

## GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES & TIPS

The following guidelines and tips can help you remain friends with your neighbors after the completion of your new or remodeled house. They are based on the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Think about what your concerns would be if your next door neighbor were proposing to either build a new house or add on to an existing house. Incorporate those concerns into your thinking as you design your own new or remodeled house.

It is the intent of these guidelines and tips to advance sound planning in building homes and additions with scrutiny of neighborhood compatibility, views and privacy. While it is not the intent to create a right to privacy or views, a compromise that advances these goals is highly desirable.

### BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR DESIGN

- Design your addition or your new house as if you were going to live next door to it.
- Talk with your neighbors and show them your proposed design.
- Consider organizing a meeting with your neighbors to encourage neighbor discussions.
- Read the article regarding "Tips for Managing Conflict with Comfort" provided in this section which can help provide guidance for successful discussions.

### In General

When your project is reviewed by the Single Family Design Board (SFDB), the SFDB will be looking for general compliance with these Good Neighbor Guidelines (See Finding 6 on page 5-D) along with other Neighborhood Compatibility Findings. The SFDB understands that, in some cases, strong compliance with privacy landscaping, noise and lighting guidelines may not be possible or necessary. However, in cases where there appear to be significant potential issues raised by a project design that would not be posed with a suitable alternative design more sensitive to neighboring properties, the SFDB may deny the project. It is necessary that you communicate to the SFDB how your project is generally consistent with the Good Neighbor Guidelines. The techniques below will help when you appear before the SFDB:

- Discuss how you have designed your project with your neighbors in mind
- Summarize for the SFDB the results of any discussions you have had with neighbors about your project.

Using these techniques can help the SFDB to see how you have made a "good faith effort" to be generally consistent with the Good Neighbor Guidelines.

This chapter covers the following guideline and tip topics.

#### Guidelines

1. Privacy
2. Landscaping
3. Noise
4. Lighting

#### Tips

- Private Views
- Construction Impacts
- Managing Conflict with Comfort

**GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES**

**36. PRIVACY GUIDELINES**

**36.1 Visual Distance**

Locate structures and additions to increase visual distance between buildings. Avoiding large two-story building masses at the sides and rear of adjacent single family rear yards can help preserve privacy and sunlight access for your home and for neighboring properties.

Rather than simply following Municipal Code minimum setback standards, consider what a comfortable distance between a proposed addition and an existing neighbor's structure would be. Also consider the pattern of building separation in the immediate neighborhood and design a project compatible with this pattern. Locate areas that require more privacy away from your neighbors. Orient active outdoor areas away from neighbors.

**36.2 Upper-Story Decks and Balconies**

Avoid or minimize the number of decks that overlook neighboring properties. Locate upper-story balconies and decks to minimize the loss of privacy for neighboring properties. Upper-story balconies or decks facing the street are usually preferable to upper-story balconies or decks facing a yard area adjacent to a neighbor. Techniques to lessen impacts to neighboring property privacy include the following:

- 36.2.1 Meeting with neighbors adjacent to proposed upper-story balconies and decks prior to beginning the City application process is strongly encouraged.

36.2.2 Screen second-story balconies and decks from neighboring property by incorporating architectural screening elements such as enclosing walls, trellises, or awnings. For example, effective enclosures might include walls over 4' and perimeter planters facing neighbor's side or rear yards.

36.2.3 Locate second-story balconies and decks to avoid direct sight lines from the deck or balcony to neighbors' windows, open yard, patio, deck, and/or loggia areas.

36.2.4 Set back upper-story decks or balconies over 20 square feet at least 15' from interior lot lines when possible.

36.2.5 Avoid siting any "free-standing" chimneys on upper-story decks or balconies. Such chimneys look "out of place" architecturally and are better sited adjacent to a structure. Also, such chimney might block neighbors' views.

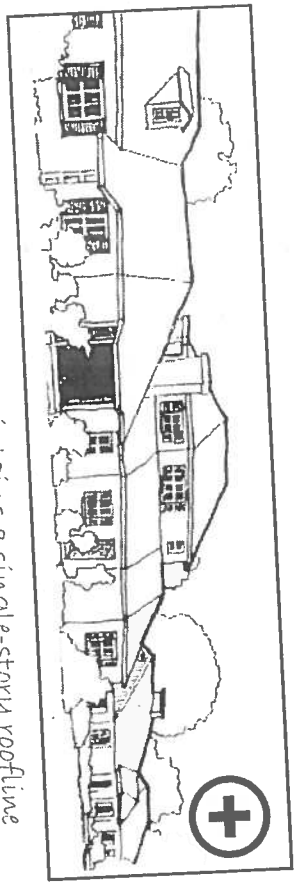
If Building and Safety minimum clearance standards can be met, chimneys are generally recommended to be less than 8' in height.

36.2.6 In Hillside areas, special consideration is needed for decks and outdoor courtyard placement. Depending on topography, these features have the potential to greatly affect downhill neighbors' privacy and noise levels. Often, keeping decks and outdoor courtyards within the Municipal Code setbacks listed for a zone district, even when not required, can help to maintain good neighbor relations.

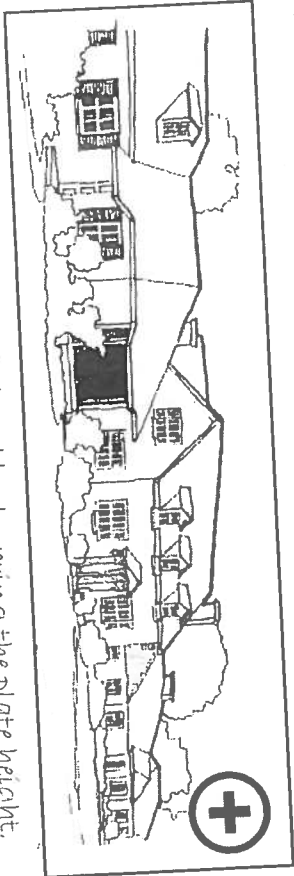
## TWO-STORY DESIGN CONCEPTS

Two or more story homes require special care in design to ensure they are compatible in a neighborhood. The Compatibility Guidelines in the previous chapter are more important for two-story homes than for one-story homes because two-story homes can appear more prominent in a neighborhood. Following are special design techniques and illustrations for two or more story homes.

19. Avoid crowding or overwhelming neighboring residences.
20. Avoid a "vertical canyon effect" between homes. The space between a proposed two-story home adjacent to one-story homes is important. Space between homes should increase as wall height increases. Consider setbacks greater than those required by the Municipal Code to avoid bulky structures.
21. Minimize areas of maximum height.
22. Vary height of building elements.
23. Vary roof lines.
24. Set back taller portions of structures from the lot lines to reduce the appearance of height.
25. Use architectural features to break up unacceptably bulk.
26. Three-story homes are generally incompatible in most of Santa Barbara's flat "infill" neighborhoods.



A two-story residence that maintains a single-story roofline common to the immediate neighborhood.



The mass of this house is reduced by lowering the plate height, using dormers and including an entry element.



Second-story addition oriented to home's rear and designed to reduce structure's volume visible from the street. (19, 21, 24)