



## NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY WORKSHEET

In order for your design review application for single-family residential remodel/addition or new construction to be successful, it is important that you consider your property, the neighborhood's special characteristics that surround that property and the compatibility of your proposal with that neighborhood. **The purpose is to help you understand your neighborhood before you begin the design process with your architect/designer/builder or begin any formal process with the City of Los Altos.** *Please note that this worksheet must be submitted with your 1<sup>st</sup> application.*

The Residential Design Guidelines encourage neighborhood compatibility without necessarily forsaking individual taste. Various factors contribute to a design that is considered compatible with a surrounding neighborhood. The factors that City officials will be considering in your design could include, but are not limited to: design theme, scale, bulk, size, roof line, lot coverage, slope of lot, setbacks, daylight plane, one or two-story, exterior materials, landscaping et cetera.

It will be helpful to have a site plan to use in conjunction with this worksheet. Your site plan should accurately depict your property boundaries. The best source for this is the legal description in your deed.

Photographs of your property and its relationship to your neighborhood (see below) will be a necessary part of your first submittal. Taking photographs before you start your project will allow you to see and appreciate that your property could be within an area that has a strong neighborhood pattern. The photographs should be taken from across the street with a standard 35mm camera and organized by address, one row for each side of the street. Photographs should also be taken of the properties on either side and behind your property from on your property.

This worksheet/check list is meant to help *you* as well as to help the City planners and Planning Commission understand your proposal. Reasonable guesses to your answers are acceptable. The City is not looking for precise measurements on this worksheet.

**Project Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scope of Project: Addition or Remodel** \_\_\_\_\_ **or New Home** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age of existing home if this project is to be an addition or remodel?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is the existing house listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory?** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## What constitutes your neighborhood?

There is no clear answer to this question. For the purpose of this worksheet, consider first your street, the two contiguous homes on either side of, and directly behind, your property and the five to six homes directly across the street (eight to nine homes). At the minimum, these are the houses that you should photograph. If there is any question in your mind about your neighborhood boundaries, consider a radius of approximately 200 to 300 feet around your property and consider that your neighborhood.

### Streetscape

#### 1. Typical neighborhood lot size\*:

Lot area: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

Lot dimensions: Length \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Width \_\_\_\_\_ feet

If your lot is significantly different than those in your neighborhood, then note its: area \_\_\_\_\_, length \_\_\_\_\_, and width \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Setback of homes to front property line: (Pgs. 8-11 Design Guidelines)

Existing front setback if home is a remodel? \_\_\_\_\_

What % of the front facing walls of the neighborhood homes are at the front setback \_\_\_\_\_ %

Existing front setback for house on left \_\_\_\_\_ ft./on right \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Do the front setbacks of adjacent houses line up? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Garage Location Pattern: (Pg. 19 Design Guidelines)

Indicate the relationship of garage locations in your neighborhood\* only on your street (count for each type)

Garage facing front projecting from front of house face \_\_\_\_

Garage facing front recessed from front of house face \_\_\_\_

Garage in back yard \_\_\_\_

Garage facing the side \_\_\_\_

Number of 1-car garages \_\_; 2-car garages \_\_; 3-car garages \_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Single or Two-Story Homes:**

What % of the homes in your neighborhood\* are:

One-story \_\_\_\_\_

Two-story \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Roof heights and shapes:**

Is the overall height of house ridgelines generally the same in your neighborhood\*? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there mostly hip \_\_\_\_, gable style \_\_\_\_, or other style \_\_\_\_ roofs\*?

Do the roof forms appear simple \_\_\_\_\_ or complex \_\_\_\_\_?

Do the houses share generally the same eave height \_\_\_\_\_?

**6. Exterior Materials:** *(Pg. 22 Design Guidelines)*

What siding materials are frequently used in your neighborhood\*?

\_\_ wood shingle \_\_ stucco \_\_ board & batten \_\_ clapboard  
\_\_ tile \_\_ stone \_\_ brick \_\_ combination of one or more materials  
(if so, describe) \_\_\_\_\_

What roofing materials (wood shake/shingle, asphalt shingle, flat tile, rounded tile, cement tile, slate) are consistently (about 80%) used?

\_\_\_\_\_  
If no consistency then explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Architectural Style:** *(Appendix C, Design Guidelines)*

Does your neighborhood\* have a consistent identifiable architectural style?

YES  NO

Type? \_\_ Ranch \_\_ Shingle \_\_ Tudor \_\_ Mediterranean/Spanish  
\_\_ Contemporary \_\_ Colonial \_\_ Bungalow \_\_ Other

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Lot Slope:** *(Pg. 25 Design Guidelines)*

Does your property have a noticeable slope? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the direction of your slope? (relative to the street)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is your slope higher \_\_\_\_\_ lower \_\_\_\_\_ same \_\_\_\_\_ in relationship to the neighboring properties? Is there a noticeable difference in grade between your property/house and the one across the street or directly behind?

**9. Landscaping:**

Are there any frequently used or typical landscaping features on your street (i.e. big trees, front lawns, sidewalks, curbs, landscape to street edge, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How visible are your house and other houses from the street or back neighbor's property?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any major existing landscaping features on your property and how is the unimproved public right-of-way developed in front of your property (gravel, dirt, asphalt, landscape)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Width of Street:**

What is the width of the roadway paving on your street in feet? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a parking area on the street or in the shoulder area? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the shoulder area (unimproved public right-of-way) paved, unpaved, gravel, landscaped, and/or defined with a curb/gutter? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. What characteristics make this neighborhood\* cohesive?**

Such as roof material and type (hip, gable, flat), siding (board and batten, cement plaster, horizontal wood, brick), deep front yard setbacks, horizontal feel, landscape approach etc.:

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**General Study**

A. Have major visible streetscape changes occurred in your neighborhood?

YES  NO

B. Do you think that most (~ 80%) of the homes were originally built at the same time?

YES  NO

C. Do the lots in your neighborhood appear to be the same size?

YES  NO

D. Do the lot widths appear to be consistent in the neighborhood?

YES  NO

E. Are the front setbacks of homes on your street consistent (~80% within 5 feet)?

YES  NO

F. Do you have active CCR's in your neighborhood? (*p.36 Building Guide*)

YES  NO

G. Do the houses appear to be of similar size as viewed from the street?

YES  NO

H. Does the new exterior remodel or new construction design you are planning relate in most ways to the prevailing style(s) in your existing neighborhood?

YES  NO

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Summary Table

Please use this table to summarize the characteristics of the houses in your immediate neighborhood (two homes on either side, directly behind and the five to six homes directly across the street).

Address	Front setback	Rear setback	Garage location	One or two stories	Height	Materials	Architecture (simple or complex)