



# ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION

## HORIZON WEST ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STANDARDS GUIDEBOOK

**NOTE:** This guidebook reflects June 17, 2022 updates, adopted by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Preliminary Subdivision Plans (PSP) which received BCC approval after June 17, 2022, shall comply with these standards.

See Section 38-1390.3 'Applicability' for PSPs approved prior to June 17, 2022.

## FINAL JANUARY 2023

**PREPARED BY:**  
ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION**

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## Introduction

The **Horizon West Village Planned Development Code** (chapter 38-1380) was originally adopted in 1997, and updated in 2009, 2014 and 2022.

The Horizon West Code prescribes design standards for most components of residential and non-residential development, including neighborhood parks and open space, commercial and office centers and associated parking, landscaping, as well as architectural design.

The Code's standards guide the built form within Horizon West's five *Specific Area Plan (SAP) Villages*: Lakeside Village; the Village of Bridgewater; and Villages H, F, and I.

Residential designers in the *Town Center District* of Horizon West are directed to meet and use both the design standards listed in the Horizon West Town Center Code as well as the Horizon West Village Code.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a visual quick reference to some of the key elements of the Code, and to provide other guidelines and best practices that support Orange County's overarching goal of promoting more compact, complete and sustainable communities.

## Additional Links and References

Additional information, requirements, and regulations that accompany this quick reference guide can be located at the references listed below:

### Orange County Comprehensive Plan

Horizon West Policies (FLU-39 – FLU-77)

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/PlanningDevelopment/ComprehensivePlanning.aspx>

### Orange County Code

Chapter 38 (Zoning), Article VIII, Division 8. – Horizon West Village Planned Development Code

Chapter 24 (Landscaping, Buffering, and Open Space)

Chapter 9 (Building and Construction Regulations), Article XVI. – Exterior Lighting Standards

Chapter 9 (Building and Construction Regulations), Article XIII. – Architectural Standards and Guidelines for Commercial Buildings and Projects

[https://www.municode.com/library/fl/orange\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://www.municode.com/library/fl/orange_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

### Florida Building Code

[https://floridabuilding.org/bc/bc\\_default.aspx](https://floridabuilding.org/bc/bc_default.aspx)

Contact the Planning Division at (407) 836-5600 or [planning@ocfl.net](mailto:planning@ocfl.net) to request an explanation or clarification of any information provided above, or other Horizon West Standards.

**Porches - Sec. 38-1384 (d)**

**Definition**

Un-air-conditioned, covered structures, raised above grade and attached to one or more of a building's façades.

**Intent**

Porches provide a transitional layer between the private and public realms. They shelter large window openings and add richness to the pedestrian experience.

Spacious porches encourage gathering and spontaneous interactions; they should be sized to accommodate outdoor furniture.

Slightly elevated spaces provide opportunities for passive monitoring of streets and public spaces.

**Minimum of 50% of lots with less than 75' width shall incorporate a porch which meets the standards described below.**

**Refer to Sec. 38.1384(f) for additional information.**

**Design Standards**

Width	12' min.	<b>A</b>
Depth	8' min.	<b>B</b>
First floor finished grade	3 steps min. (1) above sidewalk grade	<b>C</b>

**Notes**

(1) 3-step minimum elevation to interior finished floor. Also applies to lots and porches with side-loaded garages.



Image 01: Example of porch, steps and railing design

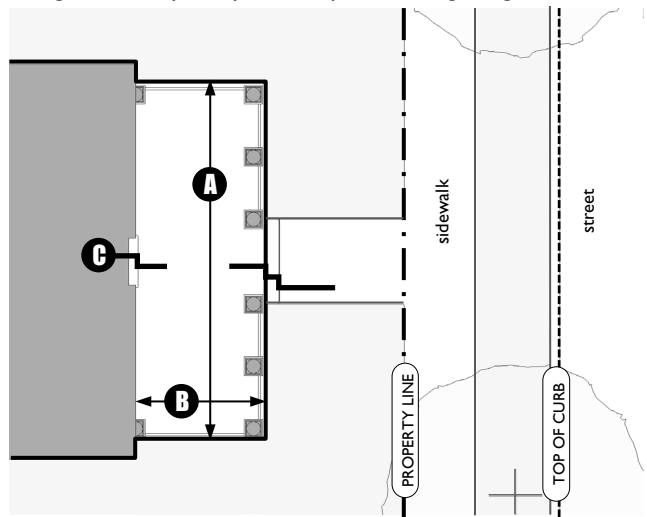


Image 02: Porch standards, plan diagram

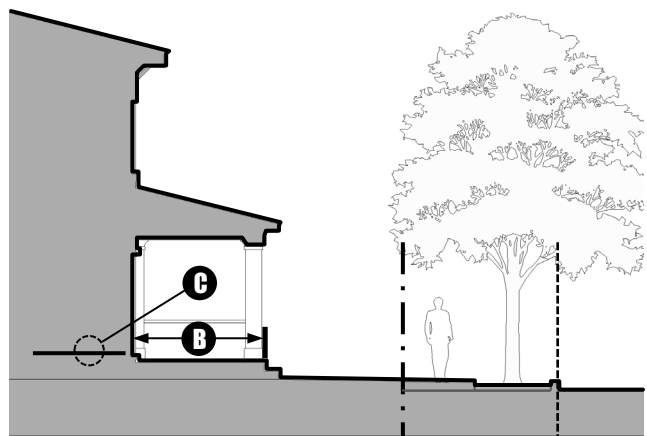


Image 03: Porch standards, section diagram

**Residential Garages - Sec. 38-1384 (g)**

**Definition**

Residential garages are attached or detached structures designed to store vehicles and other household items. Front-loaded garages present a particular set of design challenges in conventional subdivisions due to their impact onto the character of residential streets.

**Intent**

Minimize the impact of front-loaded parking garages into streetscapes and the public realm; provide standards for the proper location of parking garages within residential communities.

**General Requirements**

Lot Width	Garage Type	
50' or less	Alley-loaded garage required	<b>A</b>
Greater than 50'	Front-loaded garage allowed	<b>B</b>
Less than 65'	Double-wide doors prohibited	
65' or more	Side-facing garage allowed Sec. 38-1383(g)(3)(f) for additional information	<b>C</b>
	Double-wide doors allowed	

**Design Standards**

**Garage Setbacks**

From front property line	20' min.	<b>D</b>
From building plane	10' min.	<b>E</b>
	7' min. with qualifying porch	
If side-street loaded	5' min. setbacks (sides, back)	<b>F</b>
	10' setback from building plane	<b>G</b>
Detached garages:	5' min. setbacks (sides, back)	<b>H</b>
	15' min. setbacks from side street	

**Notes**

Front-loaded lot with side-facing garage door(s) must incorporate windows and trim on the wall facing the front street.

Refer to Sec. 38-1384(g)(3)(f) for additional information.

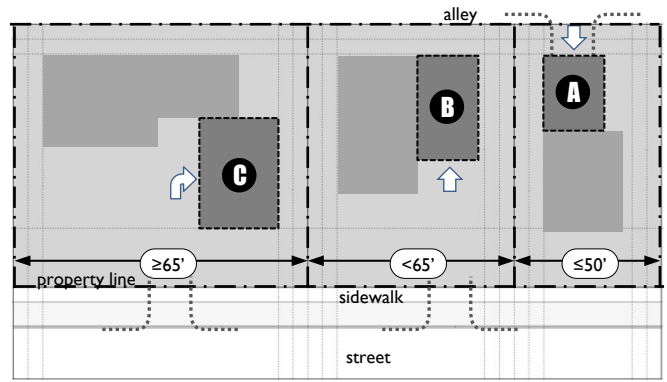


Image 04: Garage configurations

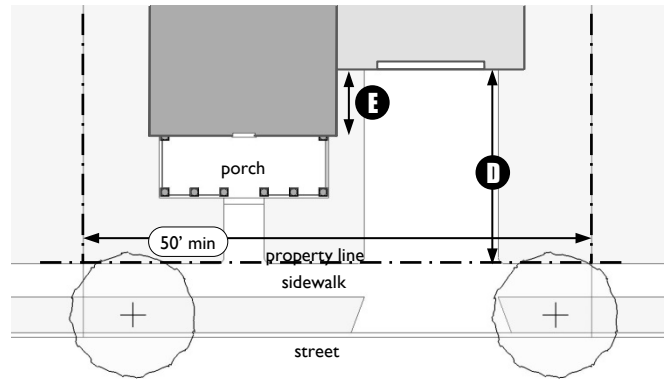


Image 05: Garage setback

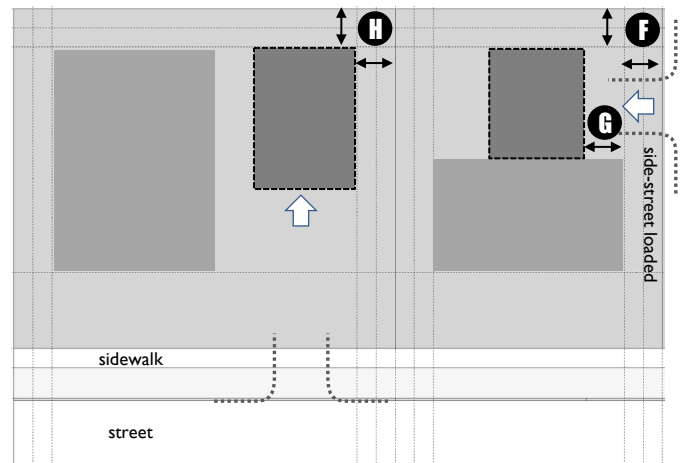


Image 06: Detached & side-street loaded garages

**Garage Doors - Sec. 38-1384 (g) (continued)**

**Intent**

Minimize the visual character impact of parking garage doors; provide standards and guidelines for proper garage door design and placement.

**General Requirements**

Glazing or architectural pattern required for upper one-quarter (1/4) of door height **A**

Door panels must be separated by column or wall, with a minimum width of 16" **B**

Garage door recess 12" min. **C**

**Opening width **D****

Single space 12' max. width

Two spaces 12' max. width for single doors  
 16' max. width for double-wide doors <sup>(1)</sup>  
 two single doors preferred <sup>(2)</sup>

Three or more spaces One single door plus a single-wide tandem space preferred  
 12' max. width for single doors  
 16' max. width for double-wide doors

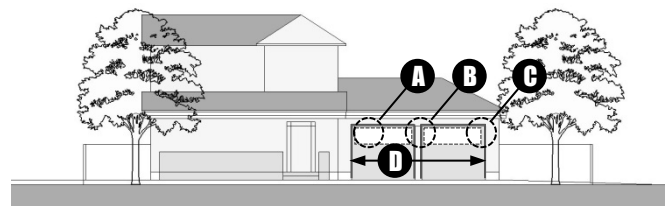
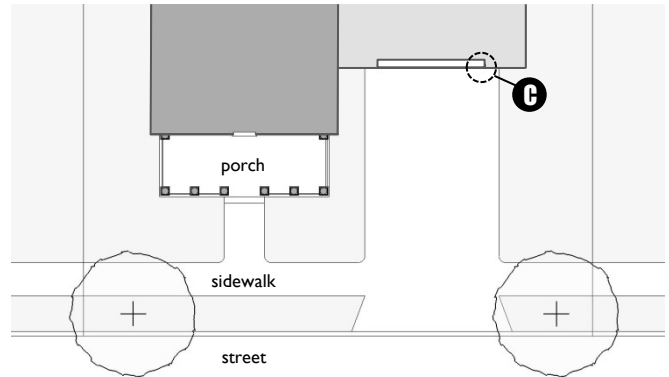


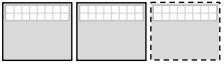






Image 07 & 08: Garage design standards

**Garage Door Configuration Examples (Tandem parking permitted in all examples)**

one car garage	two car garage	three or more car garage
 one single door	 one single door (incorporate tandem design)	 two single doors (incorporate tandem design) or three single doors
	 two single doors	 one single door + one double door
	 one double-wide <sup>(2)</sup>	 two double doors <b>prohibited</b>

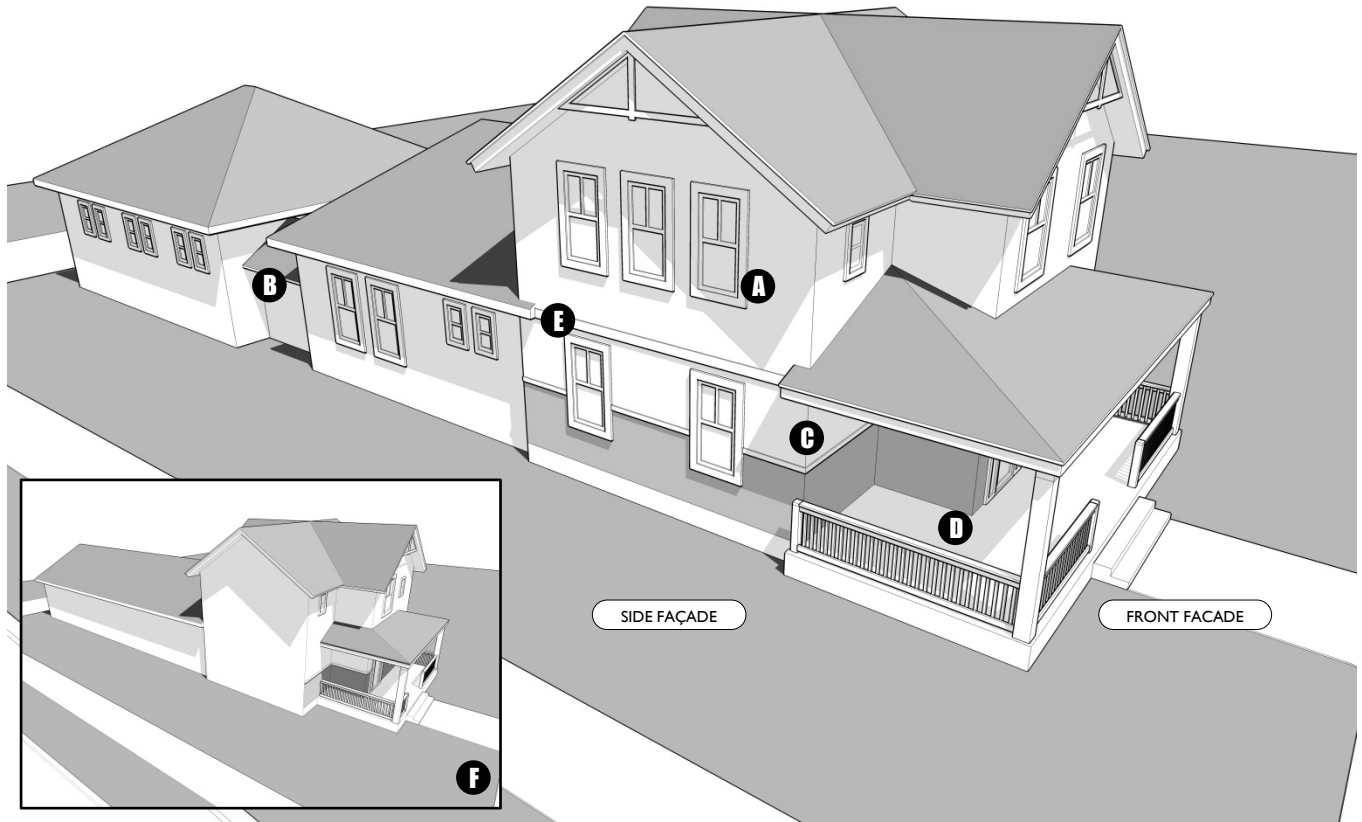
**General Design Notes**

Front-loaded garages should randomly alternate the location of driveways in relation to front façade. See: 1384(f)(1).  
 "Eyebrow" projections over garage openings are encouraged.

**Notes**

- (1) Double-wide doors prohibited on front-loaded lots less than 65' wide.
- (2) Double wide or wider garage doors are not permitted to face the front street on lots less than 65' in width.

**Front Facades, Corner Lots & Side Streets**



**Definition & Intent**

Architectural design should reinforce a neighborhood’s character through proper building placement, massing, construction materials, and detailing.

These requirements extend beyond the primary façade of a building, and shall be incorporated along visible surfaces whenever buildings interface with the public realm, particularly in the case of residential corner lots.

**Design Requirements**

**No more than five homes with the same façade shall be placed within a given block face, on both street sides.**

**Homes with the same façade shall be separated by at least two lots of different façades.**

**The front façade of structures on lots 60’ wide or less must include visible primary entrances which incorporate a pedestrian walkway to the public sidewalk.**

**No individual wall plane on front façades (lots less than 100’ wide) may exceed 40’ of uninterrupted width without incorporating a significant offset recessed plane.**

**In no case may more than 50% of the front façade of a residential structure feature unarticulated block masonry, or garage door systems.**

**General Guidelines**

- A** Windows are ordered and distributed on all façades of a building.
- B** Side façades are articulated to avoid continuous building masses and blank walls.
- C** Colors, trim lines, textures, and architectural materials wrap around to side façades, with proper transitions and termination points.
- D** Porches are adequately dimensioned, and wrap around building corners.
- E** Horizontal trim bands align with other architectural features, such as openings, roof fascia, and structural elements.
- F** (inset image) Street facing side façade should instead incorporate standards (A) to (E) above.

## General Recommendations and Best Practices

### Openings and clearances



### Recommendations

Provide appropriate vertical clearance between exterior openings and eaves.

### Design Consistency



### Recommendations

Ensure design consistency, with a defined palette of finishes, materials and architectural detailing.

### Material Transitions



### Recommendations

Design a proper transition between building materials, and provide termination details for exterior veneer surfaces.

### Decorative Shutters



### Recommendations

If decorative shutters are used, ensure that sufficient space is provided between adjacent openings. Shutter widths should be sized according to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  width of the windows.