

Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



DESCRIPTION

Precinct 34 encompasses a small area at the eastern edge of Canterbury. This sloping precinct sits behind Canterbury Road, Mont Albert Road and Balwyn Road.

This precinct is characterised by single and double storey dwellings on generous size allotments which are generally 15m to 20m wide and often over 80m deep. The housing is from various eras and is generally constructed from brick/masonry materials with pitched roofs. The medium to large front setbacks and mature canopy trees in some areas create a leafy green feel.

Due to the deep lots, back yards are increasing being developed with 1 and 2 storey unit villas, many of which have been constructed post-1990. These developments often extend for the length of the block, yet present as a single dwelling to the street.

The area's subdivision pattern is dictated by the old creek bed which runs through the centre of the precinct and has altered the size and shape of lots. The mature trees throughout this open space link add to the area's sense of greenery, along with the large, deciduous street trees.

Front fences are generally of a low to medium height.

Despite the numerous multi-unit villa developments, the overall character of the precinct is considered to be highly consistent.

Design Guidelines

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Various eras represented;
- Detached 1 to 2 storey dwellings;
- High presence of multi-unit villas that extend for the length of the block;
- Pitched roofs;
- Deep allotments; and
- Low to medium high front fencing.

PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To maintain the 1 and 2 storey, detached character of the precinct and enhance the leafy feel and landscape setting of dwellings. This will be achieved by:

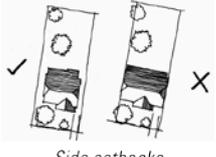
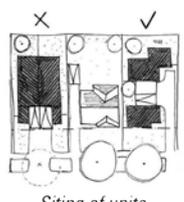
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring sufficient space is retained in front and rear gardens to accommodate large trees;
- Ensuring buildings are sufficiently setback from front and side boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces; and
- Encouraging low or open style front boundary treatments.

THREATS/ISSUES

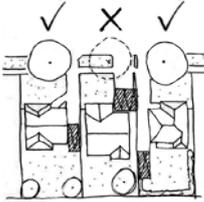
- Boundary to boundary development;
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- Unsympathetic two or three storey development in low scale streets;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind;
- High front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street; and
- Removal / loss of large trees.

Design Guidelines

TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
VEGETATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the well landscaped setting of dwellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure front gardens incorporate soft landscaping that complements the streetscape. Ensure the retention of large trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of large trees. Front gardens dominated by hard surfaces Loss of front gardens. 	 <p><i>Encourage landscaped gardens</i></p>
SITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the existing streetscape rhythm. To enhance the area's leafy feel by providing sufficient space for vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure buildings are setback no less than the average distance of the front setback of the adjoining properties on either side or 9m, whichever is less. Ensure buildings are setback from both side boundaries in accordance with the prevailing streetscape spacing. Provide a secluded private open space area with a minimum dimension of 4m to enable the planting and retention of large trees. Ensure new development on a corner site is adequately set back to provide a transition between the adjoining buildings. Give preference to units set one behind the other as opposed to side by side townhouses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwellings set too far forward. Boundary to boundary development. 	 <p><i>Side setbacks</i></p>  <p><i>Front setbacks</i></p>  <p><i>Siting on corner sites</i></p>  <p><i>Siting of units</i></p>
BUILDING HEIGHT AND FORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the existing one and two storey scale and pitched roof character of the precinct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure buildings are composed of facades that are no more than two storeys high to the street. Ensure visible roof forms integrate with the pitched roofs in the streetscape. Ensure attached side by side development is designed to read as one dwelling within the streetscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three storey facades to the street. Large bulky buildings or extensions that dominate the streetscape. 	 <p><i>Maintain 1 & 2 storey streetscape scale</i></p>  <p><i>Integrate with pitched roofs</i></p>  <p><i>Avoid 3 storey facades</i></p>

Design Guidelines

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure building materials and facade articulation integrates within the streetscape. To minimise period reproduction design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break buildings into separate elements and use eaves, overhangs and other design details to articulate the facade. Ensure use of contemporary design in preference to period reproduction styles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered facades. Period reproduction design. 	 <p>Avoid bland design</p>
FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the predominant low to medium front fence heights. To maintain views of front gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure front fences are no more than 1.5m or the average fence height of the four properties on either side (whichever is less). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High solid front fences. 	 <p>Avoid high front fences</p>
CAR PARKING STRUCTURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the loss of front gardens and the dominance of car parking structures. To ensure basement garages do not increase the visual bulk of buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure car parking structures, including entrances to basements, are setback at least 1m behind the dwelling facade and are designed to minimise their prominence. Ensure basements project no more than 0.5m above natural ground level, unless the finished floor level of abutting properties is greater than 0.5m. Where possible, locate the entry to basement garages to the side or rear of dwellings so they are not visible from the street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driveways and car parking structures that dominate the front setback and obscure views of the dwelling. Basement ramps that commence at the street frontage. Basement garages that result in buildings with a 2.5 to 3 storey appearance from the street. 	 <p>Location of car parking structures</p>

General Information

ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STUDY

This Precinct Statement was completed in 2012. The methodology involved a review of the Residential Urban Character Study from 1996 as well as substantial community consultation and fieldwork. As a result of this review the City's residential areas have been divided into 75 precincts.

The common characteristics of each area in terms of building scale, setbacks, building style and form and the area's landscape character were taken into account when determining the boundaries of each precinct.

The resulting Neighbourhood Precinct Character Statements describe the existing character of each precinct as well as the precinct's preferred future character.

Those characteristics most valued by the community were reflected in the preferred character statements. The accompanying design guidelines table provides direction for new buildings which ensure future development assists in achieving the area's preferred character.

The Boroondara Neighbourhood Character Study is based on an analysis of existing neighbourhood character and does not take into account other planning policy objectives such as housing capacity, access to services and sustainability.

HOW THE PRECINCT STATEMENTS WILL BE USED

The Precinct Statements will be used when assessing planning permit applications in residential zones. In instances where no planning permit is required (e.g. for single dwellings on lots over 500m²), the Precinct Statements will be used when assessing report and consent applications to vary the siting requirements of the Building Regulations.

New development proposals will be assessed against the directions contained in the "objective", "design response" and "avoid" columns in the design guidelines Table of Elements. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the objectives in the table if they do not meet the relevant "design response" or "avoid" criteria.

With the exception of the guidelines relating to rear garden character, the view from the street will be used to assess consistency with the design guidelines. Existing development that does not comply with the design guidelines should not be used as a precedent when designing new buildings or building extensions.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Precinct Statements will be used in conjunction with other policies and guidelines in the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

Where a conflict occurs between the Precinct Statements and an existing Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage

Policy, the provisions of the Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage Policy will take precedence.

Glossary

CHARACTER ELEMENTS IN DESIGN GUIDELINES TABLE OF ELEMENTS

- **Building Height and Form** – refers to building height (as measured from natural ground level), roof form and the massing of building elements.
- **Building Materials and Design Details** – refers to external building materials, façade articulation and design elements such as verandahs, awnings, window configurations and eaves.
- **Car Parking Structures** – refers to the presence and location of on-site car parking structures such as garages, carports, driveways and uncovered car spaces.
- **Front Boundary Treatment** – refers to the presence, height and style of front fences.
- **Lot Frontage** – refers to the width of lots.
- **Siting** – refers to front setbacks, side setbacks and the area's rear garden character.
- **Vegetation** – refers to the trees and landscaping on the site.

GENERAL TERMS

- **'Box'-like** – refers to a building with proportions and detailing that give the building a box-like appearance. Typical characteristics include sheer two storey walls, no or narrow eaves, a symmetrical, un-articulated front facade and a low pitched or flat roof form with parapet detailing.
- **Historic Buildings** – refers to early buildings that date from the establishment of the area or that are important to the area's history.
- **Heritage Buildings** – refers to historic buildings that are subject to statutory protection through a Heritage Overlay or the Victorian Heritage Register.
- **Period Reproduction Design** – refers to design that incorporates mock heritage detailing such as Mock-Georgian and Mock-French Provincial elements.
- **Front Setback** – The distance between the front property boundary and the dwelling, categorised as:
 - **Small:** 0 to 5 metres
 - **Medium:** 5 to 9 metres
 - **Large:** 9+ metres
- **Front Fence Height:**
 - **Low:** 0.5 to 1.2m high
 - **Medium:** 1.2m - 1.5m high
 - **High:** over 1.5m high
- **Roof Forms:**
 - **Flat** – refers to a roof with a gradient of 10 degrees or less.
 - **Pitched** – refers to a roof with two slopes that meet at a central ridge.
- **Multi-Unit Dwellings:**
 - **Flats / Apartment Buildings** – refers to several dwellings contained in a multi-storey structure.
 - **Town Houses** – refers to dwellings of 2 or more storeys that have their own entrance and private yard, but which adjoin another dwelling.
 - **Villas** – refers to groups of dwellings which have their own entrance and private yard, which may or may not adjoin another dwelling, but which generally share common areas such as driveways and car parking.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Understanding Planning Terms Information Sheet, City of Boroondara, (search for this title at <http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au>).

What house is that? A Guide to Victoria's Housing Styles, Heritage Victoria, (search for this title at <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage>).

ResCode provisions, Clause 54 and 55 of the Boroondara Planning Scheme at <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/boroondara/home.html>.