



# 1 Design on a Human Scale

Compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural resources, and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit people's health.

# 2 Provide Choices

People want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation, and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.



# 3 Encourage Mixed-Use Development

Integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and diverse communities.

# 4 Preserve Urban Centers

Restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services, and buildings and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promotes stability for city neighborhoods.



# 5 Vary Transportation Options

Giving people the option of walking, biking, and using public transit in addition to driving reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment, and encourages physical activity.



# 6

## Build Vibrant Public Spaces

Citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places to stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.



# 7

## Create a Neighborhood Identity

A "sense of place" gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.

# 8

## Protect Environmental Resources

A well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution, and protects property values.

# 9

## Conserve Landscapes

Open space, farms, and wildlife habitat are essential for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons.



## Design Matters

Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.



# 10

# The AIA's 10 Principles for Livable Communities

## Design Alternatives for a "Big Box" Development

# 1

Existing conditions. Can you imagine your favorite "big box" retailer sitting in the middle of the field surrounded by parking?



Bump-outs at the corners shorten the distance. Good sidewalks create an environment where people feel comfortable walking.

# 3

First-floor commercial uses contribute to street life. Parking is integrated within the block.



Articulated frontages and appropriate landscaping define successful public spaces and create livable communities built on a human scale.