

Najran

Architectural Design Guidelines



Application Handbook - Low-rise Buildings





Najran Architectural Character Area



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Application Handbook - Low-rise Buildings

Najran - Architectural Design Guidelines



Najran settlements



Al Aan Palace

I Introduction

The purpose of this document is to help designers and builders of low-rise mixed-use buildings apply the architectural character of Najran to their projects.

Najran is a unique province within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Historically it is known as a center of textiles, as well as a major part of the older Incense Trade Route. It is geographically around 500 km deep inland from the western corner of the Red Sea, and beyond the highest peaks of the nearby Asir mountain range.

Considered a large territory consisting of many valleys, with diverse savannahs, oases, mountains, and deserts, its local architecture reflects its environmental surroundings. Using mud, stone, and hay, the traditional houses of the region are vertical grouped structures sloping upward. One of the main distinctive features of the traditional Najrani architecture are the horizontal thin bands that line across the entire exterior structure.

A particular vernacular style and artisanal craftsmanship are especially prominent in the roof features and parapets, showing a diverse array of solutions, from crowns to spikes. The framing of

openings and roof structures is created through the use of natural pigments obtained from dried herbs and rock, which is another example of how the milieu informs the architectural style of the region.

This handbook is a supplement to the Najran Architectural Design Guidelines. Designers are recommended to read the full version of the Architectural Design Guidelines to gain a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the character. Please also consult regulating plans that may describe which styles are applicable to your project area. To access these resources please use the links below



Link to Full Guidelines



Link to Regulating Plans



Example of elevation of a Traditional Low-rise mixed-use building in Najran

II Low-rise Buildings

Low-rise buildings form a large proportion of the built environment across the Kingdom, and strongly influence people's experience and the character of a place.

Ranging from 1-4 stories, typically in a linear arrangement along roads and accommodating a mix of uses, low-rise buildings are a common building type found everywhere. Addressing their design is an important part of the implementation of the architectural design guidelines.

This building type emerges predominantly from contemporary development patterns: larger rectangular plots of land typically accessed by car from a street on one edge, and interfacing with adjacent properties on the other boundaries. These buildings tend to exhibit a horizontal, rectilinear form and a clear orientation to the street, with distinct sides and backs. This makes their form inherently different from the historical building types that are the source of architectural identities, and is a primary challenge to for the application of the architectural character to low-rise buildings, to be addressed by this handbook.

Low-rise mixed-use buildings

Low-rise mixed-use buildings are usually subdivided into multiple units that often create a diversity to the facade, particularly where the ground floor use is commercial or retail.

The establishment of a consistent character for the whole building is another important objective of this handbook. This extends to the neighborhood: the consistent character of the streetscape, and the support of the public realm in conjunction with other low-rise buildings is a high priority.

Low-rise apartment buildings

Where low-rise buildings are primarily comprised of apartments, the relationship between public and private spaces become paramount. In addition to the low-rise building application guidelines, please also observe the guidelines focused on apartment buildings, in Appendix A.

This handbook will implement the Najran Architectural Design Guidelines in low-rise building types by harmonizing the needs described above with the requirements of the guidelines.

III How to use the guidelines

Follow these instructions to create a building that supports the architectural character of Najran.

- 1 Consult the regulating plan to determine which architectural style options (Traditional, Transitional, or Contemporary) are permitted at your project location.
- 2 Select from the permitted Architectural styles, and review the list of general guidelines on the style start pages (Pages 5,6 & 7).
- 3 Assess your design according to each of the following guideline categories:

- **Composition:** do your building massing and façade design follow compositional principles? (Section 2)
- **Elements:** do the individual parts of your building properly interpret the architectural character for your style? (Section 3)
- **Materials and Colors:** does your building use acceptable materials and colors in the proportions defined? (Section 4)
- **Patterns:** do any elements show inspiration from local craftsmanship and culture? (Section 5)
- **Public Realm:** does your building contribute to the quality and character of the street and the neighborhood? (Section 6)
- **Dos and Don'ts:** have you avoided common mistakes that lower the quality and character of buildings? (Section 7)
- **Worked examples:** these are illustrations showing one possibility of how the guidelines can be applied, provided for inspiration. (Section 8)

- 4 Throughout the document, **mandatory guidelines** for each character style will be marked with the following symbols. Where a guideline is mandatory for all styles, all three symbols will be present:

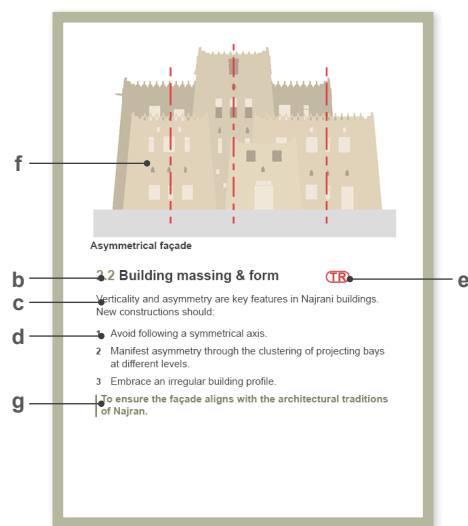
TR Mandatory for Traditional style

TN Mandatory for Transitional style

C Mandatory for Contemporary style

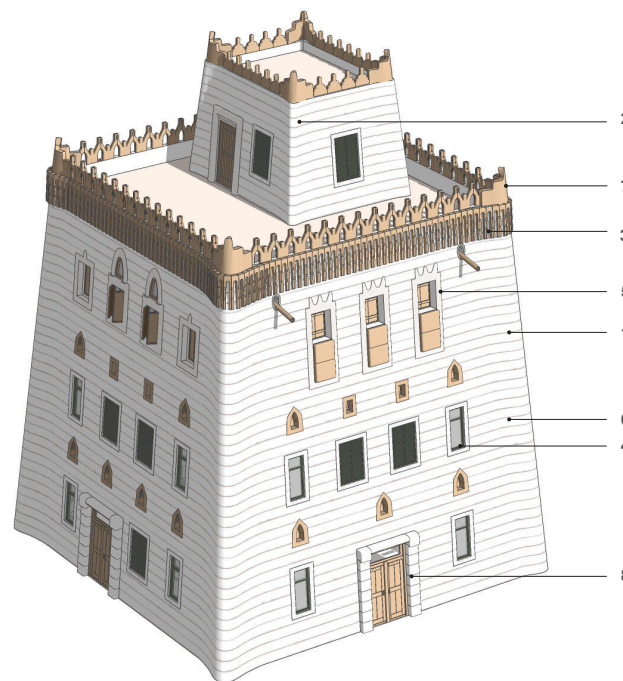
- 5 Guidelines are organized according to the following parts:

- a. Section heading:** identifies the general guideline category
- b. Header:** identifies the guideline topic
- c. Description:** expands upon the topic
- d. Instructions:** provides rules and design principles to observe
- e. Mandatory symbol:** indicates high priority guidelines that must be complied with
- f. Illustration:** non-regulatory diagrams that help visually explain guidelines
- g. Rationale:** objective of the guideline, to allow for alternative approaches to fulfilment



Typical guideline structure.

This general character reference model is from the Najran Architectural Design Guideline, summarizing the key features of the architectural character.



Key features:

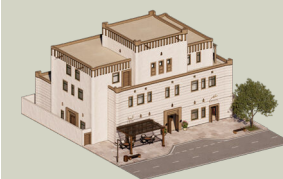
- 1 Slender vertical volumes with multiple horizontal bands running across the entire tapering structure.
- 2 Non-leveled building silhouettes, upper level volumes decompose to create a stepped roofscape.
- 3 High roof parapets, crowned and raised at corners.
- 4 Larger windows on upper levels and highlighted windows on main floors, both of which are framed.
- 5 General palette: intense white elements highlighted among prevailing earth tones.
- 6 Horizontal articulation, stripped mud detailing along all façades.
- 7 Multi-stepped and tiered corner merlons.
- 8 Entrances are tall, wide and buttressed.



Traditional **TR**

The most conservative and faithful effort at interpreting traditional architectural form.

START AT PAGE 5



Transitional **TN**

A style suitable to help create gradual transitions between areas of different character style.

START AT PAGE 6



Contemporary **C**

This style keeps the essence of the architectural character that makes it distinct from contemporary architecture of other places.

START AT PAGE 7

1.0 Traditional Style

Start here to review the general guidelines of the traditional style low-rise buildings.

Traditional style buildings should observe as many architectural design guidelines as strictly and as faithfully as possible. The traditional style is suitable for projects near heritage assets and parts of town closer to historic cores.

Note - guideline numbers below correspond to sections 2 through 5 of this Handbook and are not sequential: only the key features relevant to the application of the Traditional style low-rise buildings are shown on this page.

COMPOSITIONAL RULES

2.2 Building massing & form

Traditional architecture in Najran is characterized by asymmetrical massing, incorporating diverse scales, clustering volumes to create elevation variations, and ensuring harmony with the surrounding landscape. Some levels have bays and horizontal bands stretch across the entire structure. This creates a multidimensional building, as the structures are not strictly square or rectangular, with 50% featuring a sloping façade design inclined at approximately 5 degrees.

2.3 Width-to-height ratio

In traditional architecture, applying specific proportions is essential to maintain visual harmony and structural integrity. The overall height of the building should exceed its width, reinforcing the characteristic vertical emphasis. The width-to-height ratio should ideally range between 1:1 and 1:1.5, promoting a balanced and cohesive appearance. To achieve the final ratio, secondary groupings can be carefully composed, ensuring that each element aligns with the overarching proportions of the structure.

2.4 Parapet character

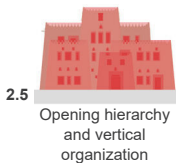
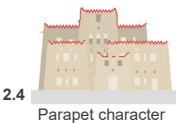
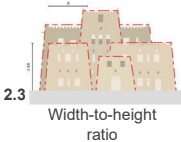
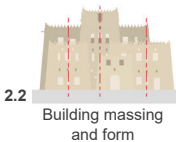
Parapets should prominently frame the upper part of the building façade, accentuating its verticality. Emphasizing a horizontal aesthetic, the parapet details are crucial. The parapet line and roof silhouette should be flat and rectangular, stepped at least once on each façade. The parapets should be characterized by intricate crenellations, which add vertical emphasis to the overall design.

2.5 Opening hierarchy & vertical organization

Entrances and windows should vary in prominence to match the layout of floors and rooms. Different sizes and ornamental techniques, such as crafted framework, color, or texture, can establish a hierarchy among openings. Traditional entrances are adorned with buttresses, carvings, or relief, while windows feature surrounding frames or shutters for added aesthetics. Najrani architecture often emphasizes a vertical, tower-like experience, seen in high, wide bays used for upper-level structures. Most buildings feature sloping walls and components include a bay on top, creating a consistent visual rhythm throughout.

2.6 Ground floor articulation

For the traditional style, the base should share the same material as the structure. Minimal openings should be used on public-facing façades, and if more openings are necessary shutters should be integrated for privacy.

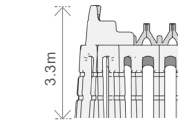


Axonometric view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for traditional style low-rise mixed-use buildings.

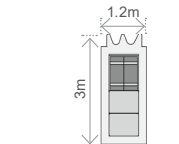


Elevation view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for traditional style low-rise mixed-use buildings.

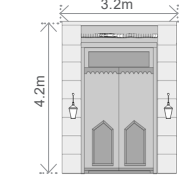
Key traditional architectural features.



3.4 Parapet Type



3.3 Window Type



3.2 Door Type

2.7 Projections or recesses

To enhance the tripartite articulation of the building and highlight the hierarchy of openings, these elements should be strategically utilized. In the traditional style, the crown or top part typically accommodates projecting elements, such as drainage spouts (mizab). The habitable bay on the top floor may be slightly recessed from the main façades, featuring its own projecting elements and parapets.

TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS

3.2 Doorways and entrances

The main door is prominently marked as a forward-facing element, extending with its own frame. It serves as the primary distribution point for the structure. Additional side doors, both on the main façade and leading to shops, are present. These doors are distinguished by their single-door design, contrasting with the double-shutter and more framed appearance of the main door.

3.3 Windows and openings

Windows should be typically located in the middle half of the building. Each window should exhibit a unique and distinctive style, with the top ones incorporating small crenellations, and many of the middle ones having a smaller square opening above. Oval-pointed openings should also be employed.

3.4 Rooftop elements

The rooftop features heavily decorated parapets, crenellations, and corner merlons which compose the second most important material layer of the façade. Each level should feature a traditional design. Lanterns and mizab (drainage spouts) are all used in the traditional style. The color and materiality of the parapet should contrast that of the façade's.

COLORS, MATERIALS AND PATTERNS

4.1 Colors

Traditional accent colors include off-white for frames and forest green to mirror the crushed and dried herb, as well as the plant-dye mixtures characteristic of the region. Main colors should be the natural color of adobe walls, brickwork or stone walls. See section 4.0 'Colors and Materials' for more information.

4.2 Materials

Wall material should closely resemble the local adobe or brickworks in terms of texture, color, and appearance. Light colored gypsum is used for frame finishes. Wood, mud, and hay could be used in the openings and crenellations.

5.0 Patterns

In the traditional style, design patterns should include stencil-like motifs for doors and windows, along with repeated horizontal bands running across the structure.

1.0 Transitional Style

Start here to review the general guidelines of the transitional style low-rise buildings.

Transitional style buildings help integrate traditional architecture with the larger urban context and steer design towards new interpretations of traditional form.

Note - guideline numbers below correspond to sections 2 through 5 of this Handbook and are not sequential: only the key features relevant to the application of the Transitional style low-rise buildings are shown on this page.

COMPOSITIONAL RULES

2.2 Building massing & form

In the transitional style, there is a more thoughtful approach to asymmetry with only slight setbacks blended into the different masses. 30% of the walls should be sloping and have distinctive rounded corners. The multiplicity of the roofs and the utilization of modular designs contribute to the overall non-uniform grouping of structures.

2.3 Width-to-height ratio

In transitional architecture, maintaining balanced proportions is key to achieving a cohesive blend of traditional and contemporary elements. The structure should emphasize a harmonious relationship between height and width, creating a refined sense of balance. The overall composition can effectively bridge classic forms with modern design principles.

2.4 Parapet character

Similar to the traditional style, the stepping effect to the building's volume is emphasized by having a simplified parapet design running across.

2.5 Opening hierarchy & vertical organization

For the prominence of entrances in the transitional style, a simplified framing for doors and have smaller framing for windows than that of the traditional style should be implemented, taking into account that main entrance frames are thicker than other openings.

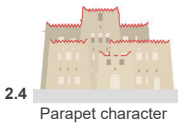
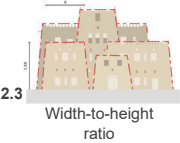
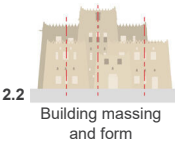
Expanding on the traditional style of verticality, bays are present along the roof of each structure forming the building. These bays and their placement aids in identifying the verticality of the structure along the linearity of the façade.

2.6 Ground floor articulation

Use the same material for the base and the remaining structure. Similar to the traditional style, the openings on the ground floor should be limited or incorporate shutters when necessary.

2.7 Projections or recesses

Functioning similarly to the traditional style, the top level in this design is intentionally set back and recessed from the main structure. Unlike the traditional style, where projecting elements and decorated parapets are used on various levels, in this style, such decorations should be limited to the roof level. Thus, the upper level should feature minimal decorative banding along with a balcony.



Axonometric view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for transitional style low-rise mixed-use buildings.



Elevation view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for transitional style low-rise mixed-use buildings.

TRANSITIONAL ELEMENTS

3.2 Doorways and entrances

The residential door holds a distinctive position, projecting forward with a framed structure. Side and storefront entrances can be identified by the wooden smaller door's size, whereas the main door is characterized by a large double door. All other doors, are crafted from wood as well, but feature a smaller frame around them.

3.3 Windows and openings

Windows in this style should have broader openings and shutters with less detail for facilitating increased light and visibility to the public compared to the traditional style. They should typically be square or rectangular and can be found on all levels. Additionally, some windows in the top part in the transitional style should feature timber under panels, while crenelated frames should be avoided.

3.4 Rooftop elements

In the transitional style, rooftop features should exhibit fewer parapet styles. Instead, long rectangular recesses line the roof. For the lower levels, employ rounded corner merlions along with a straightforward flat parapet line.

COLORS, MATERIALS AND PATTERNS

4.1 Colors

The colors of the façades should be those of the natural surroundings, a mixture of the browns and yellows referencing the mud and hay. An accent color similar to off-white gypsum can also be used. See section 4.0 'Colors and Materials' for more information.

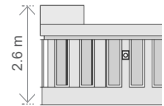
4.2 Materials

The transitional style utilizes the same material as the traditional but with less ornamentation. Wall material should closely resemble the local adobe or brickworks in terms of texture, color, and appearance. Light colored gypsum is used for frame finishes. Openings or crenelations should be constructed with wood, mud or an equivalent material.

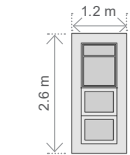
5.0 Patterns

In this style, horizontal bands running across the structure should be used selectively to line certain parts of the building.

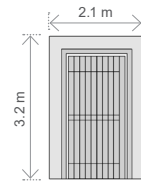
Key transitional architectural features.



3.4 Parapet Type



3.3 Window Type



3.2 Door Type

1.0 Contemporary Style

Start here to review the general guidelines of the contemporary style low-rise buildings.

Buildings of this style should aim to retain the essence of the architectural character by skillful and knowledgeable interpretation of traditional forms into contemporary expression.

Note - guideline numbers below correspond to sections 2 through 5 of this Handbook and are not sequential: only the key features relevant to the application of the Contemporary style low-rise buildings are shown on this page.

COMPOSITIONAL RULES

2.2 Building massing and form

The modern design seamlessly incorporates and extends the asymmetry of traditional styles by introducing setback structures that harmoniously blend with the main structure. Asymmetry is further emphasized in the façade through various elements, including multiple-tiered balconies and subtle recessions of doors and windows. Sloping walls are optional in this style, but should be around 15%.

2.3 Width-to-height ratio

In contemporary architecture, proportions play a vital role in creating visually striking and well-balanced structures. Emphasis is placed on achieving a seamless integration of height and width, allowing for bold, dynamic compositions. Thoughtful arrangement of secondary elements enhances the overall structure, reinforcing a modern aesthetic while maintaining visual harmony.

2.4 Parapet character

Like the previous styles, the different structures each have their own projection and outdoor bays to create a stepping effect for the roof. However, parapets take on a contemporary design that seamlessly blends this element with the façade itself.

2.5 Opening hierarchy & vertical organization

In the contemporary style, there is a hierarchy in the openings where width and height variations signify prominence, with main entrances having wider openings compared to traditional and transitional styles. The frames seamlessly blend into the walls.

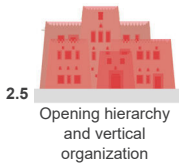
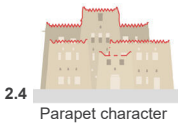
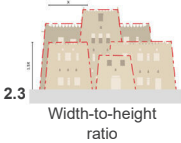
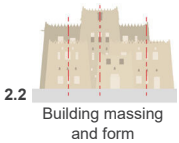
In this style, balconies are present along every massing but integrate into the overall design by using transparent glass railings.

2.6 Ground floor articulation

The storefront openings should be significantly broader, featuring a pair of double doors that span wider than the building entrance. Utilize the same material for both the base and the remaining structure.

2.7 Projections or recesses

Projecting elements are optional in the contemporary style. The upper level, or crown, is recessed and setback from the main structure with large, wide openings of floor-to-ceiling openings.



Axonometric view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for contemporary style low-rise mixed-use buildings.



Elevation view showcasing an example of the application of compositional rules for contemporary style low-rise mixed-use buildings.

CONTEMPORARY ELEMENTS

3.2 Doorways and entrances

For the storefront, larger and double entrance doors for each store should be employed to differentiate them from the main entrance of the building. Wider openings should be utilized to guide public attention to the shops, ensuring that the main entrance is more intimate and reserved.

3.3 Windows and openings

In this style, windows exhibit a unified design, with a playful variation employed for the main structure tower. All openings are widened, promoting increased light and views for the public. The recessed placement of windows into the façade enhances the structure's sense of dimensionality and depth.

3.4 Rooftop elements

In the contemporary style, parapet crenelations should be avoided. Instead, emphasize geometric definitions such as wide timber panels with a minimally identified horizontal flat roofscape. Glass balustrades may also be used on the lower levels.

COLORS, MATERIALS AND PATTERNS

4.1 Colors

Use a lighter pearl grey for the façade and be consistent throughout. Implement an accent color for the signage, wall thicknesses, and for the main roofline. The accent color can have a gold or mud-clay effect mirroring the color of the traditional style. See section 4.0 'Colors and Materials' for more information.

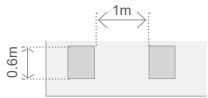
4.2 Materials

Glass with wood or its equivalent is used for windows. Wood, aluminum, and other equivalent modern material could be used for opening frames and screens.

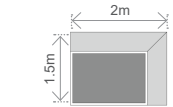
5.0 Patterns

Extrapolate from traditional styles a minimal fractal and scalar design element for slight façade ornamentation.

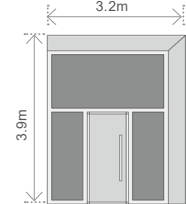
Key contemporary architectural features.



3.4 Parapet Type



3.3 Window Type

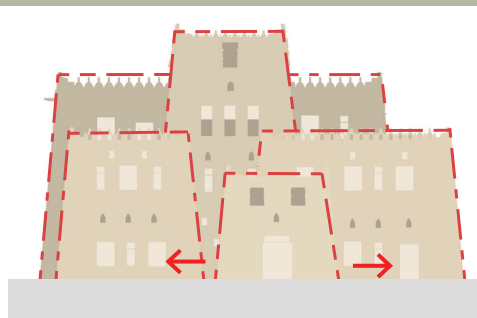


3.2 Door Type

2.0 Compositional rules

The following guidelines provide compositional rules for building design with the Najran architectural character, specially adapted for low-rise building types.

The rules apply generally to all three styles (traditional, transitional, and contemporary), with mandatory requirements for specific styles identified by the relevant symbol.



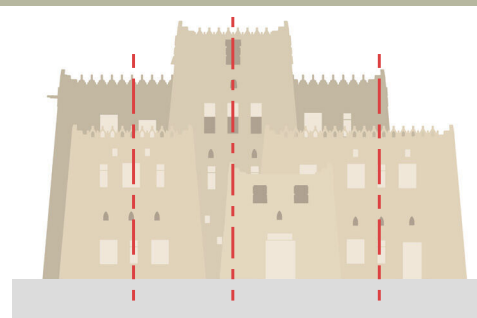
Townscape groupings

2.1 Townscape groupings

The urban fabric in Najran should focus on community interaction by integrating shared spaces into urban design by:

- 1 Adopting an organic design that reflects the local environment and urban context.
- 2 Interweaving buildings and courtyards along public facades.
- 3 Integrating public spaces within the street fabric.

| In order to preserve the traditional urban fabric of Najran's communities.



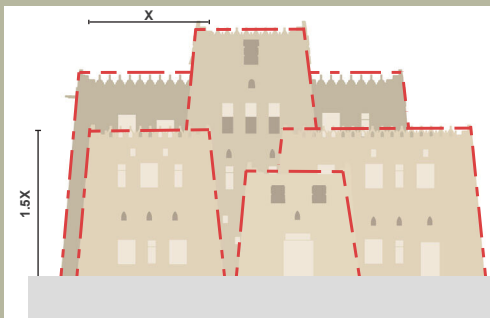
Asymmetrical façade

2.2 Building massing & form

Verticality and asymmetry are key features in Najrani buildings. New constructions should:

- 1 Follow an asymmetrical axis.
- 2 Manifest asymmetry through the clustering of projecting bays at different levels.
- 3 **(TR)** Embrace an irregular and tapering building profile.

| To ensure the façade aligns with the architectural traditions of Najran.



Width-to-height ratio

2.3 Width-to-height ratio

Apply the specified proportions to achieve visual cohesion in traditional structures:

- 1 The overall height of the building should exceed its width.
- 2 The width-to-height ratio of the entire structure should range from 1:1 to 1:1.5.
- 3 The proportions of secondary groupings can be utilized to establish the final width-to-height ratio of the overall structure.

| To ensure that the symmetry and proportions of the building embody the essence of traditional sources.



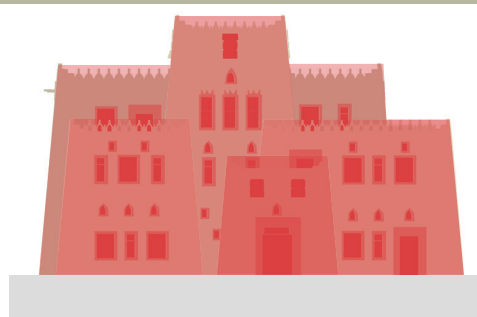
Parapet character

2.4 Parapet character

Distinctive roof and parapet designs define Najrani architecture. New buildings should:

- 1 Incorporate flat roofs.
- 2 **(TR)** Feature heavily decorated parapets, crenelations, and corner merlons with traditional fenestrations.
- 3 Consider rectangular openings aligned with windows below.

| To preserve a consistent and traditional Najrani roofscape.



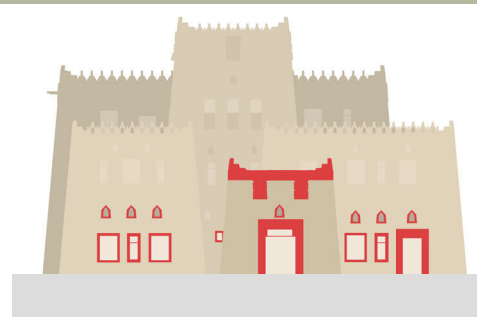
Opening hierarchy & vertical organization

2.5 Opening hierarchy & vertical organization

In Najran, the vertical emphasis in building design is a departure from symmetrical norms. New constructions should embody this vertical aesthetic through:

- 1 Adopting simple, orthogonal geometries for doors and windows.
- 2 **(TR)** Introducing distinctive square and oval-pointed fenestrations, enriching the vertical articulation.
- 3 Incorporating volumes on the façade that preserve the vernacular character.

| To authentically capture Najran's vertical building tradition.



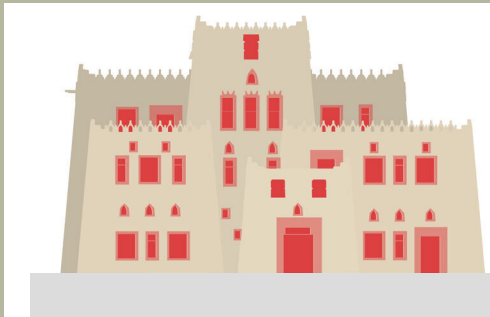
Base detail

2.6 Ground floor articulation

The relationship between wall finishes and the ground is crucial. New buildings should:

- 1 Use the same material for the base and remaining structure.
- 2 Design bases that are wide and contribute to the upward-sloping structure.
- 3 Celebrated entrances and use small/minimal openings on public facing facades.

| To maintain a strong connection with the landscape and traditional vernacular materials.



Projections or recesses

2.7 Projections or recesses

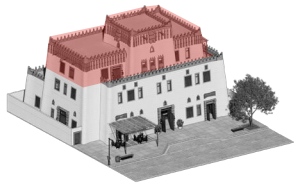
Framing of façades and openings, often using painted frames, is a common feature in Najran architecture. New structures should:

- 1 Frame different openings with recessed frames, emphasizing doorways with painted white frames.
- 2 Incorporate subtle squares and other openings on the façade.
- 3 Provide forward articulation of the main entrance, setting it apart from the remaining structure.
- 4 **(TR)** The crown or top part should accommodate projecting elements like drainage spouts (mizab).

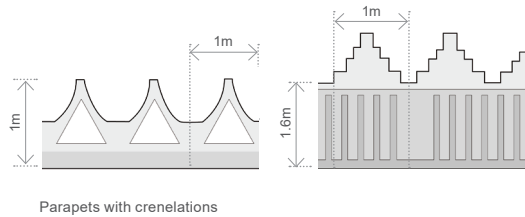
| To establish a harmonious relationship with the natural surroundings and local architectural traditions.

3.0 Traditional Elements

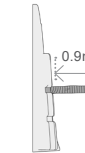
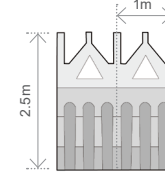
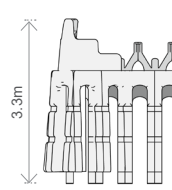
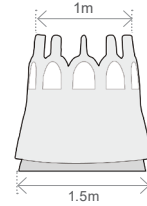
The elements illustrated are examples and should not limit other possible design solutions that follow guideline principles and historic precedents. Element measurements are illustrative and provided to indicate general proportions only.



Top



Parapets with crenelations

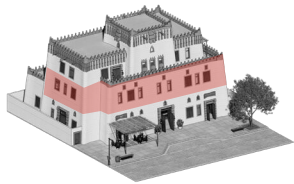


Rainwater spout

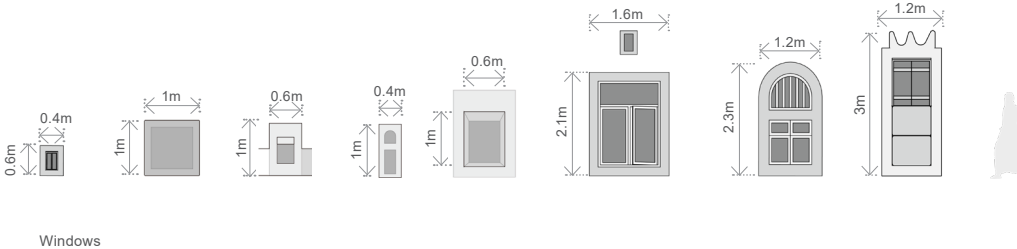
3.4 Rooftop elements

- 1 Be completely flat.
- 2 Develop a stepping form, with several groups from each floor.
- 3 Parapets have multiple designs, crenelations, as well as corner merlons and crown-like circular bays.
- 4 Rainwater drainage spouts of the vernacular mizab below the parapet which is made of wood.

To create functional roof spaces and roofscapes which embrace the typical characteristics of the local area.



Middle

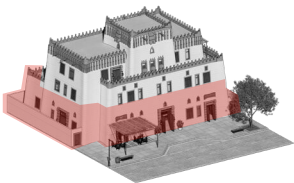


Windows

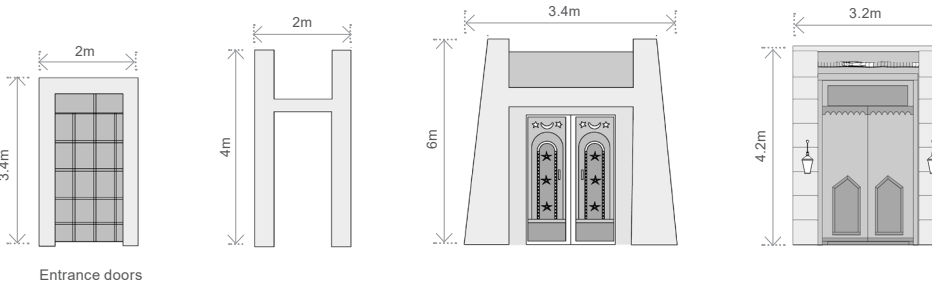
3.3 Windows and openings

- 1 Windows are rectangular and square.
- 2 Openings of the same style in varied suites.
- 3 There are multiple styles of openings such as oval, or small rectangles with semicircular arch above or orthogonal with a crown over panel frame.
- 4 Windows should be made of wood and framed with light colored gypsum.

To respond to climate considerations and provide an aesthetic treatment which is distinct to the local area.



Base

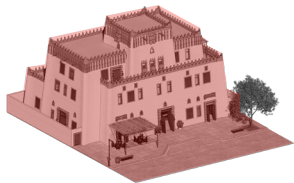


Entrance doors

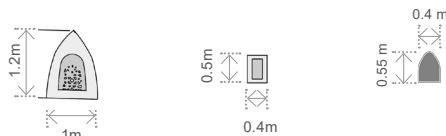
3.2 Doorways and entrances

- 1 Clearly define primary entrances from shopfronts.
- 2 Doors are framed with columns and white plaster.
- 3 Generally made of local wood and show no ornamentation.

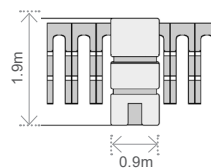
To create suitable thresholds within the base which is part of a well-ordered, coherent street scene and responds to local character.



Other elements



Ornamentations / Fenestrations (applied to windows)



Curved projected arches

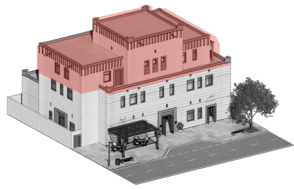
3.5 Other elements

- 1 Small square openings and oval-pointed openings should also be employed above windows.
- 2 Boundary walls, their gates and portals should be designed to complement the building design.

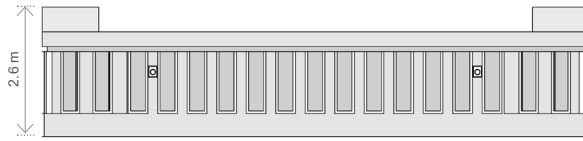
To embed other elements which are frequently part of the overall composition of buildings.

3.0 Transitional Elements

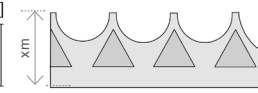
The elements illustrated are examples and should not limit other possible design solutions that follow guideline principles and historic precedents. Element measurements are illustrative and provided to indicate general proportions only.



Top



Parapets with notches



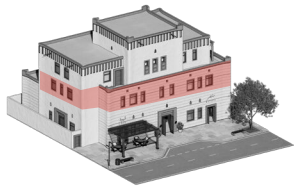
Crenelations



3.4 Rooftop elements

- 1 Be completely flat.
- 2 Maintain a smoother plane with grouped volumes combining to form a staggered roofscape.
- 3 Parapets should be more flat or incorporate a crenelation on the corners with minimal steps.

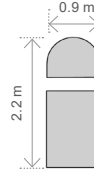
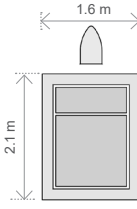
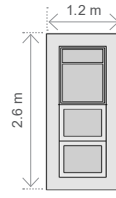
To create functional roof spaces and roofscapes which embrace the typical characteristics of the local area.



Middle



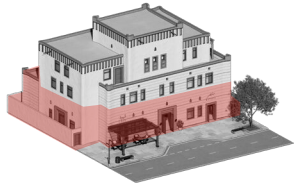
Windows



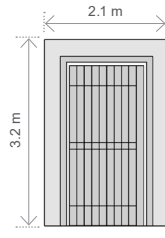
3.3 Windows and openings

- 1 Provide and use a variety of slim rectangular vertical windows as well as larger square ones.
- 2 Incorporate wider openings than the traditional styles.
- 3 Include upward openings with semicircular arches and frames.
- 4 Larger windows have shutters or steel bars.
- 5 Window frames and shutters should be crafted from wood or a material that closely mimics its texture and color.

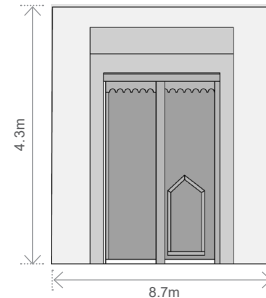
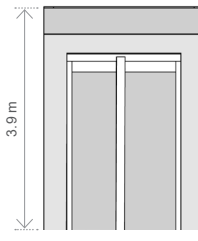
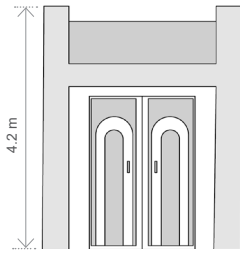
To respond to climate considerations and provide an aesthetic treatment which is distinct to the local area.



Base



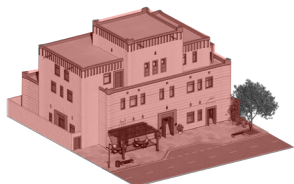
Entrance doors



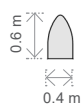
3.2 Doorways and entrances

- 1 Include modest recessing and larger framing for the main door.
- 2 Entrances should feature most prominently on the street with its own structure.
- 3 Consider wood or equivalent and glass for the main door and shopfronts.

To create suitable thresholds within the base which is part of a well-ordered, coherent street scene and responds to local character.



Other elements



Ornamentations / Fenestrations

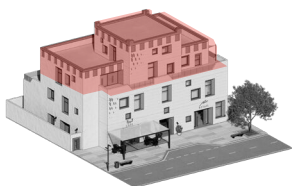
3.5 Other elements

- 1 Fenestrations with designs of ovals and double-squares are also used.
- 2 Boundary walls, their gates and portals should be designed to complement the building design.

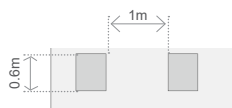
To embed other elements which are frequently part of the overall composition of buildings.

3.0 Contemporary Elements

The elements illustrated are examples and should not limit other possible design solutions that follow guideline principles and historic precedents. Element measurements are illustrative and provided to indicate general proportions only.



Top



Flat parapets



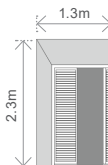
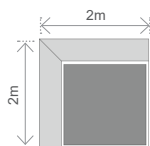
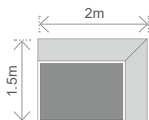
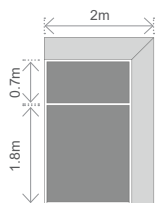
3.4 Rooftop elements

- 1 Be completely flat.
- 2 Develop a rectilinear form, with groups combining to form a blended staggered roofscape.
- 3 Should feature flat parapets which are flush with the primary building line and integrated into the building's façade.
- 4 Consider using glass and encourage more views between the public and the roofscape.

To create functional roof spaces and roofscapes which embrace the typical characteristics of the local area.



Middle

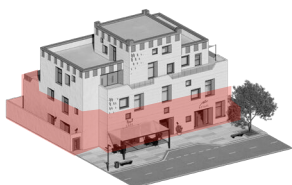


Windows

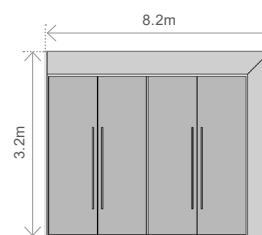
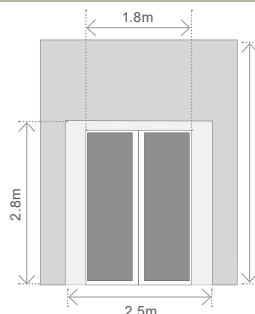
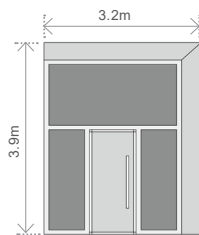
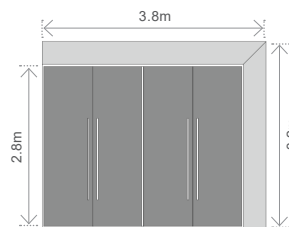
3.3 Windows and openings

- 1 Introduce monumental openings and windows than is common in the region.
- 2 Develop complex interpretations of the common windows to create chamfered windows.
- 3 Emphasize continuous windows and openings rather than lookouts or square openings above windows.
- 4 Window frames and shutters could be made of metal or another modern material, styled to reflect traditional features in a contemporary manner.

To respond to climate considerations and provide an aesthetic treatment which is distinct to the local area.



Base



Entrance doors

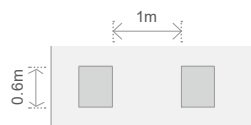
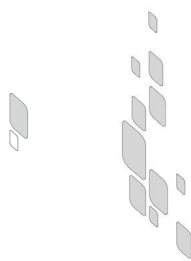
3.2 Doorways and entrances

- 1 The door should be slightly recessed from with the main building line as with all doors and openings.
- 2 Consider a more intimate entrance for the building with a timber awning to articulate the main entrance.
- 3 Use large double doors made of glass for shopfronts.
- 4 Doors could be made of metal or another modern material, styled to reflect traditional features in a contemporary manner.

To create suitable thresholds within the base which is part of a well-ordered, coherent street scene and responds to local character.



Other elements



Ornamentations / Fenestrations

3.5 Other elements

- 1 Use fractal designed ornamentation, inspired by historical motifs across the façade.
- 2 Boundary walls, their gates and portals should be designed to complement the building design.

To embed other elements which are frequently part of the overall composition of buildings.

4.0 Colors and Materials

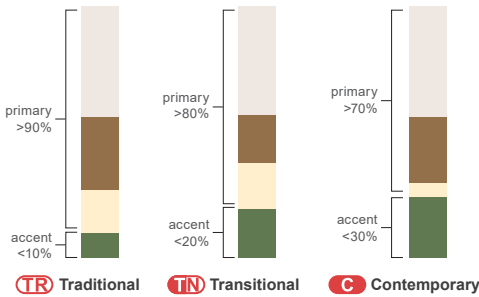
4.1 Colors

The color palette of Najran is closely linked to traditional building materials such as surrounding clay, trees and stepped mountains.

- 1 **TR** The building is all made of the same material from surrounding local sources, such as earth clay.
- 2 Generally use natural colors and finishes for the main body of the building with occasional use of brighter colors for accents on specific elements.
- 3 A maximum percentage of accent color, measured as a percentage of the total façade area, is allowed for each style:
 - **TR** <10%
 - **TN** <20%
 - **C** <30%
- 4 For windows' glass, avoid using mirror-like reflective glass with bright colors that do not harmonize with the local environment and character.

To create a townscape in harmony with the surrounding landscape and architectural character.

Approximate color proportions

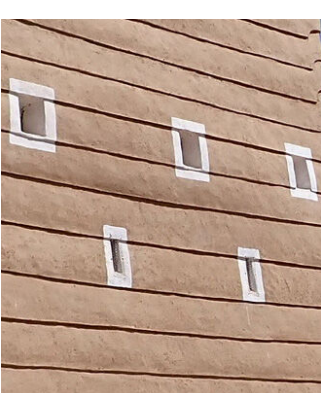
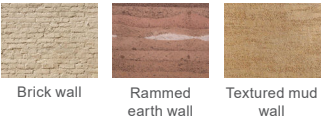


RAL Color codes

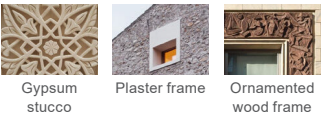
RAL codes are part of a universal color-matching system used to provide consistency in architectural finishes. It is recommended that teams verify colors with a physical fan deck. For more information visit www.ral-farben.de/en/



Adobe brick wall



Gypsum frame



4.2 Material

This palette summarizes the prevalent materials found in the architecture of Najran.

- 1 **TR** The six large images reflect materials used in traditional architecture; new traditional style buildings should employ these materials as faithfully as possible.
- 2 Precious or no-longer available materials may entail the need for substitutions. The smaller images reflect a range of feasible substitutions for the primary images above them, acceptable for use in transitional or contemporary styles, and in a more cautious manner in traditional style.
- 3 When designers can't utilize original materials, they might utilize materials that closely resemble the original materials



Ornamented wood



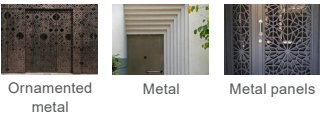
Wood beams



Plastered parapets



Ornamented metal



present in the area while taking into account material quality in terms of sustainability and durability aspects as much as possible. Poor interpretations or applications of the materials should be avoided.

- 4 Local and sustainably sourced materials are preferred.
- To create buildings in harmony with the surrounding landscape and architectural character.
- To enhance architectural character through the support of local craftsmanship.
- To create buildings with tactile and visual richness landscape and architectural character.

5.0 Patterns

This section provides advice on the interpretation and use of traditional patterns in new projects.

New buildings should:

- 1 Create patterns through the use of local materials and craftsmanship.
- 2 Where multiple decorative patterns are applied across a single façade, these should be consistent.
- 3 **CTR** Focus the use of surface patterns to doors, window screens and shutter doors.
- 4 **CTR** refer directly to historic precedents and be limited to geometric and floral patterns.
- 5 **TIN C** The contemporary use of patterns should involve interpretation and abstraction: a selective emphasis of characteristics to create meaning and beauty in its new context. Designers can selectively use formal characteristics such as:
 - Color (hue, tonality, tint)
 - Shape (figure, outline, 2-D geometry)
 - Form (volume, 3-D geometry)
 - Texture (physical surface quality)
 - Line (verticals, horizontals, diagonals, zigzags, curves, dashes, etc.)
 - Value (lightness to darkness)
- 6 Patterns can be further transformed in the way they relate to one another. Designers can play with compositional rules such as:
 - Balance (equality or harmony of parts)
 - Contrast (difference of parts)
 - Emphasis (strengthening of parts)
 - Movement (change, directionality)
 - Pattern (repetition, symmetry)
 - Rhythm (even and uneven spacing)
 - Unity/variety (degrees of variation)

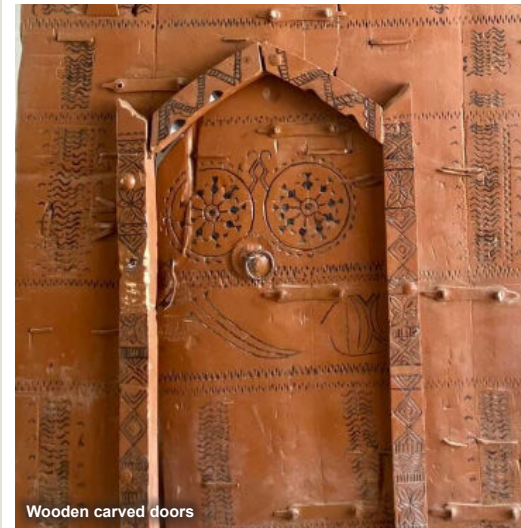
To express the spirit and essence of the original architecture in new yet familiar ways.



Patterns



Curved arches on traditional building



Wooden carved doors



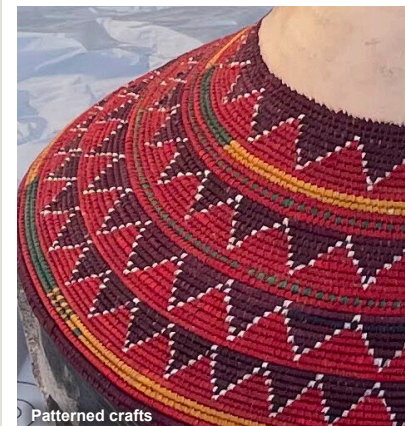
Stained glass window



Crenellation pattern



Traditional window pattern



Patterned crafts



Window pattern



Crenellation pattern



Screen patterns

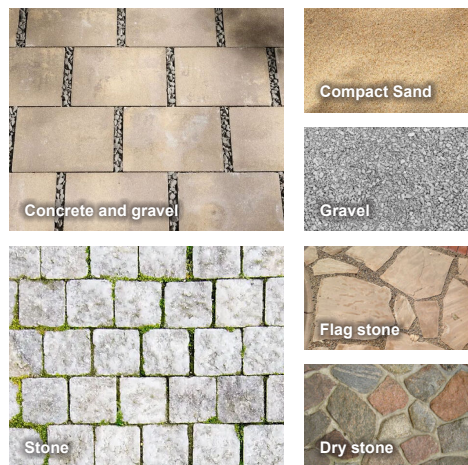
6.0 Public realm

This section focuses on the contributions of low-rise buildings to the surrounding streetscape and public spaces, creating strong character and high quality spaces.

The guidelines apply both to 'semi-public' spaces (public space built by private owners) and 'semi-private' spaces (private space that is generally accessible to the public).

Note: The application of these guidelines should be tailored to the specific project type, scale, and needs. It's essential to ensure that any modifications or additions to publicly-owned spaces are thoroughly coordinated and approved by relevant authorities.

To enhance the character and quality of publicly used spaces in between buildings.

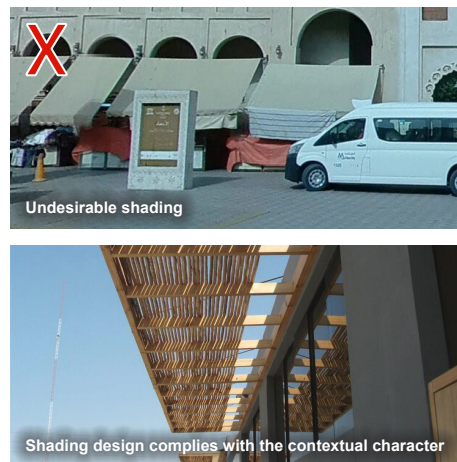


6.1 Paving Materials

Paving guides users through both built and natural areas.

- 1 Select robust materials for longevity, easy maintenance, and repair.
- 2 Use contextual materials that complement surrounding.

To enhance aesthetics, and environmental sustainability in urban landscapes.



6.2 Shading

Shading structures are a critical component of modulating the public's interaction with the outdoors.

- 1 Integrate light shading structures as distinctive features that reflect the architectural style or theme, ensuring they harmonize with other facade elements for a cohesive overall design aesthetic.

To create a pleasant outdoor ambiance for public areas.



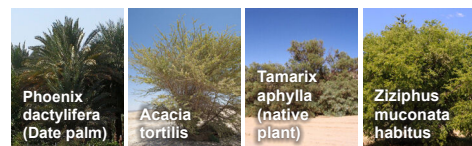
6.3 Parking

Parking is a key component in the overall approach to the public realm and for user decision making.

- 1 Parking spaces should not obstruct the use of built areas.
- 2 Unregulated parking in urban areas disrupts visual appeal and public access, necessitating measures to prevent it.

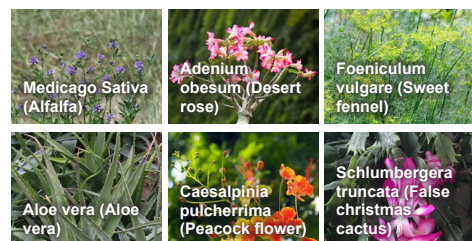
To ensure that parking does not create an obstruction to the development and ensures good flow.

Palm trees



Shade trees

Ornamental species

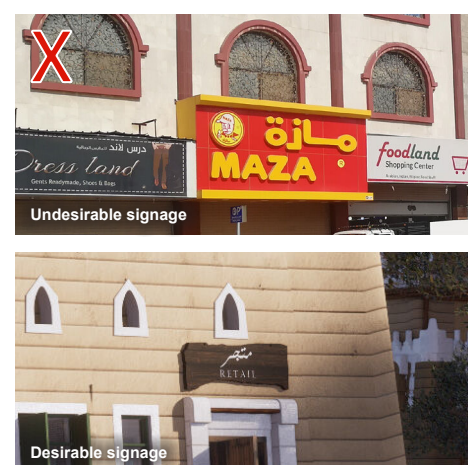


6.4 Planting

Planting should complement and work with existing ecosystems and contribute to a sustainable built habitat.

- 1 Rely less on importing plant species and source drought and saline tolerant species.

To ensure that plants do not disturb existing wildlife and natural environment.

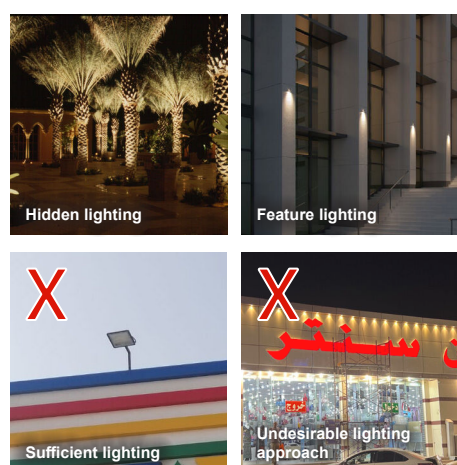


6.5 Signage

Signage guides users and aids navigation in public areas.

- 1 Signage should integrate seamlessly with the architecture, ensuring clarity and harmony in form, scale, color, and size.
- 2 Minimize signage conflicts with residences and tree canopies by facing roads and using subdued illumination.

To effectively orient the public in navigating built areas.

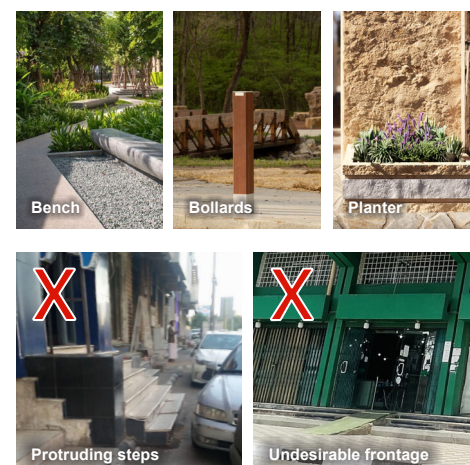


6.6 Lighting

Lighting is crucial for nighttime activity and overall design.

- 1 Consistent lighting enhances urban and architectural appeal.
- 2 Architectural lighting should target color temperatures in the 2200K-2700K range for comfort and good color rendering.

To create a harmonious and pleasurable perception of public areas.



6.7 Public realm interface

The shared spaces and walkways of public areas should be used effectively.

- 1 Ensure that mixed-use development and activations of frontages are created throughout public areas.
- 2 Avoid protruding ramps or steps into public property.

To create a distinct and active sense of place.

7.0 Dos and don'ts

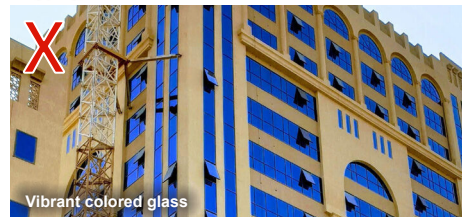
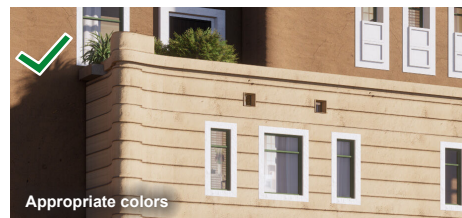
This section focuses on easy wins for the improvement of architectural quality and character. Drawing upon best design practice, these guidelines help avoid common mistakes create visual pollution and hostile environments.

| To avoid common design mistakes.



7.1 Inappropriate materials

- 1 Use durable and quality materials that give the building authenticity, texture and mass while adhering to recommended material palette.
- 2 Do not use building materials alien to the tradition such as metal cladding and high reflectivity and colored glass.
- 3 Do not use low-quality building materials that appear fake or poorly imitate the original materials.



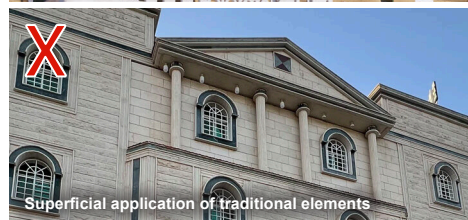
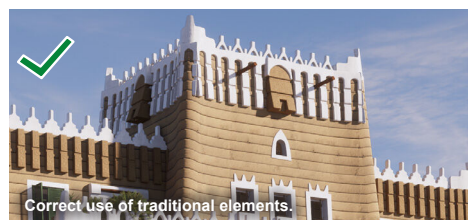
7.2 Saturated colors

- 1 Do not use non-contextual bright and artificial colors that detract from the natural landscape and local architecture.
- 2 Colors should be consistent and integrate well with the built landscape and landscape at large.



7.3 Screens and closures

- 1 Integrate the design of security features with the architecture.
- 2 Do not extend walls with unfinished corrugated metals and other raw sheet materials.
- 3 Do not use razor or barbed wires for typical buildings; utilize deterrents that are inconspicuous or visually appealing.



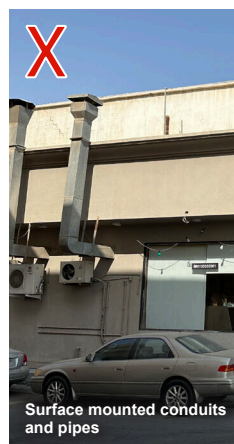
7.4 Superficial traditional elements

- 1 When integrating traditional elements on existing or new structures, it should be done in a conscious manner adhering to original precepts through which such motifs and elements were used.
- 2 Careless copies of historical motifs, lackluster incorporation of local symbols, poor consideration of proportions, massing, volume, and other instrumentalization of traditional motifs should be avoided.



7.5 Exposed shutters

- 1 Exposed roller shutters create noise and visual pollution if not properly concealed.
- 2 The use of retractable security gates is advised.
- 3 Security gates should reflect the color scheme of the construction, design and overall region.



7.6 Exposed building services

- 1 Infrastructural elements such as communication towers, air-conditioning units, satellite dishes, water tanks and ducts, wires, pipes, among other should be discreetly embedded in the design and not exposed or be seen by the public.



7.7 Inconsistent or imported architectural style

- 1 The adoption of building materials, style, and standards which do not comply with local architecture style and character should be avoided.
- 2 Styles should embrace the cultural context and use materials that work with the local context.
- 3 Avoid applying foreign imported architectural elements.



8.0 Traditional mixed-use worked example

In Najran's traditional architectural style, buildings integrate asymmetrical structures, creating a diverse and engaging massing that harmonizes with the surrounding landscape. The intentional asymmetry promotes a fluid interaction between the interior and exterior.

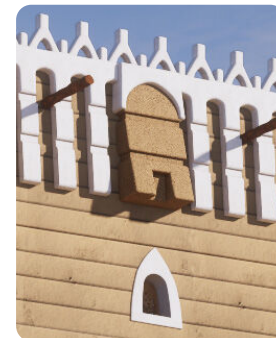
The tripartite articulation is a key feature, characterized by a wider base and a slimmer profile at the top, contributing to Najran's distinctive

upward-sloping aesthetics. The middle section is dedicated to simple fenestrations. Traditional buildings stand out with their verticality that culminates in a distinctive crown at the top.

Ornamentation plays a significant role on the parapet, featuring arched denticulations, stepping crenelations, and rounded corner merlons. The contrast between the main building material and the frames and ornaments further enhances the overall visual impact.

The main entrance in this traditional style is grander than the shopfronts, featuring a higher and wider double entrance door with a thick white frame around it. Timber canopies may be employed in front of shopfronts to create a shaded area.

- 1 Rooftop with arched denticulations.



- 2 Building walls taper as they ascend.



- 3 Vertically proportioned fenestrations with ornate, crowned white plaster frames.



- 4 Main entrances are clearly articulated with wooden double doors, and white frames.





Worked examples demonstrate one possible application to the guidelines and are for illustration only.

8.0 Transitional mixed-use worked example

In the transitional architectural style of Najran, asymmetry takes a creative form with subtle setbacks blending into various volumes. This style departs from the traditional upward-sloping characteristic and introduces several roofs and a modular grouping. The example reflects the evolution from traditional elements, embracing asymmetry, larger openings, and a modular grouping.

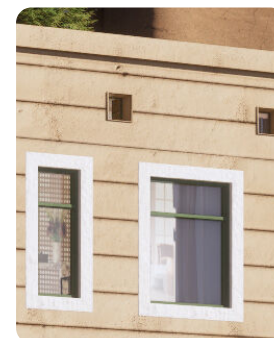
The use of different materials for different masses is explored in this style, with the main façade mass retaining a distinctive horizontal lining. Unlike the traditional style, ornamented window framing is not utilized; instead, taller vertical windows are adopted with additional timber panels for privacy and shade.

The roofscape ornamental elements are reduced and rounded corner merlons emphasize the building's rounded corners, and rectangular fenestrations within the parapet draw inspiration from traditional parapet styles.

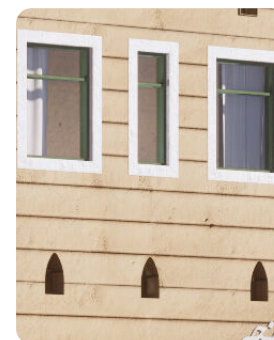
- 1 Rooftop parapet featuring merlons with narrow rectangular recesses.



- 2 Windows are orthogonal with a vertical proportion, each featuring a white frame.



- 3 Horizontal engraving/banding is applied to some of the masses.



- 4 Entrances showcase timber doors with a prominent white plastered frame.





8.0 Contemporary mixed-use worked example

In the contemporary architectural style of Najran, the design builds upon the asymmetry of traditional styles, incorporating side balconies, setback structures, and various façade elements that add depth.

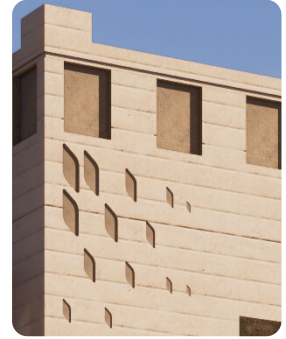
This design showcases the integration of asymmetry, wide openings, and modern design elements, reflecting an evolving architectural character of Najran.

This style presents a tripartite articulation, with the ground floor accommodating building entrances and shop fronts, the middle section expanding slightly upward with large windows, and the top section featuring a modern parapet, roofscape doors, and windows, along with corner crenelations.

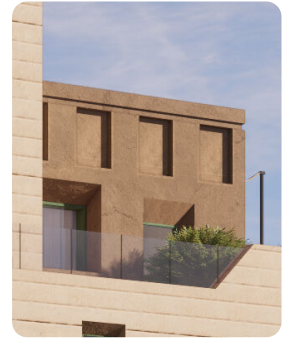
In the contemporary style, ornaments inspired by traditional motifs are incorporated towards the building's edges. The central mass adopts a different materiality compared to the rest of the masses.

A prominent feature in the contemporary style is the varied window types with different widths and heights, adapting to the interior zoning.

1 Ornamentation is integrated into patterns on the façade.



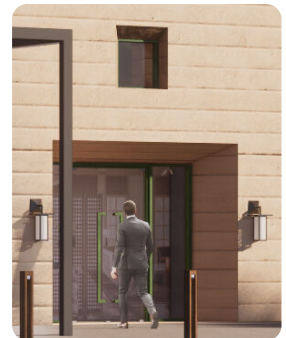
2 Multiple tiered balconies, along with projecting and recessed doors and windows.



3 Windows are recessed into the wall with simple metal frames.



4 Main entrances are recessed within the façade's thickness with rectangular fenestrations above.



A.0 Appendix: Low-rise apartment buildings

This appendix focuses on design issues important to low rise apartment buildings, for example, the relationship between public and private spaces, access to individual units, ground floor facade design, the provision of outdoor amenity, and the design of boundary treatments and rooftops.

Apartment building design should follow the guidelines for traditional, transitional and contemporary style in the rest of this handbook, but also observe the guidance notes in this appendix.

Parapet character

New buildings should incorporate parapet solutions that vary in material, color, or texture. Privacy for rooftop terraces can be ensured through fenestrated high parapet walls.

Projections or recesses

Side façades feature high parapets, textured finishes, and geometric patterns, balancing privacy and communal aesthetics in line with Najrani traditions. Ground floor amenity spaces aim for a balance between privacy and communal living, incorporating windows for privacy while retaining cultural authenticity.

Secondary frontage

Residents' privacy is a priority across all façades, ensuring openings do not offer visual access to private interior spaces. Side windows incorporate shutters and are relatively small in size, providing privacy without compromising aesthetics. Ground floor windows facing the street are scarce and intentionally smaller for resident comfort. Enhanced security and privacy for street-facing windows include wooden shutters, semicircular arches, and nuanced recessed frames.

Base

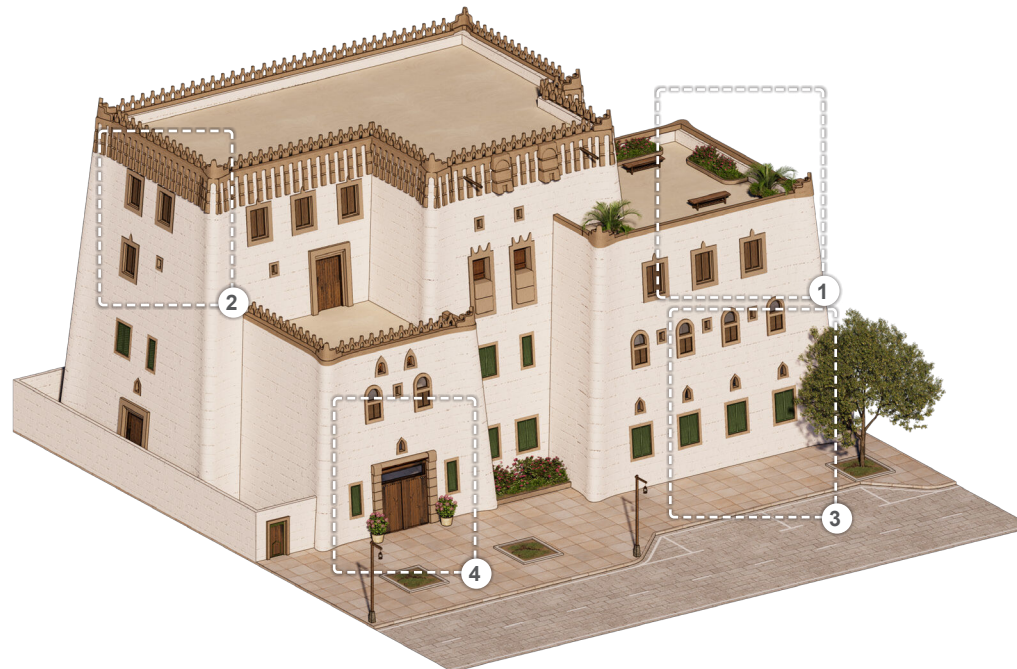
Traditionally, Najran's earth-built buildings feature a base supporting their upward sloping characteristic. The material treatment of this base should be distinctive, with options like brickwork or a material that resembles it, articulated or textured for surface appearance. The base should not protrude or create barriers in the public realm, smoothly interacting with pedestrian areas. Varying in height, the base can serve as a podium or stylobate for building entry, extending to the first floor or higher.

Doorways and entrances

The main entrance, with its large framed doorway and distinctive ventilation opening, embodies Najrani character. Secondary entrances discreetly integrate traditional motifs.

Privacy

Ground floor windows on street frontage should maintain privacy and security for residents. This may be achieved by using smaller windows, elevated windows, adjustable attractive security screens, and by setting back from the boundary with planted buffer zones and landscaping details.



Apartment Building Axonometric

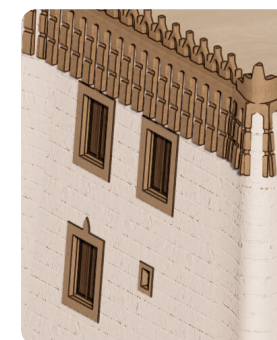


Apartment Building Front Elevation

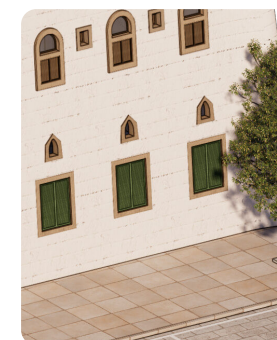
- 1 Additional building amenities on roofs.



- 2 Maintain privacy between neighbors on side façades with minimal and more spaced openings.



- 3 Maintain privacy and security at ground level with shutters and less fenestrations.

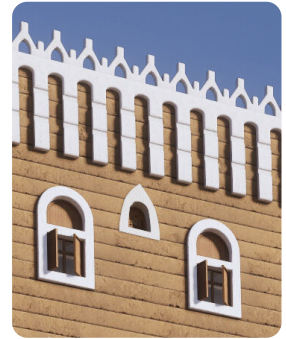


- 4 Emphasize primary shared entrances with prominent framing.





- 1 Rooftop with arched denticulations.



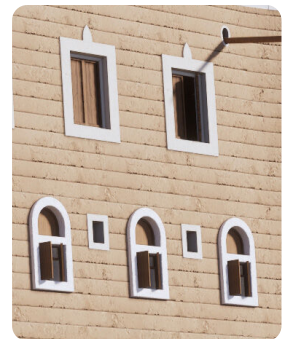
- 2 Main entrance with prominent white framing.



- 3 Walls taper as they ascend. Service entrance feature single doors with thinner frames.



- 4 Windows are vertical with some featuring a semi circular arch. A white thick frame surrounds each window.



A.0 Traditional apartment worked example

In traditional apartment buildings, the inherent asymmetry is accentuated by the expansive volumes, incorporating stepped roofscapes that are transformed into usable terraces through the addition of timber shading structures.

The main entrances are distinguished by their prominence, featuring large plastered and white frames, while the secondary doorway adopts a more modest size. The tripartite articulation of the

façade is evident, dividing the structure into a ground floor with minimal fenestrations to ensure privacy, a concentrated arrangement of windows in the middle section, and rooftop spaces that contribute to the overall verticality of the building.

Ornamentation plays a crucial role in enhancing the aesthetic appeal, with decorative elements on the parapet, crowned window frames, and a few windows featuring semi-circular over panels.



A.0 Transitional apartment worked example

The façade's inherent asymmetry is accentuated where diverse materials are employed for different building masses. Those facing the street maintain the characteristic horizontal linings of traditional Najrani architecture.

Thicker frames distinguish the main doors from secondary ones, emphasizing a nuanced hierarchy. To enhance privacy, the ground floor features fewer openings with shutters, aligning with traditional

design principles.

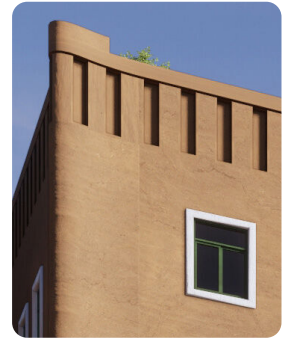
While window types exhibit limited variation in the traditional style, fenestrations above windows remain consistent. Ornamentation is comparatively restrained in the transitional style, prioritizing parapet functionality.

Vertical rectangle fenestrations are adopted to facilitate airflow, accompanied by less ornamented parapets accentuated with horizontal bands and

corner crenelation.

The rooftops are transformed into more usable terraces through the addition of timber shading structures.

1 Rounded corner merlons with a high parapet and rectangular fenestrations.



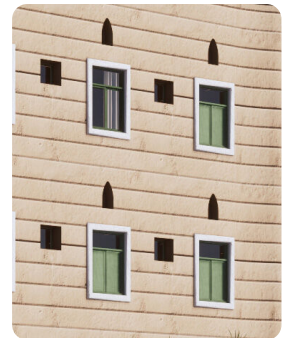
2 Building main entrance with prominent framing.



3 Walls curve at the corners. Service entrance feature single doors with thinner frames.



4 Each window features fenestrations above it and a thin white frame.





Worked examples demonstrate one possible application to the guidelines and are for illustration only.

A.0 Contemporary apartment worked example

The contemporary architectural style embraces the traditional building materials, allowing for diverse massing expressions. This characteristic adds to the asymmetry of the façade, contributing to a dynamic and modern visual appeal.

The contemporary style introduces stepped rooftops utilized as residential terraces with the addition of shading tents. The incorporation of glass balustrades enhances transparency, promoting a

connection between the building and the public realm.

A key feature of contemporary windows is their recessed placement within the wall, employing a chamfered design for a modern framing approach. This window type is consistent throughout the style, with dimensions tailored to the specific interior zoning.

While the contemporary style leans towards minimal ornamentation, it incorporates patterns inspired by traditional Najrani motifs and employs simple horizontal bands along the parapet, contributing to a horizontal traditional aesthetics.

1 Chamfered wall frames windows.



2 Main entrances are glazed and feature double doors.



3 Walls are orthogonal at the corners.



4 Windows are irregularly placed and recessed within the facade.

