

Design Permit Design Review Criteria

17.120.070 Design review criteria. When considering design permit applications, the city shall evaluate applications to ensure that they satisfy the following criteria, comply with the development standards of the zoning district, conform to policies of the general plan, the local coastal program, and any applicable specific plan, and are consistent with any other policies or guidelines the city council may adopt for this purpose. To obtain design permit approval, projects must satisfy these criteria to the extent they apply.

- A. **Community Character.** The overall project design including site plan, height, massing, architectural style, materials, and landscaping contribute to Capitola's unique coastal village character and distinctive sense of place.
- B. **Neighborhood Compatibility.** The project is designed to respect and complement adjacent properties. The project height, massing, and intensity is compatible with the scale of nearby buildings. The project design incorporates measures to minimize traffic, parking, noise, and odor impacts on nearby residential properties.
- C. **Historic Character.** Renovations and additions respect and preserve existing historic structure. New structures and additions to non-historic structures reflect and complement the historic character of nearby properties and the community at large.
- D. **Sustainability.** The project supports natural resource protection and environmental sustainability through features such as on-site renewable energy generation, passive solar design, enhanced energy efficiency, water conservation measures, and other green building techniques.
- E. **Pedestrian Environment.** The primary entrances are oriented towards and visible from the street to support an active public realm and an inviting pedestrian environment.
- F. **Privacy.** The orientation and location of buildings, entrances, windows, doors, decks, and other building features minimizes privacy impacts on adjacent properties and provides adequate privacy for project occupants.
- G. **Safety.** The project promotes public safety and minimizes opportunities for crime through design features such as property access controls (e.g., placement of entrances, fences), increased visibility and features that promote a sense of ownership of outdoor space.
- H. **Massing and Scale.** The massing and scale of buildings complement and respect neighboring structures and correspond to the scale of the human form. Large volumes are divided into small components through varying wall planes, heights, and setbacks. Building placement and massing avoids impacts to public views and solar access.
- I. **Architectural Style.** Buildings feature an architectural style that is compatible with the surrounding built and natural environment, is an authentic implementation of appropriate established architectural styles, and reflects Capitola's unique coastal village character.
- J. **Articulation and Visual Interest.** Building facades are well articulated to add visual interest, distinctiveness, and human scale. Building elements such as roofs, doors, windows, and

porches are part of an integrated design and relate to the human scale. Architectural details such as trim, eaves, window boxes, and brackets contribute to the visual interest of the building.

- K. **Materials.** Building facades include a mix of natural, high quality, and durable materials that are appropriate to the architectural style, enhance building articulation, and are compatible with surrounding development.
- L. **Parking and Access.** Parking areas are located and designed to minimize visual impacts and maintain Capitola's distinctive neighborhoods and pedestrian-friendly environment. Safe and convenient connections are provided for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- M. **Landscaping.** Landscaping is an integral part of the overall project design, is appropriate to the site and structures, and enhances the surrounding area.
- N. **Drainage.** The site plan is designed to maximize efficiency of on-site drainage with runoff directed towards permeable surface areas and engineered retention.
- O. **Open Space and Public Places.** Single-family dwellings feature inviting front yards that enhance Capitola's distinctive neighborhoods. Multifamily residential projects include public and private open space that is attractive, accessible, and functional. Nonresidential development provides semi-public outdoor spaces, such as plazas and courtyards, which help support pedestrian activity within an active and engaging public realm.
- P. **Signs.** The number, location, size, and design of signs complement the project design and are compatible with the surrounding context.
- Q. **Lighting.** Exterior lighting is an integral part of the project design with light fixtures designed, located, and positioned to minimize illumination of the sky and adjacent properties.
- R. **Accessory Structures.** The design of detached garages, sheds, fences, walls, and other accessory structures relates to the primary structure and is compatible with adjacent properties.
- S. **Mechanical Equipment, Trash Receptacles, and Utilities.** Mechanical equipment, trash receptacles, and utilities are contained within architectural enclosures or fencing, sited in unobtrusive locations, and/or screened by landscaping.