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**INSPECTION DIVISION**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Application # \_\_\_\_\_

## **CITY OF MEQUON, WISCONSIN ARCHITECTURAL BOARD GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES**

The goal of the City of Mequon and its Architectural Board is the protection and enhancement of the beauty, appeal and value of the City's housing. While aesthetics to some extent are a matter of personal preference, building exteriors are also part of the public realm and affect the overall ambience of the community. The Board has, out of its long experience in reviewing design proposals, identified a number of recurrent issues and themes for which it is felt that guidelines are appropriate. There are enduring principles and themes, which will help insure harmonious, balanced, compatible and neighborhood-enhancing residential development. In applying these guidelines, the Board exercises judgment and discretion in looking for excellence in design.

In an effort to assist the home designer/builder, the principles and standards by which the Architectural Board will review designs and plans are set forth below.

### ***Scope***

The Architectural Board shall be responsible for the review and final approval of the following:

- All new single and two-family residential structures.
- Additions to single and two-family structures.
- Exterior alterations to single and two-family structures.
- Detached structures more than 300 square feet

Alterations and additions that are deemed minor by the Director of Community Development, or their designee may be approved at a staff level.

### ***Zoning Requirements***

The Inspections Division will review plans for compliance with the dimensional and other technical requirements of the zoning and building codes. This includes critical dimensions of the proposed structure, i.e., building height, setbacks and offsets, lot coverage, and minimum square footage.

## ***General***

The several elevations of the residential structures shall be consistent with one another and compatible with existing homes in the neighborhood as well as the natural features of the lot and surroundings in order to avoid disharmony and the appearance of haphazard development. See City of Mequon Code of Ordinances Sec. 58-40(c)(1).

A proposed dwelling should not be so similar in design, materials, style or exterior appearance to existing neighboring homes where excessive monotony is created. See City of Mequon Code of Ordinances Sec. 58-40(c)(2).

The placement of a proposed residential structure on the lot should not impair the lot's natural beauty; it shall respect the physical attributes of the lot and of the neighborhood. One must attempt to eliminate or minimize loss of trees and vegetation, or alteration of natural topography. See City of Mequon Code of Ordinances Sec. 58-40(c)(4) and 58-641.

## ***Submission Requirements***

The following are required to be submitted to the City of Mequon Inspections Division prior to the design application being placed on the Architectural Board agenda:

1. Application form.
2. To scale and dimensioned drawings of the following:
  - a. For addition plans, the addition must be highlighted on the drawings to easily distinguish it from the existing structure.
  - b. All elevations must show accurate dimensions and a clear description of proposed materials.
  - c. Site plan, including driveway if applicable.
3. For additions, 3 sets of photographs of the existing structure which show the area of the home at which the addition is proposed.

## ***Roof Geometry***

Generally, all roof pitches on a principal dwelling should be the same.

All roof designs will be reviewed as they relate to the overall design of the home.

## ***Size, Proportions, and Scale***

Certain zoning code standards, relating to minimum square footage and maximum lot coverage, regulate the size of a proposed structure. However, it is conceivable that a proposed structure will conform to the technical dimensional provisions of the Zoning Code, and yet be objectionable from an aesthetic standpoint. The Architectural Board will evaluate the proposed residential structure's size, proportions, placement and orientation in relation to:

1. Neighboring structure's height, mass, scale and placement.
2. On-site structure's height, mass, scale and placement.
3. The lot, including its size, shape, sight lines, topography, specimen trees, grade and other natural features.
4. Equally important are the proportions and scale of the proposed structure.

## ***Consistency of Elevations***

All sides of the structure should exhibit design continuity. Where brick, stone or stucco is used together with cedar on the front elevation, and the brick, stone or stucco is the predominant material, roughly the same proportion of veneer and cedar should be designed into the other elevations affecting an architecturally correct balance. Additions and alterations to existing structures may deviate from this requirement based on the ability to match existing materials.

A design which incorporates an accent material such as stone, brick or stucco on the front elevation only, may be permitted if it is used sparingly and only to establish a focal point of interest to the design of the structure.

Houses which feature shutters or divided light windows as design elements should have them on all four elevations. When a specific style or design of window or trim is presented on one elevation, it should be repeated on all elevations, including the garage. This requirement shall not apply to sliding patio doors and picture windows.

The fact that there are no adjacent neighbors or that the property is or will be bordered by trees or berm does not diminish the need for continuity on all elevations of the structure, but it may be a rationale to limit the proportion of materials on the aforementioned elevation.

Painted flues, vents, gutters, downspouts, flashing and the like are encouraged to match the color of the architectural component from which they project.

## ***Building Façade***

It is important that exterior details such as shutters, corner boards, quoins, cupolas, wing walls, cornice returns, gable vents, fanlights, wide trim boards, lintels, sills, cornices, etc., be designed into the plans together with the other design features.

The design should incorporate the use of strong vertical and/or horizontal reveals, offsets, and three-dimensional detail between surface planes to create shadow lines and break up flat surface areas. If large blank surfaces are proposed, they should serve some compelling design purpose, and the design should incorporate mitigating features to enrich the appearance of the structure and provide a sense of scale at ground level that is inviting to the observer.

Enhancements such as masonry treatments must not terminate at an outside corner. Window and other trim treatments should be consistent to the greatest extent possible on all elevations. Consideration shall be given to the interior floor plan when complying with this requirement. Compatible framing, sills, lintels and keystones should be employed. Alterations to existing dwellings may be exempt from this requirement in order to match the existing design.

The size and location of windows and doors should be balanced and consistent on each elevation, and this should be borne in mind when placing windows in rooms. Consideration shall be given to the interior floor plan when complying with this requirement.

## ***Materials***

All natural building materials are strongly encouraged. Synthetic siding/trim materials will be considered based upon quality and appearance.

Acceptable roofing materials include:

- Cedar shake
- Slate
- Fiberglass shingles
- Concrete shingles
- Tile
- Dimensional asphalt shingles
- Architectural metal roofs

Masonry chimneys will generally be required. Cedar chimneys may be considered integral to the design of the structure, and compatible with surrounding homes.

## ***Detached Storage Structures***

### In General

1. Be subordinate in size, scale and bulk to the principal residence.
2. Complement the architectural character of the principal residence.
3. Be compatible with the neighborhood character.

### Orientation

Detached structures with an 8-foot-wide door or less may front the street. Large overhead doors shall face an interior driveway unless it is located completely to the rear of the dwelling.

Where the garage faces an internal driveway, the garage shall incorporate window(s) on the street front façade for walls greater than 10 feet in length unless it is screened from public view by natural vegetation. The window size and design must be compatible with the windows on habitable portions of the residence.

### Materials and Design

Detached structures shall be designed to be consistent with the principal dwelling. The consistency of design includes the use of similar roofing materials and pitch, windows, exterior cladding, trim, and color(s).

Exceptions:

1. Materials including brick, stone, slate are not required on detached buildings and may be substituted with other approved materials.
2. Detached structures are not required to have a roof pitch greater than 8/12 regardless of the pitch on the primary dwelling.
3. Roof forms shall be similar to the form of the primary dwelling unless the detached structure is less than 150 square feet.
4. Roof eaves are not required to exceed 1 foot regardless of the eave width on the primary dwelling.