

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 92-10

EXTERIOR COLOR DESIGN GUIDELINES

AMENDED AUGUST 4, 1999

The Monterey City Code in Section 38-189 indicates that the Architectural Review Committee, in carrying out the purposes of architectural review, shall consider color in evaluating new construction or exterior alterations. The following guidelines represent the standards that the Architectural Review Committee will use in evaluating exterior color.

1. Colors may be varied. However, bright, intense, highly saturated colors which exaggerate attention to the architecture are discouraged. The colors of all elements of a development including walls, accessory structures, fences, bollards and signs should be compatible.
2. Building color in built-up areas, characterized by a dominance of buildings, should be compatible and blend with surrounding buildings. Color should also compliment architectural details. The color should not be a “sign” or imply that the building is trying to attract attention.
3. Building color in hillside and forest areas, characterized by a dominance of natural landscape should emphasize a natural palette – earth tones, warm grays and greens – and allow the building to blend into a natural background.
4. Color in historic areas and on historic buildings should respect the history of the area and building. Historic color palettes based on research, old photographs, the City of Monterey’s definition of “Monterey Architecture” and historic records are encouraged.
5. Building colors should be subdued and not garish. Color should not, because of its intensity, distinctness, chroma or reflectivity, become the most dominant feature of a building site.
6. “Compatible colors” does not mean that adjacent color schemes should be duplicated.
7. Combinations of colors or tones on a single building or site which clash or create a discordant effect should be avoided. Subtle color combinations with more than one color and accent colors at entry ways are encouraged.
8. Intense, bright, highly saturated colors focus attention. If they are to be used, they should be limited and primarily used at building entrances and signage.
9. In commercial areas, color should be used to unify a building façade that is divided into many individual storefronts.
10. Colors associated with current fads and fashion will be viewed with great caution since there is often no tradition of local usage and they are outdated in a short period of time.
11. A building should be treated as consistently as possible on all sides. Color on side and rear walls should avoid harsh shifts in effect from the front or street facing walls.

Exterior colors should be coordinated on all elevations and compatible with exposed materials, architectural style and detailing.

12. Color should not extend beyond the common building line and paint should not be used to obscure the integrity of the natural building materials. Generally, color changes should occur at an inside corner.
13. All exposed roof vents, jacks, pipes, flashing, equipment and wall mounted fire sprinkler pipes, utilities and fire extinguisher boxes shall be painted out to blend with the adjacent surface.
14. A color plan showing the location of all colors on the building and color chips of actual colors and exterior material samples shall be submitted to the Planning Division for review and approval prior to approval of exterior colors. Color samples shall include both minimum 3" x 5" color swatches for review by the Architectural Review Committee and small color chips on 8 1/2" x 11" paper (for file purposes).
15. (Added in 1999) Final exterior color approval for new commercial buildings, new apartment buildings, new industrial buildings and major remodels and additions to these types of buildings will require large color samples to be painted on the building. The paint samples shall be reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee on a field trip prior to review and approval of the final colors. Contact the Planning Division for an Architectural Review Committee meeting and field trip schedule.

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Date

Amendment signed by Chair Garden and Vice Chair Widmar August 11, 1999