and afford an unobstructed and attractive view of the home.

#### Rationale

Typical residential parking in North Sacramento is located at the front of the home on a driveway or on the street. Many homes have been designed with extensive driveway paving and parking at the front of the home. Infill development should place driveways and parking pads toward the side of the lot so that the front yard is visually attractive and can be landscaped.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 5-1 Parking shall conform to all relevant City regulations and guidelines, including the City Municipal Code Section 17.64.020, "Parking Requirement by Land Use Type," which states that one off-street parking space is required per dwelling unit.
- 5-2 Large driveways or garages located along the front facade of the home are strongly discouraged.
- 5-3 Concrete and asphalt are typical driveway paving materials. Alternative driveway paving surfaces, such as mortared brick or concrete pavers, or tinted concrete, are encouraged to minimize the appearance of a monotonous paved front yard. Permeable materials, such as pavers, cobblestone, or similar treatments, are also recommended paving materials for driveways. Driveway strips with turf between the strips are another desirable alternative. Alternative treatments must be approved by the relevant reviewing agencies per City development standards for paving surfaces.



*Parking in North Sacramento is often at the front of the home on the street.*



*Alternative driveway materials, such as turf strips, can minimize the amount of paving in driveways.*

## Single-family Residential

### ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Architectural elements include the detailing of the home, such as roofing, siding, windows, and doors. Infill homes and additions or renovations to existing homes should respect the architectural style of established homes on the block, while also reflecting contemporary construction methods.

The home shown below was approved and constructed prior to the development of these Design Standards and Guidelines; therefore it does not have some recommended architectural features, such as a sufficiently recessed garage. However, the design of the home successfully complements the style, scale and materials of nearby homes in the neighborhood.

All architectural elements should be constructed of high-quality materials to promote longevity and a pleasing appearance. Variety of design and materials is desirable if complementary to the existing neighborhood context.



*North Sacramento infill home*

### 6 Architectural Character and Detailing

#### Design Principle

An infill home shall be designed in a cohesive architectural style that complements the best examples of existing residential development on the block.

#### Rationale

Structures that are compatible with existing homes contribute to a sense of place and add to the character of the neighborhood. Use of character-defining features, such as porches, columns, balustrades, brackets, rafters, and decorative trim, enhances visual compatibility. These features should be stylistically cohesive.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 6-1 The architectural design of infill construction should complement the architectural styles of existing homes on the block. If there is a mixture of styles on a block, then the design of infill construction may be more flexibly interpreted.
- 6-2 New stylistic interpretations of traditional architecture are encouraged. The plans should follow fundamental design principles without copying them.
- 6-3 Architectural features and detailing should be proportional to the scale of the home, as well as to other homes on the block of a similar architectural style.
- 6-4 Additions should be designed with architectural details that are similar to those of the existing structure, but are simpler and visually distinguishable.
- 6-5 Individual architectural features should be consistent with the structure's overall design or style.
- 6-6 All elevations should be given equal design treatment and architectural consideration.



*Infill home*

## Single-family Residential



*Gable roof with front-facing gables*



*Gable roof with side-facing gables and shed-roofed dormer windows*



*Gable roof with clipped end*

### 7 Roof Styles

#### Design Principle

The design of a roof on an infill home shall correspond to the prevailing designs of roofs on homes in the established neighborhood context. The design of the roof on additions and renovations shall correspond to the roof style and pitch of the existing structure.

#### Rationale

The pitch, style, and orientation of the roof in an infill home should be similar, but not necessarily identical to, the roof styles of existing homes on the block to encourage respect for the established context while allowing for variety.

However, the pitch, style, and orientation of the roof on a renovation or addition should be identical to that of the existing home, while any crossing gables should match the established pitch and style of the existing roof.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 7-1 Roof shape, pitch, overhang, and material on infill structures should be similar to that of existing homes on the block.
- 7-2 Flat roofs are discouraged and should be used only if they are common in neighboring residences.
- 7-3 Infill homes should respect the primary gable orientation of the majority of existing homes on the block.
- 7-4 The roof forms and slopes of additions should be similar to those of the original structure. The roof of the addition should be subordinate to that of the primary building. Gable, hip, and shed roofs are appropriate for additions.
- 7-5 A dormer addition should be compatible with the scale of the primary structure. The number and size of dormers should not be visually overwhelming. The new dormers should be placed below the ridgeline of the primary roof.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 7-6 Roof overhangs ranging from 18 to 36 inches are encouraged to promote window shading and building longevity when appropriate to the architectural design of the home.

## Single-family Residential

### 8 Entry Features

#### Design Principle

Infill homes and additions to the front facade of the home shall have an entry feature such as a porch or stoop that faces the street side.

#### Rationale

Entry features accent the front facade of a home and add visual interest. Entry features and their components, such as columns and steps, should be proportional to the overall scale of the home.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 8-1 Entry features are encouraged on all new infill homes, and are a recommended renovation for existing homes, where feasible.
- 8-2 Entry porches and porticoes in two-story homes should be one story to minimize the appearance of bulk.
- 8-3 Entry features should be built to a depth of 6 feet from the front of the entry feature to the front facade of the home; however, shallower entry features will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 8-4 The style of porch and portico elements should be consistent with the scale and style of the home, and should strive to respect the scale and style of porch and portico elements in the other homes on the block.
- 8-5 Porch and portico columns should be given some form of detailing, such as a defined plinth and capital.
- 8-6 Porch columns and railings should be constructed of high-quality materials that complement the materials used in the overall exterior of the home.
- 8-7 A contemporary sundeck may be added to an existing structure, provided that it does not visually detract from the main building. The scale, material, color, and details of the deck should be compatible with the existing building. Removal of significant features of the existing building, such as a porch, is strongly discouraged.



*Attractive porch detailing complements home*



*Columns scaled to home with appropriate detailing*



*Entry clearly visible and single-story porch proportional to the home*

## Single-family Residential

### 9 Doors

#### Design Principle

Doors shall be made of high-quality materials and include decorative elements such as raised panels, sidelights, and transoms that are appropriate to the overall design of the home.

#### Rationale

Doors are an important architectural feature that offer security and visual appeal. For this reason, doors should be made of high-quality materials that protect the home, while also offering aesthetic appeal through decorative elements that correspond to the style of the home.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 9-1 Doors are character-defining features of a home and should be appropriately designed to contribute to the overall composition of the house.
- 9-2 Doors should not be flat surfaces, but should include raised panels, glass, or some other form of detailing and articulation.
- 9-3 Doors should be of high-quality materials, such as metal or solid-core wood.
- 9-4 Doors may be metal or wood-framed. High-quality metal framing can afford enhanced security and fire protection and should be considered. Whether wood or metal, door framing should be slightly recessed or extended to lend interest and definition to the entry.



*Door with sidelights, transom, and raised panels*

*Photo Courtesy of DesignLens*



*Door with sidelights and inset panels*

### 10 Windows

#### Design Principle

Windows shall be constructed of high-quality materials and designed to complement the style of the home.

#### Rationale

High-quality materials and construction techniques ensure the longevity of windows and enhance their aesthetic appeal.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 10-1 Windows should complement the style of the home. Recommended window styles include casement, single-hung sash, and double-hung sash windows.
- 10-2 Windows with multiple panes provide interest and definition to a home's facade and are encouraged.
- 10-3 Window frames, sash, trim, and sills may be wood, vinyl, or a paintable fiberglass composite. Unpainted metal is not allowed.
- 10-4 A consistent window treatment should be used on all sides of the building.
- 10-5 Reflective or tinted glass and opaque plastic skylights are discouraged.
- 10-6 Windows used in new additions and remodels should be similar to those in the primary structure.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 10-7 The use of insulating glazing such as LoE<sup>2</sup> is encouraged to increase energy efficiency.
- 10-8 Prismatic glazing is encouraged to increase the energy efficiency of skylights.
- 10-9 Daylighting should be incorporated into the architectural design of the home, where feasible, to increase energy efficiency.



*Daylighting increases energy efficiency.*



*Window detailing, such as shutters, adds interest.*

*Photo Courtesy of DesignLens*



*Casement window with wooden frame and sill*



*Single-hung windows with wooden frame*



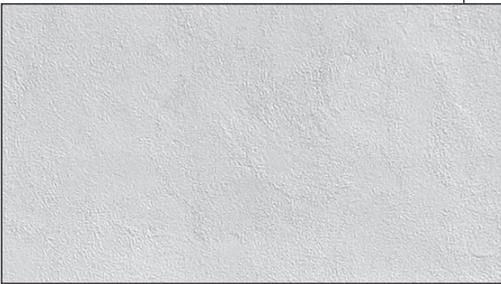
*Attractive window detailing*  
*Photo Courtesy of DesignLens*

## Single-family Residential



Wood lap siding

© 2005 Jupiter Images Corporation



Smooth Stucco



Brick



Brick wainscoting on smooth stucco

### 11 Siding

#### Design Principle

The siding used on an infill home or addition to an existing home shall be durable, consistent with the style and character of the home, and complement the siding materials used on other homes on the block.

#### Rationale

Siding, and other forms of architectural cladding, should not only complement the style of new infill homes, but should be consistent with siding materials commonly used on other homes in the neighborhood to avoid appearing out of context. Siding used on additions should match siding on the existing home, as possible.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 11-1 The architectural cladding should be consistent with the majority of the homes on the block.
- 11-2 The architectural cladding should be used consistently on all sides of the house.
- 11-3 Where lap siding is the predominant form of siding on the block, it should be used for infill construction as well.
- 11-4 Wood lap siding should be applied horizontally and should be similar in scale, proportion, texture, and finish to the wood lap siding traditionally used on the block. Other types of siding, such as flush siding and drop siding, are acceptable if they have precedence in other homes on the block.
- 11-5 Several lap siding materials are available, with some recommended over others:

<b>Recommended:</b>	<b>Discouraged:</b>
Wood	Vinyl
Cement fiber	T1-11
	Aluminum
- 11-6 Where lap siding is not the predominant material, wood, brick, stone, and stucco are also acceptable materials.
- 11-7 Stucco must be smooth, troweled plaster. Spray-on, "popcorn" stucco is not allowed, and foam trim sprayed with stucco should be avoided.
- 11-8 The use of two materials, with one employed as wainscoting, can often add to the interest of the home.
- 11-9 Highly reflective metals, glass, plastic, and vinyl should be avoided.

### 12 Roofing

#### Design Principle

Roofing on an infill home shall be durable and complement the style of the home. Roofing on an addition or renovation shall be durable, and complement the roofing on the existing home.

#### Rationale

Roofing materials should be durable to ensure their attractiveness and continued functionality for many years. Roofing materials should also be suitable for the context. For example, high-quality metal roofing may be appropriate in some rural or resort settings, but is uncommon in the North Sacramento neighborhood and therefore inappropriate.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 12-1 Roofing materials must have a minimum 30-year guarantee. Roofing with a 40-year guarantee is encouraged.
- 12-2 The color and materials used for roofing should complement the color and architectural style of the home. Accent colors may be used, but they should not overwhelm the home or clash with other homes on the block.
- 12-3 The following materials are recommended:
- laminated dimensional (asphalt) shingles;
  - wood shingles/shakes;
  - laminated dimensional fiberglass shingles;
  - lightweight concrete shingles;
  - terra cotta tile or lightweight concrete tile; or
  - slate shingles.

Exceptions to these roofing materials will be made on a case-by-case basis.

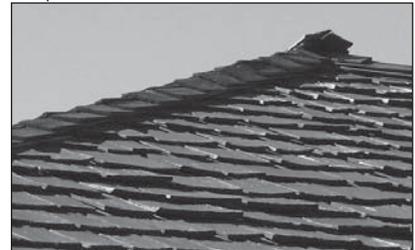
- 12-4 Metal roofing is typically inappropriate and highly discouraged.
- 12-5 Composition shingles should only be rolled over side barge boards when appropriate to the overall design of the structure.
- 12-6 When installing gutters, rafter tails should only be trimmed when the rafter tail design is not an architectural feature specific to the overall design of the structure.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 12-7 Photovoltaic solar panels or solar shingles such as “solar slate” are encouraged to reduce the home’s use of energy from conventional sources.
- 12-8 Homeowners are encouraged to consider roofing options that include recycled content.
- 12-9 The use of “cool roof” options, including lighter colored roofing and reflective coatings, is encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.



*Laminated dimensional shingles*



*Wood shakes*



*Lightweight concrete shingles*



*Tile shingles*



*“Cool roof” options can achieve higher energy efficiency.*

*Photo Courtesy of Met Tile*

## Single-family Residential



*Simple, streamlined lighting fixtures can complement a wide variety of home styles.*



*High-quality lighting fixtures can enhance the appearance of the home.*



*Addresses should be illuminated and easily visible from the street.*

### 13 Lighting and Addresses

#### Design Principle

Light fixtures shall be consistent with the architectural style of the home and shall provide adequate illumination of the front entry and addresses so that both are clearly visible from the street.

#### Rationale

To assist emergency vehicles and contribute to the safety of the home, address lettering should be affixed near the door and should be large enough to be seen from the street. Lighting fixtures should be adequate to illuminate the addresses and the front entryway.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 13-1 Lighting contributes to the security of the home and is required for the front entry, walkways, and garage area. Recessed entryways should be clearly lit.
- 13-2 Lighting fixtures should be designed for exterior use and should be weather resistant.
- 13-3 The address should be illuminated and clearly visible at night.
- 13-4 The address should be visible from the street.
- 13-5 Address numbers should be 4-8 inches high.
- 13-6 The preferred location to display the address is affixed to the front of the home, adjacent to the front door. If structural considerations preclude affixing the address adjacent to the front door, then the address may be attached on the front of the home or garage as long as it is still clearly visible from the street and illuminated at night.
- 13-7 Lighting fixtures should be directed away from adjacent areas to minimize light pollution.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 13-8 Compact fluorescent bulbs and photocell sensors are encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.

## Single-family Residential

### SITE ELEMENTS

Site elements include those features that are auxiliary to the home, such as landscaping, fencing, and paving. Site elements are typically used to enhance the appearance and functionality of the home.

High-quality site elements can increase the beauty and value of the home, and when carefully selected, can also contribute to the visual continuity of the street.



*This renovated North Sacramento home has metal fencing in a color that corresponds to the trim on the home, and landscaping in the front and side yards.*

## Single-family Residential

### 14 Landscaping

#### Design Principle

Landscaping shall be used around the home to positively contribute to its appearance and to give a sense of visual continuity along the street. The front yard shall be planted with landscaping materials that may include a mixture of turf, groundcover, and decorative shrubs.

#### Rationale

Use of a variety of landscaping plants and materials can help create visual interest and define the character of the neighborhood. Trees provide shade, reduce energy consumption in the summer, help to filter air pollution, and can increase property values.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 14-1 Landscaping shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.68.010, "Landscaping requirements," which states that a maximum of 40% of the front yard setback may be paved for parking and driveways, with an additional 10% for walkways or uncovered patio use. The remaining portion of the yard must be landscaped.
- 14-2 Alternatives to turf, such as groundcover that can tolerate foot traffic, are encouraged.
- 14-3 A minimum of two trees should be planted in the front yard. A minimum of three trees should be planted for homes on corner lots when the yard permits full canopy growth.
- 14-4 Bare soil should be planted or mulched with bark, stone, or other suitable materials to avoid unnecessary runoff.



*Groundcovers, such as this Vitex species, can provide a low-water alternative to turf.*



*Thymus species provide another groundcover alternative to turf.*

## Single-family Residential

- 14-5 Street trees should be retained. Consult the City Parks and Trees Service at (916) 808-5200 for questions regarding the care of street trees. Private tree services are available for consultation before trimming or removal of mature trees on private lots.
- 14-6 Refer to the following lists for more information about recommended species:

**Sacramento Tree Foundation**

[www.sactree.com/treeInfo/treesWeOffer.html](http://www.sactree.com/treeInfo/treesWeOffer.html)

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)**

[www.smud.org/residential/saving/trees/index.html](http://www.smud.org/residential/saving/trees/index.html)

**City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation**

[www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/index.html](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/index.html)

- 14-7 Street trees and plant species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate. Low-water landscaping materials are encouraged.
- 14-8 Trees species should be selected so that each tree's canopy at full growth can be accommodated by the site. A variety of tree species representing a range of sizes will contribute to the visual interest of the yard and is recommended.

### Sustainability Guidelines

- 14-9 Homeowners are particularly encouraged to plant deciduous shade trees and shrubs that shade the west and south sides of the home to minimize solar heat gain and increase energy efficiency.
- 14-10 Shade trees should be planted to shade pavement areas to reduce heat transmission and energy consumption.
- 14-11 New planting strips located between the sidewalk and street should be a minimum of 6 feet wide to promote the health of shade trees.



*Native and low water use ornamental plants can significantly reduce water consumption.*



*Landscaped areas should be mulched with bark or stone.*

## Single-family Residential



*A conventional spray system is most effective for turf and groundcover.*



*A drip irrigation system provides deeper watering for shrubs and trees.*

### 15 Irrigation

#### Design Principle

Irrigation is essential to maintain the health and beauty of a home's landscaping and shall be provided for all infill homes.

#### Rationale

The seasonal extremes of the Sacramento climate make regular irrigation of planted areas mandatory. Automatic irrigation ensures regular and consistent watering, and promotes healthy landscaping.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 15-1 An automatic irrigation system should be installed in the front yard to provide consistent coverage of all planted areas. A home on a corner lot should have an automatic irrigation system that covers the yards fronting both streets. Automatic controllers with rain shut-off valves provide greater water conservation.
- 15-2 If there is a front planting strip, the homeowner is responsible for the irrigation and maintenance of it.
- 15-3 Turf and groundcover are more effectively irrigated with a conventional spray system. Head-to-head spray coverage is recommended. Avoid overspray onto sidewalks and adjacent properties.
- 15-4 A drip irrigation system is recommended for shrubs and trees to provide deeper, more even watering. Drip irrigation also permits greater water conservation than a conventional spray system.
- 15-5 Irrigation controls must be screened from view by landscaping or other attractive site materials.

### 16 Fencing

#### Design Principle

Fencing must be of high quality materials that are consistent with the style of the home to enhance the overall character of the home and contribute to the positive appearance of the neighborhood.

#### Rationale

Fencing should be selected to complement the character of the home as well as the overall character of the neighborhood. Front yard fencing should be selected not simply as a security measure, but for its decorative qualities.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 16-1 Fencing shall be located and constructed in conformance with the City Municipal Code Section 15.156, "Fences," and Section 17.76, "Wall, Fence and Gate Regulations." Per code, fencing on the front or side yard adjacent to a street of residential properties shall not exceed 4 feet in height, unless it is made of wrought iron or tubular steel, in which case the fencing may be up to 6 feet in height. However, to increase the aesthetic appeal of the North Sacramento neighborhood, these Design Guidelines discourage the installation of fences over 4 feet in the front yard or a side yard adjacent to the street.
- 16-2 Fencing must allow unobstructed visibility of the front entrance, and in the case of homes on corner lots, the front and side entrances to promote visual surveillance and aid in crime prevention.
- 16-3 Front yard fencing should have a minimum of 50% transparency.
- 16-4 The style, materials, and color of the fencing should complement the style, materials, and color of the home.
- 16-5 High-quality materials, including wood, metal, stucco, and some forms of vinyl fencing, are acceptable fencing materials. Stucco must be smooth plaster.
- 16-6 Chain link fencing is highly discouraged for use as a front yard feature. Solid stucco walls are also discouraged, but stucco may be used in conjunction with other materials.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 16-7 The use of chlorine-based vinyl fencing is discouraged.



*A tall hedge can provide a good place for intruders to hide and should be avoided.*



*Wooden fence with 50% transparency*



*Metal fence with brick column*

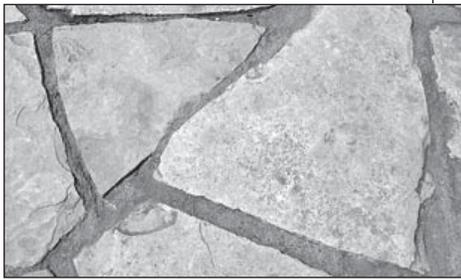


*Metal fence with ornamental top condition*

## Single-family Residential



*Brick set on sand and gravel base*



*Flagstone mortared on concrete*



*Patterned Concrete*



*Stone with turf areas between blocks*

### 17 Paving/Hardscaping Surfaces

#### Design Principle

The paving materials selected shall contribute to the overall appearance of the home. Impervious paving surfaces shall be minimized, and limited to the driveway, walkways, and patios.

#### Rationale

Large areas of impervious surfaces, such as concrete and asphalt, should be minimized at the front of the home. Instead, alternatives, such as brick, stone, concrete pavers, and patterned concrete, should be used as appropriate. Some of these alternative forms of paving can offer the added benefit of minimizing stormwater run-off and the need for supplementary irrigation, as water is able to percolate down through the spaces between paving units.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 17-1 Paved areas shall not exceed those defined by City Municipal Code Section 17.68.010, "Landscaping requirements," which states that a maximum of 40% of the front yard setback may be paved for parking and driveways, with an additional 10% for walkways or uncovered patio use.
- 17-2 Alternative paving surfaces, such as concrete pavers, brick, or stone are encouraged for driveway surfaces to reduce the appearance of large, paved areas.
- 17-3 Alternative paving surfaces that help to keep stormwater runoff on-site are encouraged.

## Single-family Residential

### 18 Utilities and Storage Facilities

#### Design Principle

The visibility of utilities and storage facilities shall be minimized by placing them at the side or rear of the home and screening them from view from the street.

#### Rationale

Utilities and service features are less attractive but necessary parts of the home. These features should be placed at the side or rear of the home, and screened by fences and landscaping. Alley access can facilitate placement of and access to these features at the rear of the home.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

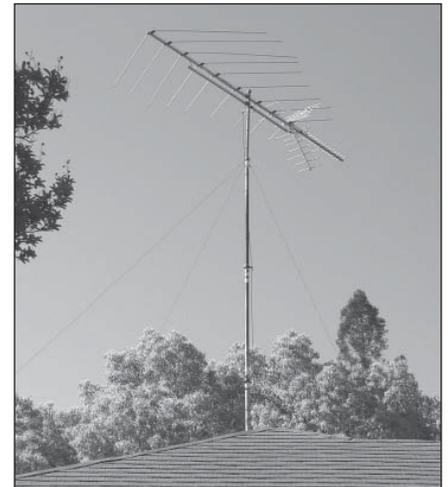
- 18-1 Trash receptacles should be placed in the side or rear yard and adequately screened by landscaping or a side yard fence.
- 18-2 Storage sheds should be located in the rear yard. Placement in the side yard is acceptable if the shed is adequately screened by landscaping or a side yard fence.
- 18-3 Accessory structures should be similar in character and materials to the main building, but subordinate in massing, scale, and height.
- 18-4 Antennae should be mounted at the rear of the home. Satellite dishes should be mounted on the home to minimize their visibility.
- 18-5 Heating and cooling units should not be roof-mounted or placed at the front of the home. Heating and cooling units should be placed in the attic or at the side or rear of the home and screened by a side yard fence or landscaping.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 18-6 Where feasible, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units should be placed on the north side of the primary structure or garage (if not the street side) to shade the units and minimize energy consumption.



*This utility box should be screened by taller growing plants.*



*A conspicuous antenna is highly discouraged.*

### 19 Access Ramps

#### Design Principle

Ramps that provide access to the front or side of the home shall be safe, designed to match the style of the home, and constructed of durable materials that complement those used on the home.

#### Rationale

Ramps that provide universal access to single-family homes should be designed so that they look like they are a part of the home to the greatest extent possible. The ramp should be designed to minimize its size and bulk without compromising safety and ease of access. Materials used should complement those used on the home, i.e., a concrete ramp with brick facing could be used on a brick home, while a wooden ramp might be more suitable for a home with wood lap siding.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 19-1 Any ramp providing access to a single-family residence shall be designed to meet standards found in the Americans with Disabilities Act, available for review at:  
[www.ada.gov/stdspdf.htm](http://www.ada.gov/stdspdf.htm)  
Under ADA standards, a ramp shall be designed with a slope ranging between 1:12 and 1:20 (5 to 8% slope), and shall include 60-inch landings at the top and bottom of any run. A handrail shall be included on all ramps higher than 6 inches.
- 19-2 The ramp should be designed so that it does not detract from existing architectural elements at the front of the home. The specific location and angle of the ramp may vary, depending on the design of the home and its location on the lot.
- 19-3 Ramps should be constructed of sturdy, long-lasting materials, such as wood, brick, or concrete. Ramp material(s) should complement those used on the home. Where appropriate, facing materials used on the home may be affixed to the side of the ramp.
- 19-4 Modular aluminum ramps are discouraged from use at the front of the home.

# Multi-family Residential

The Multi-family Design Standards and Guidelines outline good design practices for infill multi-family development (defined as residential structures with three or more units). Emphasis is given to design that will allow multi-family near established single-family homes to complement those homes without appearing too massive or out of scale. Mixed-use development on or in the immediate vicinity of Del Paso Boulevard may be designed to complement adjacent or nearby commercial development.



*This multi-family development has been designed with architectural features similar to those in single-family homes.*

## Multi-family Residential

### SITE DESIGN

This section discusses the location of multi-family structures on the lot, their orientation toward the street and adjacent buildings, and the location of parking lots and parking structures,

Good site design of multi-family structures should ensure that residents can easily access them from the street, with entryways clearly located on the street side. Parking areas, utilities, and service facilities should be located toward the rear of the site. Common spaces should be toward the interior of the site so that all residents can easily access these facilities, and to provide additional safety for small children.

Setbacks for multi-family structures should be similar to those for established structures in the area. If the established context consists of single-family homes, multi-family structures should have similar setbacks, and the design of the multi-family structures should minimize the mass of the buildings. Multi-family structures located in or near commercial districts may have smaller setbacks similar to those of commercial buildings.



*A multi-family structure with defined entries, gates, and paths.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 20 Relationship to the Street

#### Design Principle

Multi-family structures shall present a facade that encourages interaction with the street by including entry features, windows, and landscaping along the street side of the building.

#### Rationale

Multi-family structures that are adjacent to a public street should encourage residents to actively engage with that street through a variety of design elements. In addition to improving the visual quality of the streetscape, design elements should allow residents to see and be seen from the street, enhancing neighborhood interaction and improving safety.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 20-1 Multi-family structures that present a blank wall to the street are not allowed.
- 20-2 Multi-family structures that are constructed as infill near an existing single-family residential neighborhood should provide a streetside facade that is complementary to these single-family homes in style and massing.
- 20-3 Multi-family structures should have entry features that front onto the street, including a door and porch or stoop that relate directly to the street frontage.
- 20-4 Recessed entry features are strongly discouraged. Residents should be able to see and be seen as they enter and exit their residences.
- 20-5 Streetside windows should be installed that provide views of the street from active living spaces.
- 20-6 Small, landscaped private entry yards afford an attractive appearance on the street side and allow residents to control and take pride in these areas.
- 20-7 Pedestrians should have clear, unobstructed access to the street and to nearby transit stops.
- 20-8 Paths and access points should be clearly visible during the day and well lit after dark.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 20-9 Street trees should be planted within planting strips and yards to provide shade and increase energy efficiency.



*Blank walls facing the street should be avoided.*



*Private front yards that are visible to the street can help residents to see and engage with the public realm.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 21 Setbacks

#### Design Principle

Setbacks of multi-family residential structures shall be consistent with the appropriate commercial or residential context.

#### Rationale

When multi-family residential structures are placed on busy commercial streets, smaller setbacks that locate the building closer to the street are the norm. Multi-family structures constructed near single-family residential neighborhoods should reflect the larger setbacks typically found in those areas.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 21-1 Large multi-family developments should be designed with varied setbacks that contribute to an interesting streetscape and avoid a monotonous streetwall. Continuous lines of buildings with the same setback should be avoided.
- 21-2 Individual buildings can also be designed with an articulated front, with porches closer to the street than recessed garages.
- 21-3 In residential neighborhoods, multi-family housing should adopt the predominant setback, but should also vary the building facade to relieve the appearance of mass.



*These multi-family homes have been designed with setbacks and architectural features similar to those found in single-family homes.*



*This contemporary multi-family development has been designed with setbacks similar to adjacent commercial development.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 22 Interior Common Spaces

#### Design Principle

Multi-family structures shall provide interior common spaces that are easily accessible to residents. Individual units adjacent to common spaces shall have facades with entry features and windows that open onto those common spaces.

#### Rationale

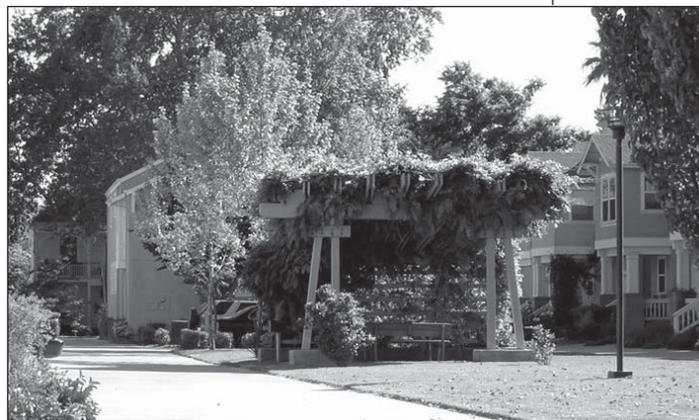
Interior common spaces should ideally foster a sense of community. This can be facilitated by building facades that allow residents to see and easily use common spaces. Common spaces should offer amenities that invite use, such as seating, shade, and tot lots.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 22-1 Ground floor units should have doorways that open onto interior common spaces.
- 22-2 All units that overlook interior common spaces should have windows that allow residents to easily see these areas.
- 22-3 Common amenities, such as tot lots, seating areas, and swimming pools, should be provided that cater to all age ranges, from small children to the elderly, as appropriate.
- 22-4 Common facilities such as recreation rooms, and laundry and mail areas should be located adjacent to common open space to increase activity in these areas.
- 22-5 Common open space should be designed as a visible, accessible transition between the street and individual units.



*Interior common spaces can offer seating and areas for informal activities.*



*This multi-family complex has an inviting interior common space with picnic area.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 23 Scale and Mass

#### Design Principle

The scale and mass of multi-family residential structures shall be consistent with the scale and mass of existing structures in the vicinity.

#### Rationale

Multi-family development should use design and construction methods that minimize the appearance of mass with multiple roof lines, articulated facades, and architectural detailing that break up the facade.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 23-1 Multi-family structures that are constructed as infill near an existing single-family residential neighborhood should provide a streetside facade that is complementary to these single-family homes in style and massing.
- 23-2 The second story on two-story structures should be articulated to break up the facade and minimize the appearance of mass.
- 23-3 Two-story structures should have multiple rooflines with corresponding gables that are consistent in style and materials with the overall structure.
- 23-4 Architectural detailing, such as dormer and other types of decorative windows, complementary trim, porch details, decorative shutters, and wainscoting, can reduce the appearance of bulk and mass by providing visual interest.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 23-5 Whenever possible, buildings should be oriented on the site to maximize solar access on southern exposures so that features such as photovoltaic solar panels and daylighting can be incorporated into the architectural design.
- 23-6 Solar access for daylighting and solar panels should be considered in massing design. Glazing should be located predominantly on the north and south sides of the structure. Glazing on the west side of the structure should be minimized, unless the west side of the structure is the street side.



*Multiple roof lines can reduce the appearance of mass in large multi-family structures.*



*The facade of this multi-family structure has been designed with architectural detailing to add interest and reduce mass.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 24 Parking Lots

#### Design Principle

Parking shall be located at the rear or interior of the complex, where feasible. Parking lots that face the street or are on the side of multi-family housing shall be minimized.

#### Rationale

Multi-family residential structures should encourage residents to have an active relationship with the street(s) adjacent to the development. To this end, parking lots should be located at the rear or in the interior of the development so as not to interfere with access to the street or interior common spaces.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 24-1 Parking lots shall conform to City Municipal Code Section 17.64.030, "development standards for parking facilities," which specifies stall size and design.
- 24-2 Smaller, scattered lots will provide better access to residents and be less visually obtrusive than a single large lot.
- 24-3 Covered parking should be located so that it does not interfere with front entries or access to interior common spaces.
- 24-4 Parking areas should be screened from adjacent structures with landscaping strips. However, screening should not exceed 4 feet in height, and should be permeable so that areas can be viewed by passing pedestrians and vehicles.
- 24-5 Underground parking in private or shared garages accessible from the street is acceptable if it does not interfere with pedestrian access to the street.



*These units face the street, while parking is located at the rear of the building.*



*Parking is in small, dispersed lots in the interior of this multi-family development. The materials on the carport also match those on the main buildings.*

## Multi-family Residential

### ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

This section addresses the specific structural elements that can contribute to the positive appearance of multi-family housing.

All architectural elements should be constructed of high-quality materials to promote longevity and a visually pleasing appearance. Variety of design and materials is desirable if complementary to the existing neighborhood. If located in an established residential neighborhood, multi-family housing shall be designed with architectural features that complement the character of adjacent single-family homes.



*These townhomes have facade details and colors that distinguish them as individual units.*

*Photo courtesy of DesignLens*

## Multi-family Residential

### 25 Garages

#### Design Principle

The visibility of multi-family garages from the street shall be minimized, with garages located beneath, at the side, or at the rear of multi-family structures. Garage and carport materials and architectural styles shall complement the materials and styles of the primary buildings.

#### Rationale

To minimize the visual prominence of garages, they should be placed underneath or at the rear of multi-family structures. Garages should be grouped in small clusters rather than unbroken lines.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 25-1 Garages should be varied in their location to minimize the impact of a row of garage doors.
- 25-2 Rows of garages or carports around the perimeter of a development should be avoided.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 25-3 The use of photovoltaic solar panels on carports is encouraged.
- 25-4 Garages and parking structures should incorporate tandem parking whenever feasible to reduce the extent of paved driveway areas.
- 25-5 Reduced alley aprons are encouraged to decrease pavement runoff.



*The garages are located at the rear of this multi-family structure.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 26 Entry Features

#### Design Principle

The principal entry to each unit shall be clearly visible from the street and include a porch, stoop, or other entry feature.

#### Rationale

To give definition to the facade of multi-family structures and provide visual interest, entryways should be defined by entry features such as a porch, stoop, portico, or overhang.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 26-1 The front entryway to individual units should include some form of entry feature, such as a porch or portico, that adds visual interest to the overall structure and connects each unit to the street.
- 26-2 To promote visibility and security, front doorways should not be recessed to the extent that they are not clearly visible.
- 26-3 The style of porch and portico columns should be consistent with the scale and style of the building.
- 26-4 Porch columns and railings should be constructed of high-quality materials that complement the materials used in the overall structure.



*Landscaped entry area, steps, and a small porch lead to each unit.*



*The entryways in these contemporary units are marked by a change of material - high quality wood paneling - that contrasts with the adjacent stucco.*

### 27 Lighting

#### Design Principle

All common areas and accessways shall be adequately lit during low-light periods. Light fixture design shall complement building architectural style.

#### Rationale

Lighting fixtures should be selected with consideration for the type of use in each area of the complex. Parking lots should be adequately lit so that residents and visitors can easily negotiate parking areas. The lighting of paths and walkways should be adequate for pedestrians to walk safely without light spillover into nearby units. The design and style of light fixtures should complement the style of the buildings.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 27-1 Lighting should be provided in all common areas, including parking, vehicular and pedestrian entries, walkways, and at common facilities such as mailboxes and swimming pools.
- 27-2 Lighting fixtures should be designed for exterior use and should be weather resistant.
- 27-3 Materials, size, color, and design of light fixtures should be consistent with the style of the structures.
- 27-4 Ornamental pedestrian lighting in common areas should not exceed 12 feet in height. Lighting for parking areas should not exceed 14 feet in height. Pedestrian lighting, such as lighted bollards, should not exceed 4 feet in height.
- 27-5 Lighting of parking lots, landscaping, and pedestrian walkways should not result in light spillover to interior residential units or adjacent homes, and should not cast glare on the public way and adjacent properties.
- 27-6 Light fixtures should be selected to attract attention to the building details instead of the fixtures themselves.
- 27-7 The lights should provide even illumination levels. Flashing or pulsating light fixtures should be avoided.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 27-8 Compact fluorescent bulbs and photocell sensors are encouraged to achieve energy efficiency.



*Decorative lighting in scale with pedestrian walkway*

*Photo courtesy of DesignLens*



*Pedestrian-scaled pathway bollard lighting*

## Multi-family Residential

### 28 Signage and Addresses

#### Design Principle

Entry signage shall be provided at all primary access points to the complex and within the complex, as needed, to ensure wayfinding. Entry signage identifying the development and its address shall be easily visible from the street to assist visitors and emergency vehicles.

#### Rationale

Signage promotes wayfinding, and should be easy to read from the street and well-lit at night. Signage also contributes to the character of the complex, and should complement the style and character of the buildings.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 28-1 Interior vehicle and pedestrian circulation routes should be clearly marked by signage.
- 28-2 Individual units should have addresses with letters that are 4-8 inches high.
- 28-3 All signage should be illuminated and clearly visible after dark.



*Pedestrian-scaled signage assists wayfinding within multi-family developments.*



*Signage with lighting (in landscaping)*



*Signage with landscaping and lighting*

## Multi-family Residential

### SITE ELEMENTS

Site elements include those features that are auxiliary to the buildings, including landscaping and fencing, as well as common facilities, such as mailboxes and trash receptacles.



*Lighting, landscaping, fencing, and other site elements have been carefully selected to enhance this new multi-family development.*

## Multi-family Residential

### 29 Landscaping

#### Design Principle

Landscaping shall be provided in all streetside setbacks, common areas, and parking lots to provide shade and create visually appealing exterior spaces.

#### Rationale

A variety of landscaping plants and materials can contribute to the visual interest of a neighborhood. Landscaping elements should be selected not only with consideration for the style of the multi-family structures, but should also complement the landscaping of other buildings on the block.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 29-1 Landscaping shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 13.64.010, "Landscaping requirements," which requires that the front and street side setbacks must be planted with landscaping materials that primarily consist of turf or low-growing groundcover.
- 29-2 Trees shall be planted in the setbacks and common areas at intervals appropriate to the full spread of the mature trees.
- 29-3 Bare soil should be planted or mulched with bark, stone, or other suitable materials to avoid unnecessary runoff.
- 29-4 Street trees should be retained. Consult the City Parks and Trees Service at (916) 264-5200 for questions regarding the care of street trees. Private tree services are available for consultation before trimming or removal of mature trees.
- 29-5 Plant species should be suitable for the Sacramento climate. Low-water landscaping materials are encouraged.



*Landscaping and fencing define the common area, but interior spaces can be seen from the street.*

## Multi-family Residential

- 29-6 Refer to the following web sites for more information about recommended species:

**Sacramento Tree Foundation**

[www.sactree.com/treeInfo/treesWeOffer.html](http://www.sactree.com/treeInfo/treesWeOffer.html)

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)**

[www.smud.org/residential/saving/trees/index.html](http://www.smud.org/residential/saving/trees/index.html)

**City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation**

[www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/index.html](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/urbanforest/index.html)

### Sustainability Guidelines

- 29-7 All planting areas, including those designed to accommodate the 2-foot overhang on parking spaces, should be landscaped with groundcover or other planting materials to reduce stormwater runoff.
- 29-8 New planting strips located between the sidewalk and street should be a minimum of 6 feet wide to promote the health of shade trees.
- 29-9 Paved and hardscaped surfaces should be shaded by trees, shade structures, or photovoltaic solar panels, when possible, to reduce heat transmission and reduce energy consumption.
- 29-10 Deciduous shade trees and shrubs should be planted on the west and south sides of buildings to minimize solar heat gain and increase energy efficiency.



*Interior pedestrian path*

## Multi-family Residential



*Irrigation spray head*



*A drip irrigation system provides deeper watering for shrubs and trees.*

### 30 Irrigation

#### Design Principle

An automatic irrigation system shall be provided to maintain the health and positive appearance of all landscaped areas.

#### Rationale

The seasonal extremes of the Sacramento climate make regular irrigation of planted areas mandatory. Automatic irrigation ensures regular and consistent watering, and is desirable for the health of landscaping.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 30-1 An irrigation system must be installed to provide consistent coverage of all landscaped areas.
- 30-2 Turf and groundcover are more effectively irrigated with a conventional spray system. Head-to-head spray coverage is recommended. Avoid overspray onto sidewalks and adjacent properties.
- 30-3 A drip irrigation system is recommended for shrubs and trees to provide deeper, more even watering. Drip irrigation also permits greater water conservation than a conventional spray system.
- 30-4 Automatic controllers with rain shut-off valves will allow for greater water conservation.
- 30-5 Irrigation controls must be screened from view by landscaping or other attractive site materials.

## Multi-family Residential

### 31 Fencing

#### Design Principle

Fencing shall complement the design of the buildings and define the boundary of the complex without obstructing visibility or access.

#### Rationale

The design of fencing should be used to improve the appearance of the complex and enhance its character. Fencing should not obstruct access or visually screen the area, particularly on the street side of the complex.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 31-1 Fencing shall conform to the City Municipal Code Section 17.76, "Wall, Fence and Gate Regulations," which states that front fencing may not exceed 4 feet in height, while side and rear fencing may not exceed 6 feet in height.
- 31-2 Fencing should be perceived as an enhancement, not a barrier, and should not obstruct pedestrian access.
- 31-3 Fencing adjacent to any street should have a minimum of 50% transparency.
- 31-4 High-quality materials, including wood, metal, stucco, and some forms of vinyl fencing, are acceptable fencing materials. Stucco must be smooth plaster.
- 31-5 Combining materials, such as metal with brick or stucco pillars, is an attractive way to give interest to fencing and is recommended.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 31-6 The use of chlorine-based vinyl fencing is discouraged.

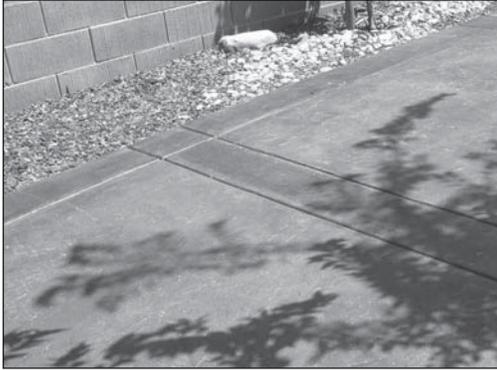


*Fencing should be a visual enhancement of the buildings.*



*This fencing defines the boundaries of the complex but allows easy visibility from the exterior.*

## Multi-family Residential



*Concrete paving can be enhanced with detailing and the use of integral color.*



*The interlocking pavers in this shaded parking lot help to keep stormwater runoff on-site.*



*Pervious paving reduces stormwater runoff.*

### 32 Paving/Hardscaping Surfaces

#### Design Principle

Walkways and common areas shall incorporate decorative paving treatments and pervious paving treatments. Parking lots shall incorporate pervious paving treatments, where feasible.

#### Rationale

All paved areas, such as parking lots, common areas, and pedestrian walkways, can be enhanced with the use of a variety of decorative paving treatments, such as stamped concrete or concrete with integral color.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

- 32-1 Impervious surfaces should be limited to driveways, parking lots, walkways, and common areas.
- 32-2 Alternative paving surfaces are encouraged for walkway surfaces in common areas, where brick, modular pavers, and various forms of stamped or integrally colored concrete are appropriate. Pedestrian walkways must balance enhanced appearance with universal access; therefore, materials such as flagstones are not appropriate for common walkways unless installed in a manner that ensures accessibility.
- 32-3 Use of permeable materials, such as permeable asphalt, grasscrete, and modular pavers, are encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff in parking lots. Where possible, drainage should be directed into planting areas to increase percolation of water runoff. Alternative paving treatments must be approved by the Building Division of the City Development Services Department.

#### Sustainability Guidelines

- 32-4 The use of pervious paving and bioswales is encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff.
- 32-5 Light colored paving materials are preferred for primary paving materials to reduce heat transmission. Darker colors may be used in small amounts to add visual interest.

### 33 Services and Utilities

#### Design Principle

Accessory structures, such as mailboxes and laundry rooms, shall be easily accessible to residents. Service elements, such as trash enclosures and mechanical equipment, shall be screened from view.

#### Rationale

Common facilities, such as mail areas, laundry rooms, swimming pools, and playgrounds, should be easy for residents to find and use. Trash receptacles and utility boxes should be equally accessible but screened from public view to protect the visual quality of the development.

#### Design Standards and Guidelines

##### Trash and Recycling Enclosures

- 33-1 Trash and recycling receptacles should be screened from view. Landscaping around trash enclosures will help to soften and screen what may otherwise be an unattractive structure.
- 33-2 Curbs and other impediments should be avoided so that receptacles are easily accessible for trash removal.
- 33-3 Trash/recycling enclosures must be made of a durable material, such as brick, concrete, or stucco, and should complement the design of the primary structures.
- 33-4 Locate trash/recycling enclosures so that noise and odors are not detected by nearby residents.

##### Storage Areas

- 33-5 Storage for personal items should be provided in structures that match the design and materials of the primary buildings.
- 33-6 Storage areas should be located so that residents can easily access them from parking areas.

##### Utilities/Mechanical/Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

- 33-7 All utilities, including radio and cable lines, should be installed underground. The visibility of roof-mounted satellite dishes should be minimized.
- 33-8 Mechanical equipment should be included in the design of the building where possible. If this is not feasible, it should be screened with a solid enclosure and landscaping.
- 33-9 Exterior utility equipment should be placed in low-traffic areas and screened by landscaping.
- 33-10 Where feasible, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units should be placed on the north side of buildings (if not the street side) to shade the units and minimize energy consumption.



*Attractive and accessible mailbox facility*



*Appropriate screening of HVAC unit behind fence*

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# Manufactured Homes

Manufactured homes are defined as structures that are:

transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is 8 body feet or more in width, or 40 body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 1974).

Unlike single-family homes that are built on-site, and are regulated by construction standards established by various national engineering and manufacturing boards, manufactured homes are regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has established two key regulatory codes:

- National Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (1974 Act); and the
- Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 (2000 Act).

Both laws set national standards for construction, safety, and energy conservation during the factory production process. The 2000 Act also provides for a private sector consensus committee to make recommendations every two years on new innovations in manufactured home design.

In addition to these national laws, the State of California also regulates manufactured housing through its Mobile Homes–Manufactured Housing Act of 1980, which is primarily concerned with the proper installation of manufactured homes in mobile home parks.

Local jurisdictions may supplement the manufacturing and installation standards set by HUD and the State of California with standards that regulate the appearance and exterior amenities of manufactured homes.



*Contemporary manufactured homes must include attractive architectural detailing.*

*Photo courtesy of California Institute of Manufactured Homes*

## Manufactured Homes



*A contemporary manufactured home  
Photo courtesy of Federal Trade Commission*

Although manufactured homes are still fairly uncommon as infill development, they are appealing to some because they are less expensive than site-built homes. Like other forms of infill construction, however, manufactured homes must fit within the overall neighborhood context.

Manufactured homes are no longer simply long, narrow metal boxes. Instead, they can be constructed with gabled, tilt-up roofs, porches, built-in garages, and the types of siding and roofing that would be found on a typical site-built home. These design guidelines provide recommendations for the type of exterior improvements that should be made to manufactured homes to ensure that they complement existing site-built homes.

### SITE DESIGN

#### 34 Setbacks, Garages, and Parking

##### Design Principle

The manufactured home shall reflect the architectural style and setbacks, as well as the orientation of structures and their entries of established single-family homes on the block.

##### Rationale

Manufactured homes are traditionally linear in design and construction, with a front entry on the long side of the home. This poses a challenge when placing them on the long, narrow lots often found in some North Sacramento neighborhoods, as the “front” entry of older manufactured homes could open onto the side yard.

Newer manufactured homes are more flexible in design and construction, and can be selected to better fit into the context of single-family neighborhoods. Developers and homeowners contemplating the purchase of a manufactured home should select models and options that reflect the basic design of the single-family homes on the block where the manufactured home will be installed.

##### Design Standards and Guidelines

##### Lot Orientation and Setbacks

34-1 Setbacks and site planning should follow the same standards as site-built residential housing, as described in the “Single-Family Residential” section of the Design Standards and Guidelines, with the main entry on the street side.

##### Garages and Carports

34-2 Garages and carports provided for manufactured homes should follow the same design standards and guidelines as for site-built residential housing. Where possible, the garage should be integrated into the manufactured home design as an enclosed garage.

##### Parking

34-3 Parking provided for manufactured homes should follow the same design standards and guidelines as for site-built residential housing.