

## 5. Glossary

## 5. Glossary

Words not defined in this section shall be as defined in Chapter 14.25 SMC, or shall have their customary meanings.

**Above grade:** visible from the outside of a building; not constructed below the vertical elevation of the ground surface.

**Accent Light:** focuses light on a particular area or object to highlight elements of a site or building; these include wall sconces, recessed lights, and uplights.

**Alcove:** a recessed section of a building

**Antecedent:** a preceding circumstance, characteristic, or element, as origin for the same to occur at present.

**Architectural detail:** a component or feature of a building or structure that express its style and character.

**Art work:** a two- or three-dimensional element or work that provides aesthetic interest and dimension to a space.

**Awning:** a fabric-covered structure mounted on the face of a building above a window, entrance, or storefront opening, providing weather protection.

**Balcony:** A platform with a walking surface that projects from the wall of a building in front of a window or door, and it surrounded by a railing, balustrade, or parapet.

**Bargeboard:** The vertical face board following, and set back under, the roof edge of a gable, sometimes decorated by carving. Referred to as vergeboard when ornately carved.

**Belt course:** a flat, horizontal member of relatively slight projection installed across the exterior of a building that stands out visually and marks a division in the wall plane.

**Berm:** a flat strip of land or raised earthen barrier separating two areas.

**Bollard:** a short post used to define an area or block access, sometimes incorporating lighting.

**Bracket:** A supporting member for a projecting floor or shelf, sometimes in the shape of an inverted L and sometimes as a solid piece or a triangular truss. Often used for architectural ornamentation in a gable. See also, knee brace, outlooker.

**Bulkhead:** a low wall below a storefront window, typically containing a dimensional panel.

**Canopy:** an architectural structure made of permanent materials such as metal or wood, mounted on the face of a building above a window, entrance, or storefront opening, providing weather protection.

**Clerestory:** the upper portion of a wall rising having a series of windows admitting daylight to the interior.

**Corbel:** A structural piece of masonry, wood, or metal extending from a wall surface to support a weight, as a bracket form, sometimes with a decorative profile.

## 5. Glossary

**Cornice:** a molded and projecting horizontal piece that crowns an architectural composition, such as a window, door, or building wall.

**Courtyard:** An open space enclosed partly or wholly by a building.

**Daylight basement:** the lowest story of a building having its finished floor surface below the vertical elevation of the ground surface at one end and at or above the vertical elevation of the ground surface at the other end.

**Decorative concrete:** hard aggregate surface material with a decorative finish such as stamping, coloring, or staining.

**Dormer:** a subordinate gable in a pitched roof, usually containing a window or windows on its front vertical surface.

**Eave:** the edge of a roof that projects over an outside wall.

**Façade:** the face of a building, especially the principle front.

**Finial:** A terminal form at the top of a spire, gable, gate post, pinnacle, or other point of relative height.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR):** the ratio of a building's gross floor area to the size of the lot upon which it is built.

**Gable:** the generally triangular section of a wall occupying the space between the two slopes of the roof on a pitched roof, often used for architectural ornamentation.

**Gable roof:** a roof with two slopes, joining at a single ridge line.

**Garden:** a planned outdoor space, set aside for the display, cultivation and enjoyment of plants.

**Hedge:** a row of bushes or small trees planted close together, especially when forming a boundary or barrier.

**Kick plate:** a vertical element, typically of metal, applied at the bottom of a door surface to protect against scuffing.

**Knee brace:** A supporting member of a structure that is placed diagonally from one to another of two adjoining principle members. See also, bracket, outlooker.

**Landscape screening:** a sight-obstructing barrier comprised of plants which visually separates two activities.

**Living area:** the fully-enclosed, habitable, interior area of a dwelling.

**Main entry:** the primary pedestrian access into a building.

**Masonry strip:** a belt course constructed of plaster, concrete, stone, brick, or tile.

**Medallion:** an ornamental element, containing a pictorial decoration, often represented as an object in relief with a slight projection, and repeated in a wall surface.

**Modulation:** variegation of a flat façade using recesses and offsets in wall surface for architectural effect.

**Mullion:** an upright structural division member between windows or doors of a close series.

## 5. Glossary

**Muntin:** a rigid bar member separating adjacent planes of glass in a sash or door.

**Offset:** a shift in the plane of a wall, resulting in a ledge or a shallow, right-angled break.

**Opaque:** not transparent or translucent; cannot be seen through.

**Outlooker:** A projecting member that supports the portion of a roof extending beyond the face of a gable. See also, bracket, knee brace.

**Overhang:** an element that protrudes beyond the building face below that hangs and extends outward.

**Parapet:** a low wall along the edge of a roof.

**Pedestrian scale lighting:** light fixtures that are installed at human scale along a walkway for the benefit of people walking through a development site to the building entry.

**Play field:** an open outdoor area used for games and athletic activities.

**Plaza:** a hard-surfaced open area, usually located near urban building entries, and often featuring walkways, landscaping, and seating.

**Plinth:** base wall piece, such as a square block or base course.

**Portico:** an entrance porch or covered walkway supported by evenly-spaced columns or enclosed by walls.

**Public space:** any of a variety of spaces that are accessible and usable by the general public, such as a plaza, green, courtyard, forecourt, sitting area, widened sidewalk, stormwater rain garden, and art or water feature.

**Rain garden:** Vegetated areas designed as stormwater management facilities, made up of a specialized mix of plants that can tolerate seasonal wet and dry conditions, and soils that rapidly absorb and store runoff. These facilities filter pollutants, reduce discharge volume, and promote groundwater recharge through infiltration.

**Rake:** the sloped connection between the roof and the wall of a sloped roof.

**Recess:** a recessed space created by building part of a wall further back from the remaining wall plane.

**Recessed ground lights:** light fixtures that are installed below the surrounding grade level and usually directed at an upward angle.

**Secondary entry:** an access door to enter a building, but not the primary or most used; typically located on a side or rear façade.

**Shed roof:** a roof form having only one sloping plane.

**Side lite:** a narrow window with a vertical emphasis set alongside a door or larger window, usually stationary.

**Sight barrier:** any building, structure or horticultural material, which restricts the vision of automobile and/or pedestrian traffic while using the right-of-way for travel.

**Sill:** the lowest horizontal member forming the bottom of a window or exterior door frame.

## 5. Glossary

**Site-appropriate vegetative landscaping:** plant materials installed in a formal landscape area that are selected for their aesthetic value in addition to their appropriateness to site conditions and the local environment.

**Site furnishings:** seating, benches, trash receptacles, bollards, planters, drinking fountains, low-scale lighting and other such non-movable, year-round elements oriented to pedestrians. Tables and chairs that are moved in and out of establishments at night are not considered permanent site furnishings.

**Special interest landscape:** a formal landscape area comprised of vegetation of varied heights in addition to hardscape materials for the purpose of providing an aesthetic benefit to the site's residents or occupants.

**Special paving:** hardscape ground surfacing that differs in material to the surrounding area, in order to be visually demarcated and distinct for certain uses.

**Stepback:** an upper building level with its outer wall plane recessed from level(s) beneath in a step-like form that reduces the building mass.

**Storefront window:** large stationary windows on the ground floor of the primary façade of a commercial building to display merchandise.

**Street-facing:** the portion of a site or building that is oriented toward and visible from a public street.

**Streetscape:** the scenery and elements that a person would visually experience in the street space, including buildings, storefronts, signage, sidewalks, street furnishings, and amenities.

**Tower:** a narrow, vertical structure that is attached to and higher than the surrounding building.

**Transom:** a window with a horizontal emphasis set above the top of a door or larger window, usually stationary or tilting.

**Trellis:** latticework as an outdoor screen, often used to support vegetation.

**Vertical articulation:** changes in the surface plane of a building face through vertical recesses and projections that give texture to the building surface; such as alcoves, recessed windows, attached columns, or towers.

**Vertically-oriented window:** the height of the window is greater than the width; generally a minimum of twice the dimension of the width.

**Water feature:** a decorative form incorporating water, which adds dimension to a common space.

**Weather protection:** a projecting element such as an awning, canopy, or roof form that provides shelter for pedestrians, especially at a building entry.