

## Form-Based Code 101

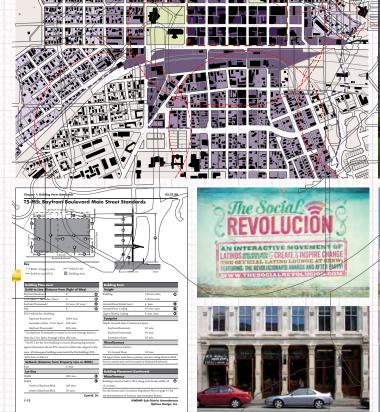


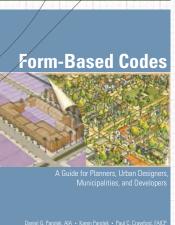


Sound Check

Dan Parolek
Principal, Opticos Design, Inc.

Brown Bag Lunch November 17, 2015





### Euclidean Zoning is an Out-of-Date Operating





### Item B-01 3 of 69 Conventional Zoning Summarized

Emphasis on regulation by use

19. Baths, Turkish

25. Boxing arena

28. Chinchillas, retail sales

41. Eleemosynary institutions 135. Turkish bath

42. Embalming business

95. Physical culture institution

109. Potato chip manufacturing

127. Tombstones, retail sales

Disconnect between land use, urban form, and design

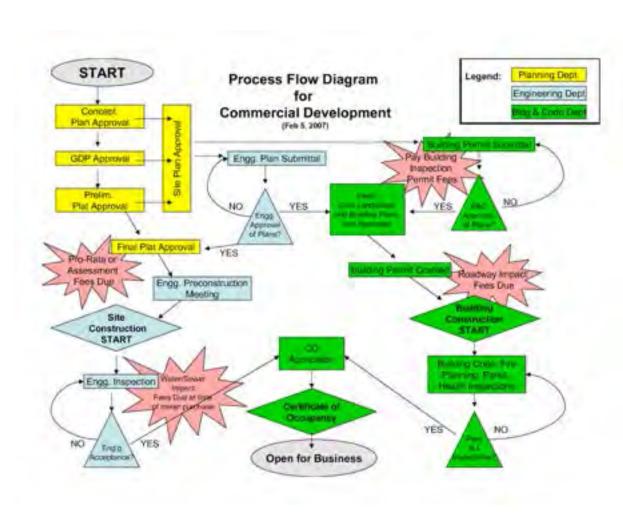
Exceptions become the rule



### Item B-01 Well more process will fix it

Zoning Code

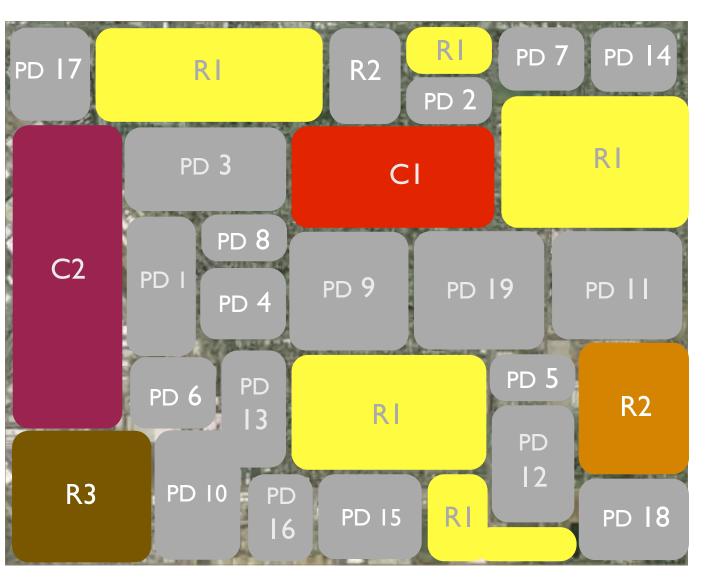
Then





### Item B-01 Well the PD process will fix it

Zoning Code





## The New Operating System

Different zoning tools for difference types of places

### What's in common?



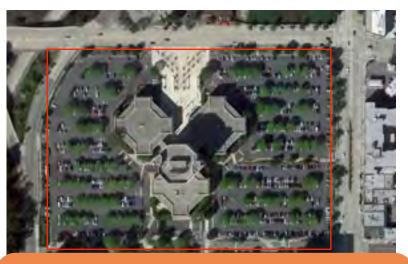




# Item B-01 8 of 69 Conventional zoning says they're the same

0.60 FAR

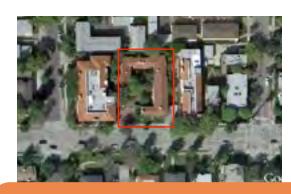




3 at 3 stories and 1 at 12 stories

0.60 FAR





2 story building on 2/3 of site



### The 21st Century Operating System is Form

# Form-Based Approach

Walkable Urban Places

Lower parking requirements (More walking, access to transit)

Public realm = Public space

Blended density (variety of types)

Mixed use environments

Uses more flexible based on operational characteristics

# Conventional Use-Based Approach

**Drivable Suburban Places** 

Higher parking requirements (Less walking and access to transit)

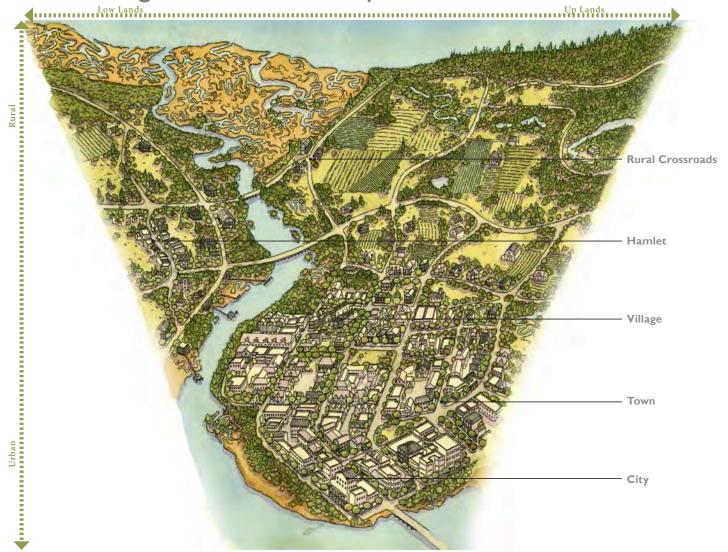
Larger public and private open space required due to isolation

"Podded" densities and uses

Specific Uses allowed



### Different Neighborhoods Require Different Solutions



Beaufort County, South Carolina Multi-Jurisdictional Code: Place Types **CODE**NEXT

## Item B-01

### Different Types of Places in Austin





**Transitional** 



Suburban

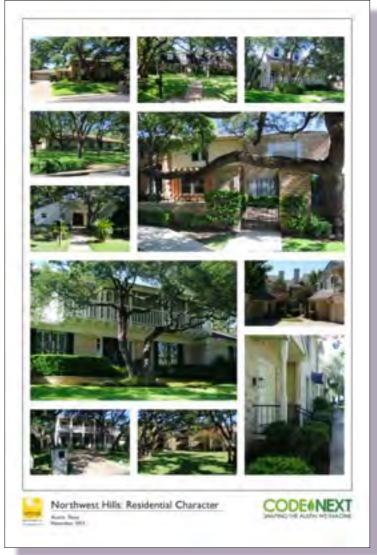


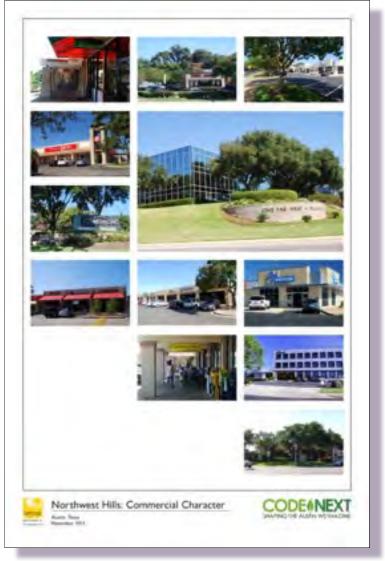




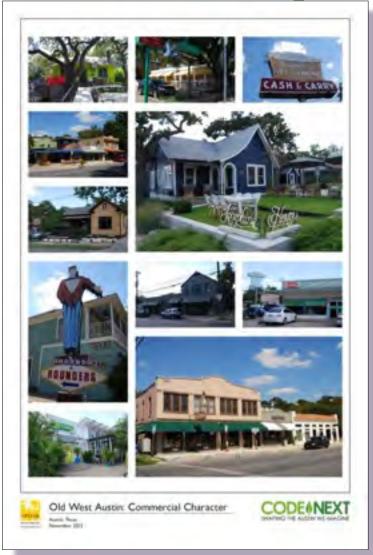


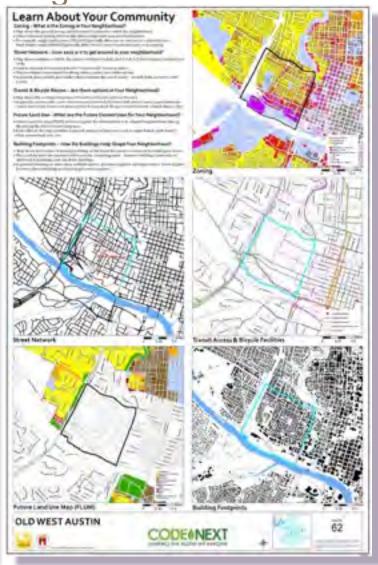
Conventional/Euclidean Zoning: Suburban Places





Form-Based Coding: Existing Walkable Urban





### Item B-01

### Hybrid Code is Selected Approach

PLANNING PRACTICE

# Going Hybrid

How one city overhauled its zoning code while combining form-based and conventional elements.

By Roger E. Eastman, AICP, with Daniel Parolek and Lisa Wise

LAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, entered an exclusive club in November. It is now one of the few cities in the U.S. that have adopted a hybrid zoning ordinance with both form-based components and conventional Euclidean elements as part of a complete code rewrite. "Simplified, streamlined, predictable" raved an editorial in the Arizona Daily Sun while praising both the code and the process used to adopt it. Getting the new code adopted wasn't easy, but many city residents think the effort will be repaid in a more efficient, more equitable, and easier-to-use zoning system. The adoption of the new zoning code also caps off a successful public engagement process that has changed the generally negative perception of city planners.

(The Option of Urbanism, Island Press, 2008). By making this distinction, Flagstaff could apply a form-based code in the walkable existing conventional code in place in the portunities could emerge in a manner con-

Thus, a new transect-based hybrid code An important first step in approaching a resulted that defaults to promoting and alnew code was differentiating between what lowing for walkable urbanism while seam-Christopher Leinberger calls "walkable ur- lessly incorporating refined yet otherwise ban" areas from "drivable suburban" areas conventional Euclidean zoning tools for the drivable suburban areas. Because the regulations for the two different types of areas are not moddled together, the form-based code areas of the city while generally leaving the could be kept intact-and development op-

Flagstaff (pop. 62,000), at an elevation of about 7,000 feet, is the regional hub of northern Arizona. Established as a stop on the early transcontinental railway in 1882 and later Route 66 and Interstate 40, Flagstaff quickly grew as a logging and ranching town, and as a gateway for tourists visiting the Grand Canyon and other national parks and monuments. Residents appreciate the natural beauty of the area and enjoy outdoor pursuits such as hiking, skiing, hunting, fishing, and camping.

The downtown and oldest neighborhoods were planned with small blocks and lots, and today are valued for their historic buildings and inherently walkable urban character. Typical of many American cities, Flagstaff's urban form changed after World War II as auto-oriented suburban developments were added to the periphery of the city. Until recently Flagstaff's zoning ordinances have actively promoted these driveable suburban development patterns.

The need for a comprehensive update of the city's land development code had been apparent for some time as developers, contractors, design professionals, and residents complained about the code's complexity and inconsistency. Some even blamed the cumbersome nature of the code for contributing to the high cost of development and the failure of big projects and economic develop-





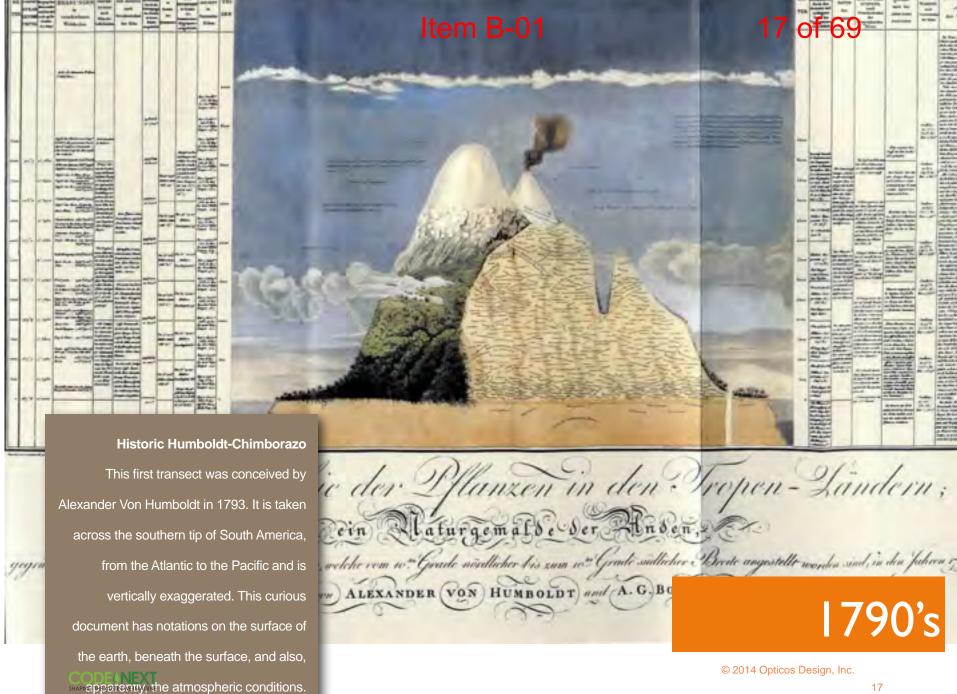
### Form-Based Code Definition

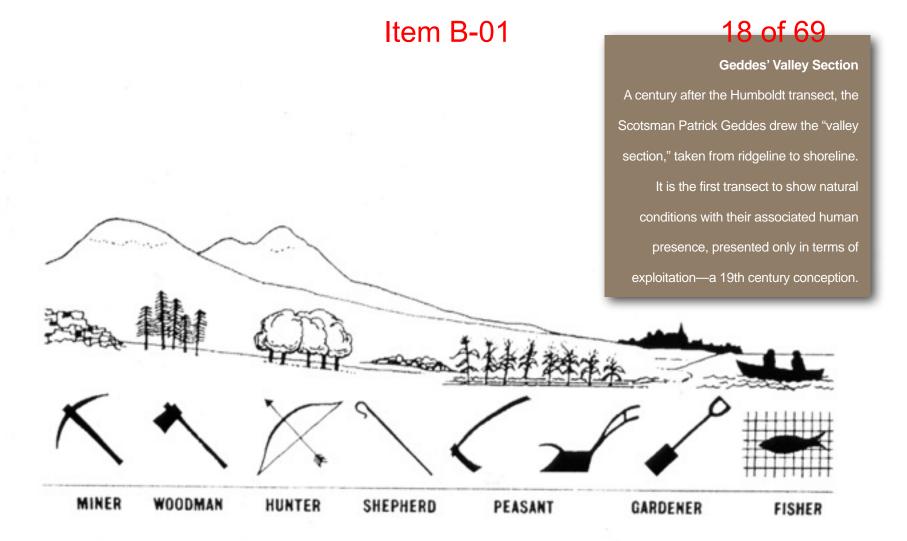
"Form-based codes foster predictable built results and a highquality public realm by using physical form (rather than separation of uses) as the organizing principle for the code. They are regulations, not mere guidelines. They are adopted into city or county law. Form-based codes are an alternative to conventional zoning."

Form-Based Code Institute

# The Rural to Urban Transect as the New Operating System

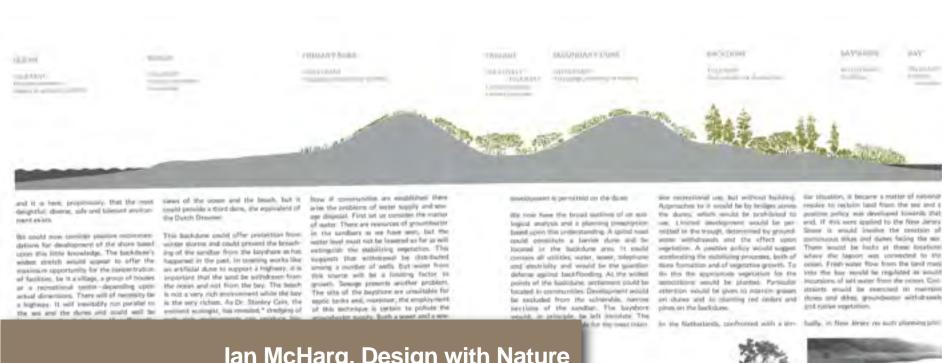
Place-based operating system





1909

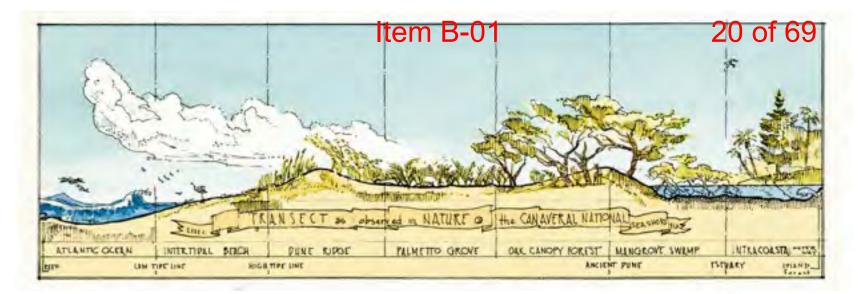
### Item B-01 19 of 69 Transect Concept's Initial Use in the Natural Environment

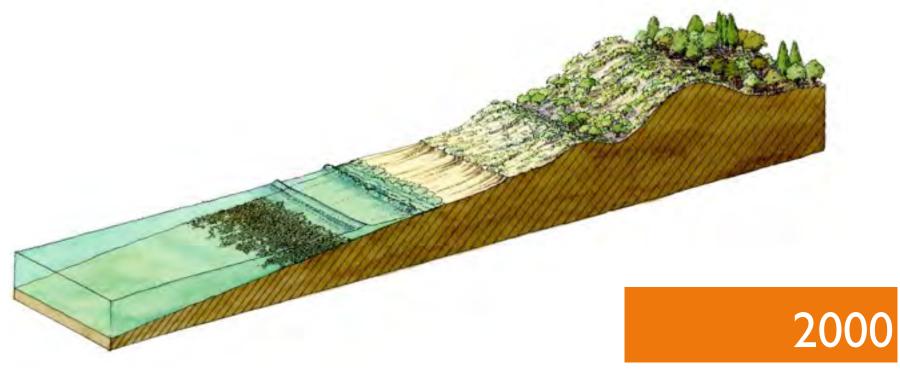


### lan McHarg, Design with Nature

The famous landscape architect documented the variety of distinct environments and their individual components and species that needed those environments to thrive.







Item B-01 21 of 69 In 2000 It Was Adapted to the Built Environment



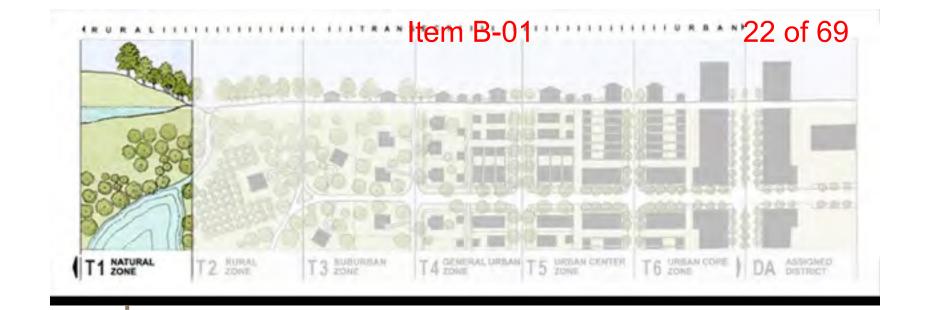
**T5** 

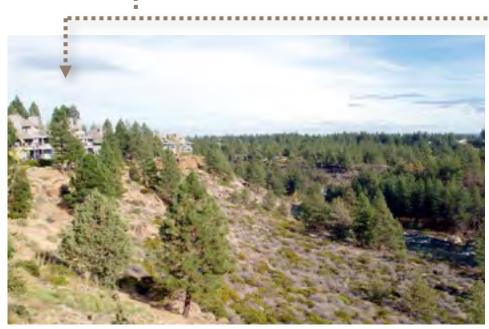
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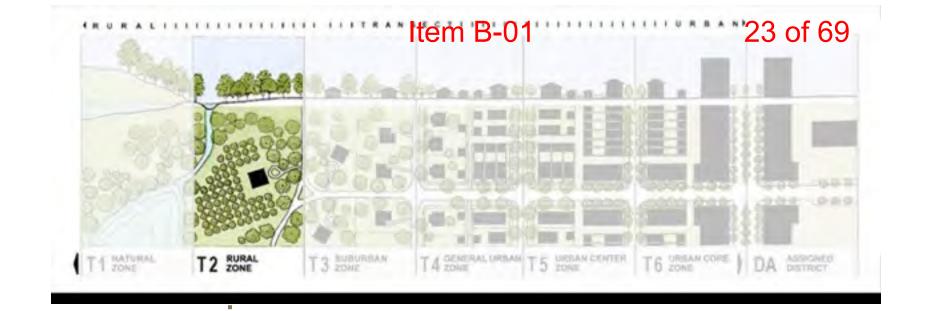
T2

T3



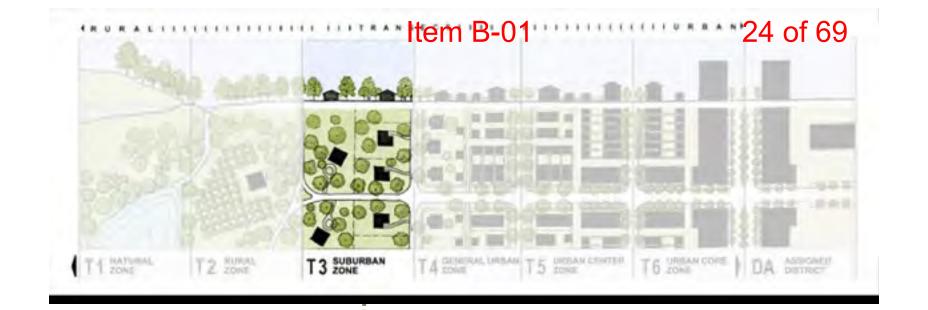






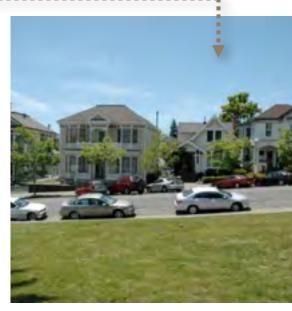




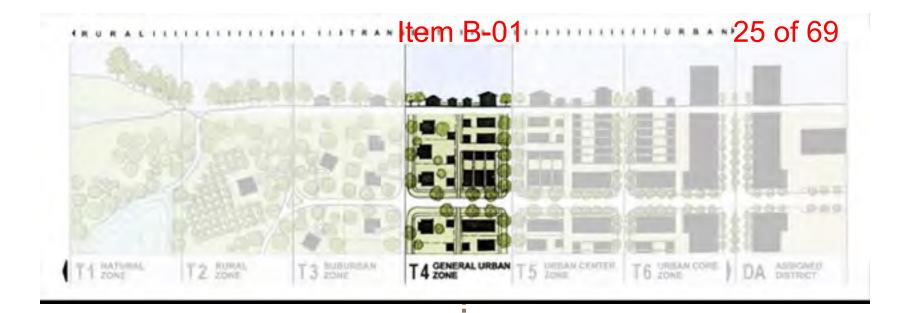


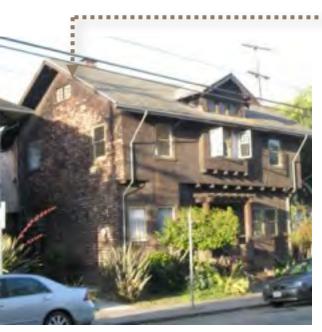






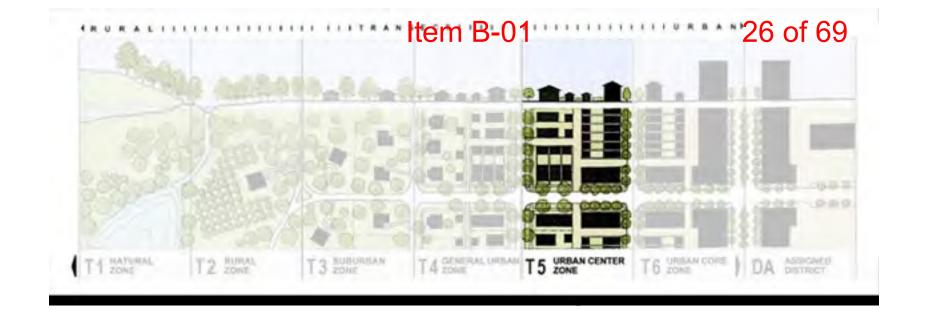
CODE NEXT
SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE











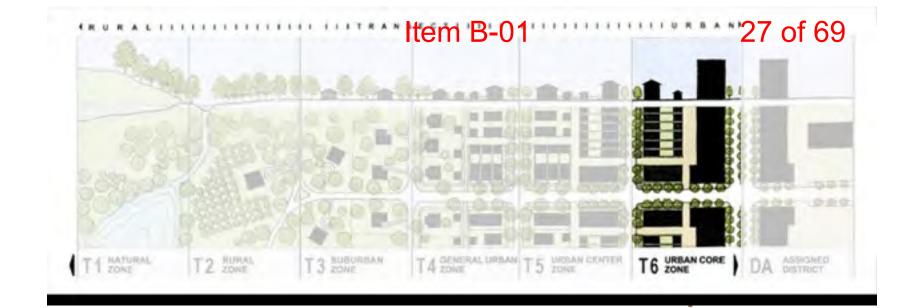






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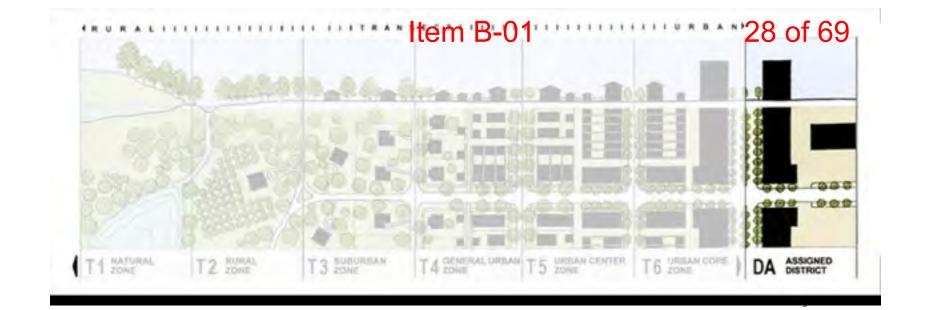






CODE NEXT SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

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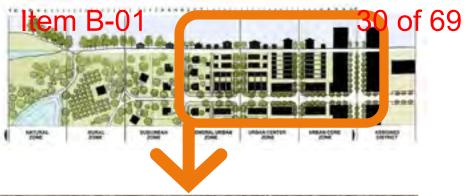




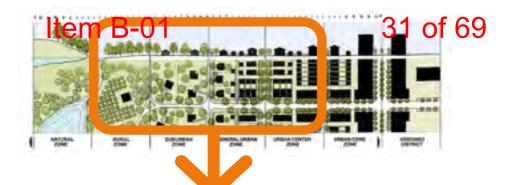




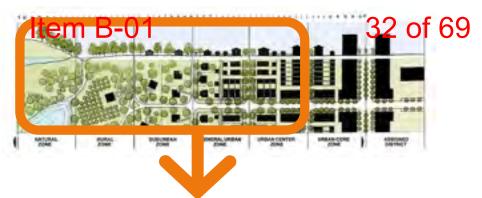














# Base Zones Based on a Hierarchy of Form Primarily

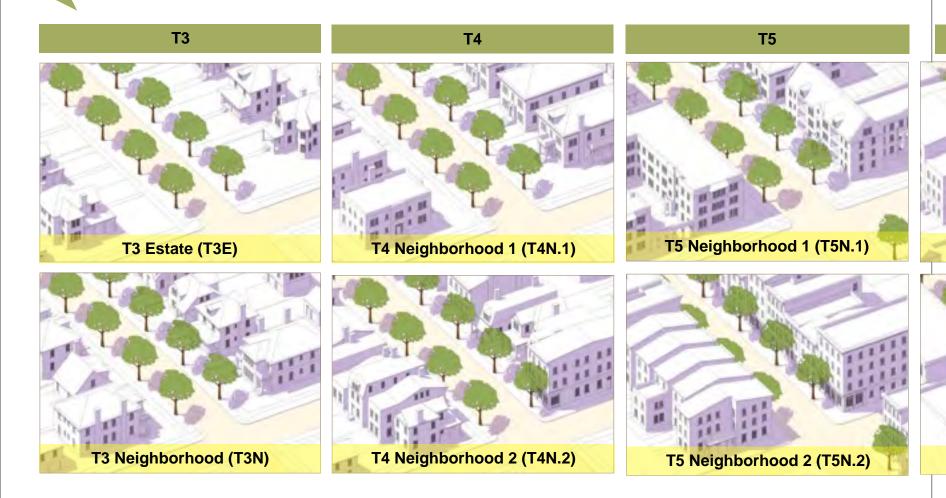


### Item B-01 From Cincinnati, Ohio

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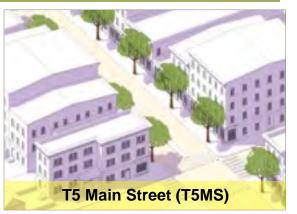
Hierarchy of Form & Scale Should be Clear in Base

**Less Urban More Urban** 



### Item B-01 35 of 69 From Cincinnati, Ohio Hierarchy of Form & Scale Should be Clear in Base **Less Urban More Urban**

### T5 (continued)





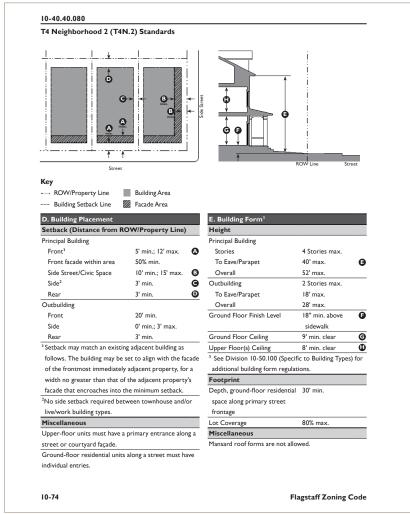


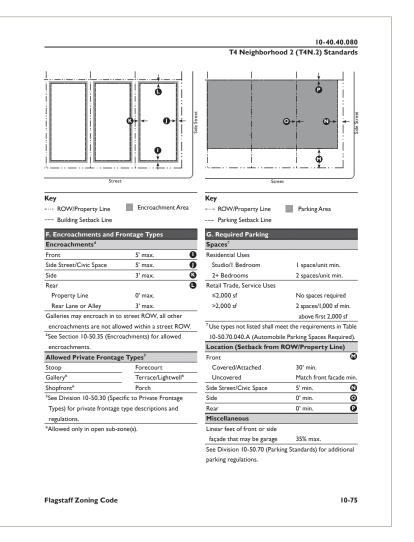


# How is the Transect Being Applied in Austin?

The initial calibratin to Austin

## **Building Form Standards**





Countywide

Close Up

## Form-based Zones being considered for Austin 38 of 69





Form-based zones broken down further



Neighborhood Edge

Neighborhood General



## T3 Neighborhood-Edge



## **Characteristics/Form Intent**

**Building:** Detached, Semi-attached

**Footprint: Medium to Large Footprint** 

**Front Setback: Medium to Large Setback** 

Height: Up to 2½ Stories



T3 Neighborhood–Medium



Has T3 Edge been purposefully excluded?

## **Characteristics/Form Intent**

**Building:** 

Detached, Semi-attached

**Building Footprint:** 

**Medium to Large Footprint** 

**Front Setback:** 

**Medium to Large Setback** 

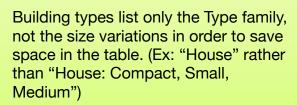
**Height:** 

Up to 2½ Stories

**Building Types** 

Carriage House; House; Cottage

Court





## T3 Neighborhood-High



## **Characteristics/Form Intent**

**Building:** Detached, Semi-attached

Footprint: **Small to Medium Footprint** 

**Front Setback:** Small to Medium Setback

Height: Up to 2½ Stories





Form-based zones broken down further



Neighborhood General

Neighborhood Center/Main Street



## T4 Neighborhood-Low



## Characteristics/Form Intent

**Building:** Detached, Semi-attached

Footprint: **Small to Medium Footprint** 

**Front Setback: Medium to Large Setback** 

Height: Up to 2½ Stories





## T4 Neighborhood–Medium



## **Characteristics/Form Intent**

Detached, Semi-attached **Building:** 

**Building: Small to Medium Footprint** 

Front Setback: Small to Medium Setbacks

Height: Up to 2½ Stories



## **T4 Main Street**



## **Characteristics/Form Intent**

Attached, Semi-detached **Building:** 

Footprint: **Small to Medium Footprint** 

Front Setback: Small to No Setbacks

Height: Up to 2½ Stories

Mid-Rise Live/Work **Multiplex** Stacked Flats Main Street Rowhouse MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING

## Form-based zones broken down further



Neighborhood General

Neighborhood Center/Main Street



## T5 Main Street



## **Characteristics**

**Building: Attached** 

Lot Width: **Medium to Large Lot** 

**Building Footprint: Medum to Large Footprint** 

**Front Setback:** Small to No Setbacks

Height: **Up to 5 Stories** 

**Arcades, Galleries, Terraces & Shopfronts Primary Frontage:** 

## T5 Neighborhood 1



## **Characteristics**

**Building:** Detached, Semi-attached

Lot Width: **Medium to Large Lot** 

**Building Footprint: Medium to Large Footrpint** 

**Front Setback: Small Setbacks** 

Up to 3½ Stories Height:

Porches, Stoops & Terraces **Primary Frontage:** 

Form-based zones broken down further



Neighborhood Center/Main Street

## T6 Core 1



## **Characteristics**

**Building:** Attached, Detached

Lot Width: **Medium to Large Lot** 

**Building Footprint: Medium to Large Footprint** 

**Front Setback:** Simple Wall Plane along ROW, none

Height: **Up to 12 Stories** 

**Arcades, Galleries, Terraces & Shopfronts Primary Frontage:** 



## T6 Core 2



## **Characteristics**

**Building:** Attached, Detached

Lot Width: **Medium to Large Lot** 

**Building Footprint: Medium to Large Footprint** 

Front Setback: Small to No Setbacks

**Number of Stories TBD** Height:

**Primary Frontage: Terraces, Stoops** 



### Item B-01

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## If You Want More Detail See Draft Transect Matrix in Studi



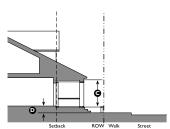
A poster, which will be on the wall, includes setbacks, heights, which zones likely will be translated to the new zones, etc.

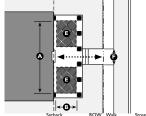


## Other Components of a Form-Based Code

Not just new base zone districts-An entire system

## Frontage Type Standards





Frontage Standards

#### Key

- -... ROW / Property Line
- --- Setback Line

4.03.050

#### 4.03.050 Porch: Integral

#### Description

The main facade of the building has a small setback from the property line. The resulting front yard is typically very small and may be undefined or defined by a fence or hedge to spatially maintain the edge of the street. An integral porch is part of the overall massing and roof form of a building. With an integral porch it is not possible to remove the porch without major changes to the overall

| Size                        |              |   |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Width, clear                | 8' min.      | 0 |
| Depth, clear                | 8' min.      | 0 |
| Height, clear               | 8' min.      | 9 |
| Finish level above sidewalk | 18" min.     | 0 |
| Furniture area, clear       | 4' x 8' min. | G |
| Path of travel              | 3' wide min. | G |
| M'                          |              |   |

The porch may be one or two stories.

Integral porches may be enclosed on up to two sides and

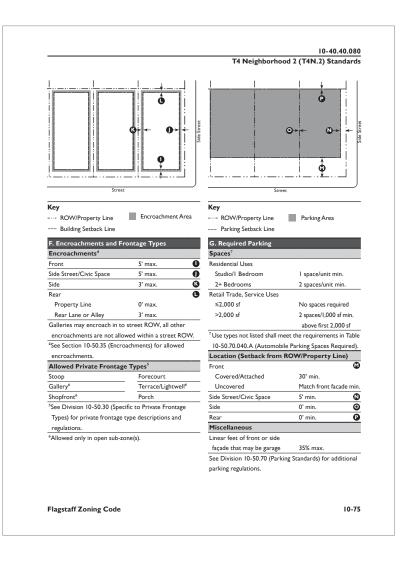


Partial-length integral porch integrated into the overall massing



Full-length integral porch integrated into the overall massing.

4-30 Livermore Development Code





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Item B-01 56
This Transition is Very Important to Regulate!



## **Building Type Standards**

**Building Types** 5.01.070

#### 5.01.070 Duplex, Stacked

General Note: the drawings and photos below are illustrative.





The entry to the right opens to a stair leading to the upper unit, which takes up the entire upper floor. The door to the left opens directly into the lower unit, which takes up the entire

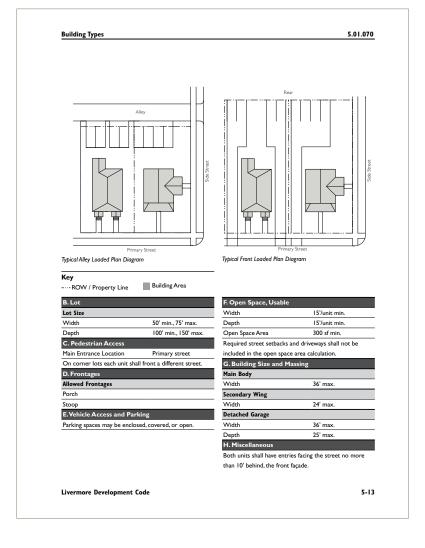
This Duplex building type consists of structures that contain two units, one on top of the other. This building type has the appearance of a medium to large singlefamily home. This type is typically integrated sparingly into single-family neighborhoods or more consistently into neighborhoods with other medium-density types such as bungalow courts, fourplexes, or courtyard apartments. This building type enables the incorporation of high-quality, well-designed density within a walkable neighborhood.

This is the preferred type of duplex on  $50^{\circ}$  wide lots in Livermore neighborhoods not zoned for single-family because it is capable of accommodating two units in a smaller footprint, thus maximizing compatibility in size and privacy to the rear of adjacent units.



The scale of this duplex makes it compatible with adjacent single-family homes.

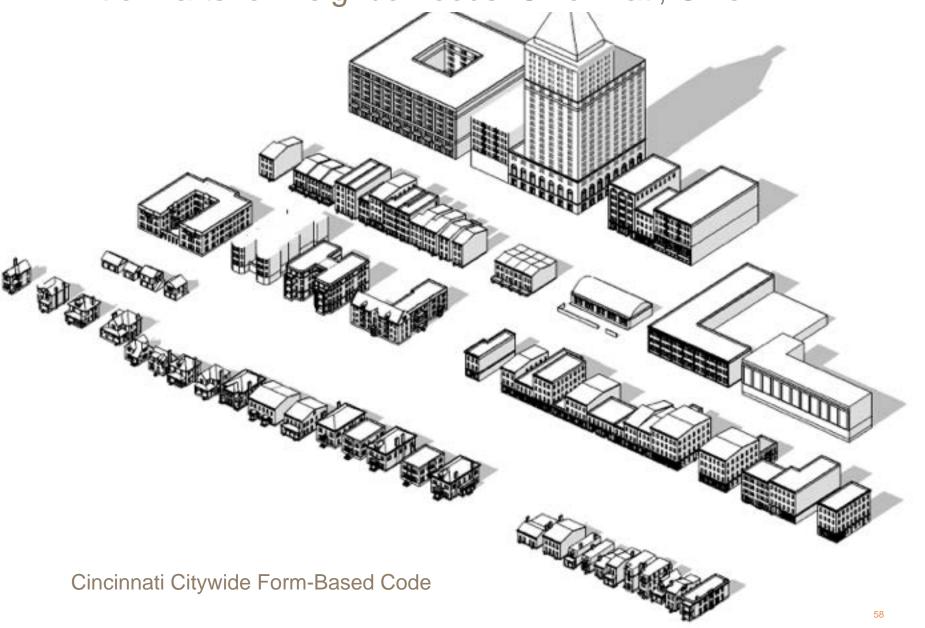
Livermore Development Code



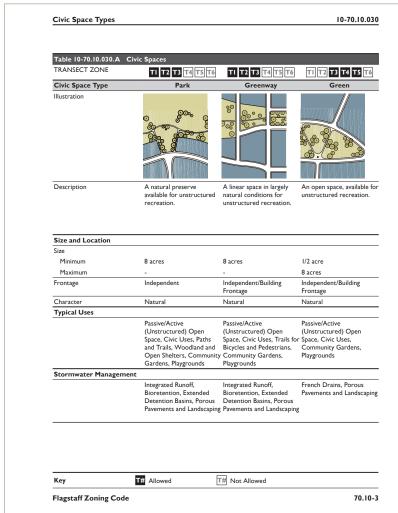


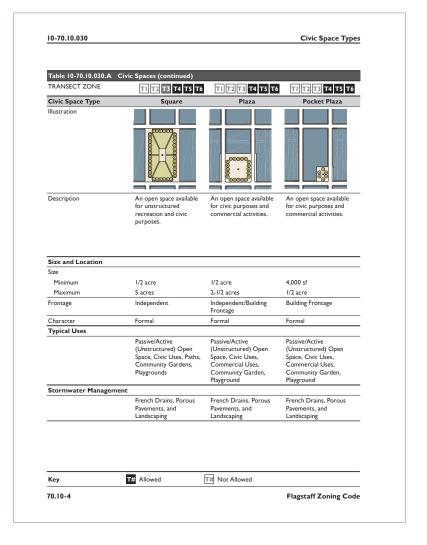
5-12

Kit of Parts for Neighborhoods: Cincinnati, Ohio 58 of 69

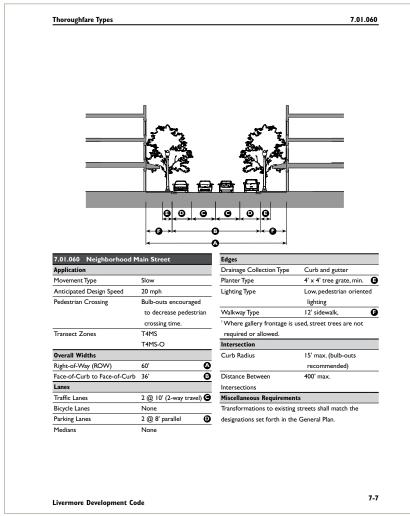


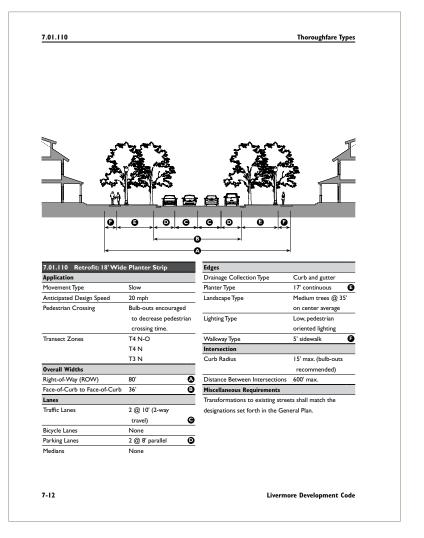
## Civic Space Standards





## Thoroughfare Standards





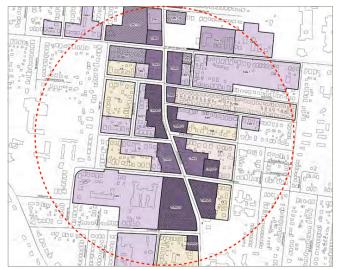
Countywide

Close Up

## Item B-01

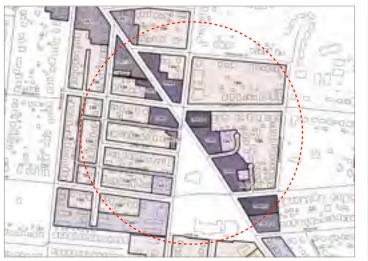
## 61 of 69

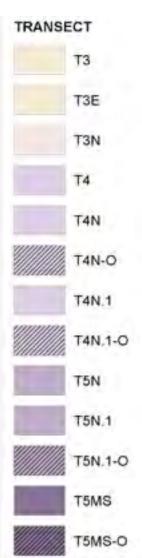
## Regulating Plans/Zoning Maps







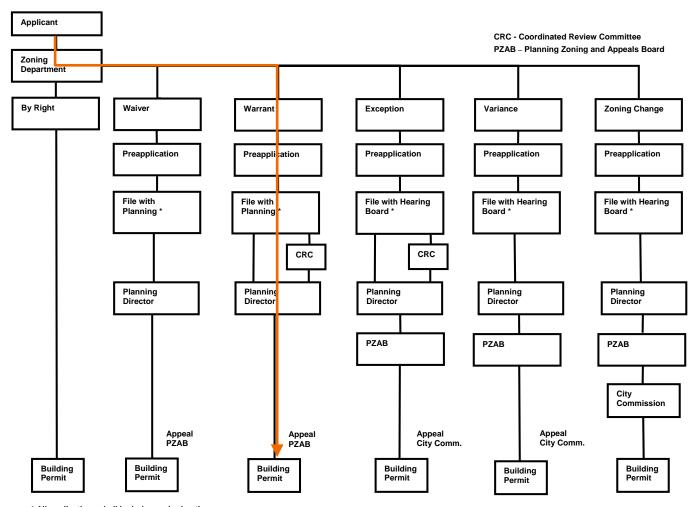




# Providing Predictability: Getting Quick Results

Market Demand is Waiting

## Predictable, Clear Process is The Goal



<sup>\*</sup> All applications shall include required notice

# The Transect as the Framework for a Majority of Regulations

Providing Consistency Across the LDC

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## Considering Sustainability Green

Infrastructure Along the Transect



#### T3: Single Family and Carriage House

Strategic Shading.

Glazing. Design glazing to heat the structure from the south, and cool through cross-ventilation.

Water Infiltration. Allow water to percolate in sub-surface conditions.

Greenway. Use the greenway as a stormwater capture, conveyance and treatment feature.

South-Side Planting. Consider solar access on the south side of buildings when planting landscape.

Public/Private Portal.

Compost Bins. Require compost bins with instructions for homeowners.

Urban Farming. Encourage small-scall cultivation.

No Hose Bibs. Exclude external hose bibs from home design, thereby irrigating only by rain barrel or reuse water.

Rain Garden. Provide lot treatment rain gardens.

Flow-Through Stormwater Treatment Planter.



#### T4: Live/Work Building

Active Space. Allow some portion of outdoor space to be used for public open-space, potentially active space.

Retractable Awnings. Encourage the use of retractable awnings in storefront design, to protect from the summer sun.

Outdoor Seating. Encourage establishments to provide outdoor seating and outdoor spaces.

Car Charging Stations. Provide electric charging stations to promote the use of alternate-fuel

Recycling and Compost Bins. Encourage establishments to have an area for compost and recycling bins, in addition to trash bins..

Vegetated Roofs. Promote vegetated roofs, skylights or directed sunlight to improve the quality of life in interior apartments.

Residential Access. Provide residential access to flat rooftops, creating usable open space.

Private Driveway. Require minimal curbcuts and curb return radii

Roof Materials. Use high SRI roof materials where PV or vegetated roofs are not practical.

Covered bicycle storage.



#### T5: Mid-Rise Building Type

#### Urban Rooftop Farming/Gardening.

Roof Access. Encourage rooftop access to maximize value of views and open space.

Outdoor Seating. Activating sidewalk space in front of mixed-use development encourages community vitality...

Awnings. Awnings provide street-level shading and rain shelter.

Diverse Rooftop Usage. Encourage both commercial and residential use of roof space.

Urban Gardening. Garden space available for residential tenants...

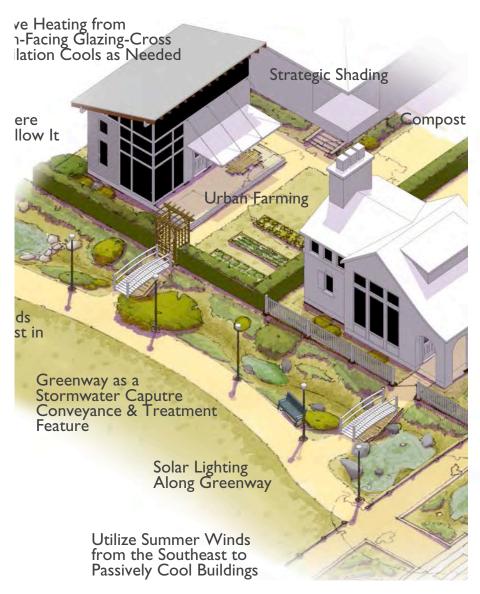
Bioswales. Bioswales improve stormwater quality, mitigate urban flooding, and give opportunity for infiltration where subsurface conditions allow..

Bike Racks. Encourage tenants and patrons to cycle by providing regular amenities for bike parking.

Street Trees. Tree boxes/wells improve thermal comfort and street character..

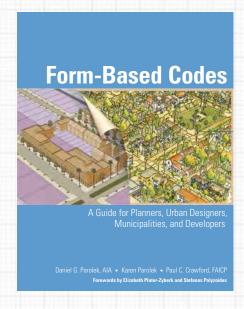


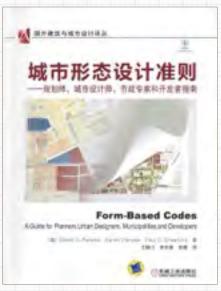
Sustainability and Urbantagriculture in Different 69ntexts













## www.formbasedcodes.org



## Welcome to the 21st Century





# ODE(NEXT SHAPING THE AUSTIN WE IMAGINE

http://austintexas.gov/event/code-next-listening-sessions

