INTENT AND PURPOSE
The Architecture Review Process aims to encourage a harmonious appearance among structures and properties within the City of Santa Clara. The process seeks to maintain public health, safety and welfare, and property values and encourage physical development that is consistent with the City’s General Plan.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW INCLUDES
The following items are required when applying for review under the Architectural Review Process:

- Property owner signed and completed planning application
- All required fees paid
- Four (4) sets of plans including but not limited to site plans, floor plans, and elevations
- Posting of on-site Notice of Development (if going through Architectural Committee Review hearing). Please ask the assigned Project Planner for size and content of on-site noticing requirements.
- Other additional information if requested

For additional information or materials, please contact the Planning Division at (408) 615-2450.

REVIEW PROCESS
The process for Architectural Review is below:

1. Project Submitted
   - Design guidelines reviewed and incorporated in project design

2. Project Manager Assigned
   - Upon submittal, the project file is assigned to a project manager who is responsible for evaluating the project and interfacing with the applicant

3. Next Steps
   - Depending on the type of project, the Director of Community Development will designate the project for review by Planning Staff or the Architectural Committee

4. Staff Approves, Recommends Redesign, or Denies the Project

5. Architectural Committee (AC) Review
   - At the hearing, the project is reviewed by the AC and action is approved, continued for a redesign, or denied. All AC decisions are appealable to the Planning Commission within seven (7) calendar days

6. Item Agendized
   - After the item is agendized, a notice of the hearing is sent out by planning staff

7. If appealed
   - Staff approves, recommends redesign, or denies the project
HOW ARE SINGLE-FAMILY DESIGN GUIDELINES HELPFUL TO THE DESIGN PROCESS?
The Single-Family Residential Design Guidelines:

- Offer design techniques with the intent of improving aesthetics and design quality within the City’s residential neighborhoods
- Represent policies of the General Plan and are written for use by property owners, residents, architects and building professionals, and City Staff
- Define a range of appropriate responses to design challenges and apply to projects such as alterations to existing structures, additions, new construction, and site work

HOW TO USE THE DESIGN GUIDELINES
The design Guidelines are best utilized when reviewed prior to the start of the design phase of a project as the guidelines offer best practices which clearly indicate positive and negative examples. Encouraged design practices are highlighted throughout the document which applicants are encouraged to use when designing their project. Applicants should avoid designs that are clearly indicated as negative and are discouraged by the City and the AC.

The design guidelines are organized by chapters focusing on:

- Neighborhood Compatibility
- Architectural Details
- Site Planning and Architectural Design
- Energy Efficiency

Depending on the scope of the project, applicants will refer to specific chapters and sections to find guidelines most applicable to their intended project. However, it is recommended that applicants review the design guidelines in its entirety in order to gain a complete understanding of good design practices.

Questions? We are here to help!
Contact a Planner at the City of Santa Clara Planning Division:

408-615-2450

Via e-mail: planning@santaclaraca.gov