### Why Design Matters

#### Benefits of "Design Review"



Scenic Illinois / Municipal Design Review Network

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# Overview

- Perspective
  - "Design Review"
  - Various Benefits
  - Urban and community examples
- Observations (Q&A)



### **Shaping "Community Look" (Branding)**









# Background





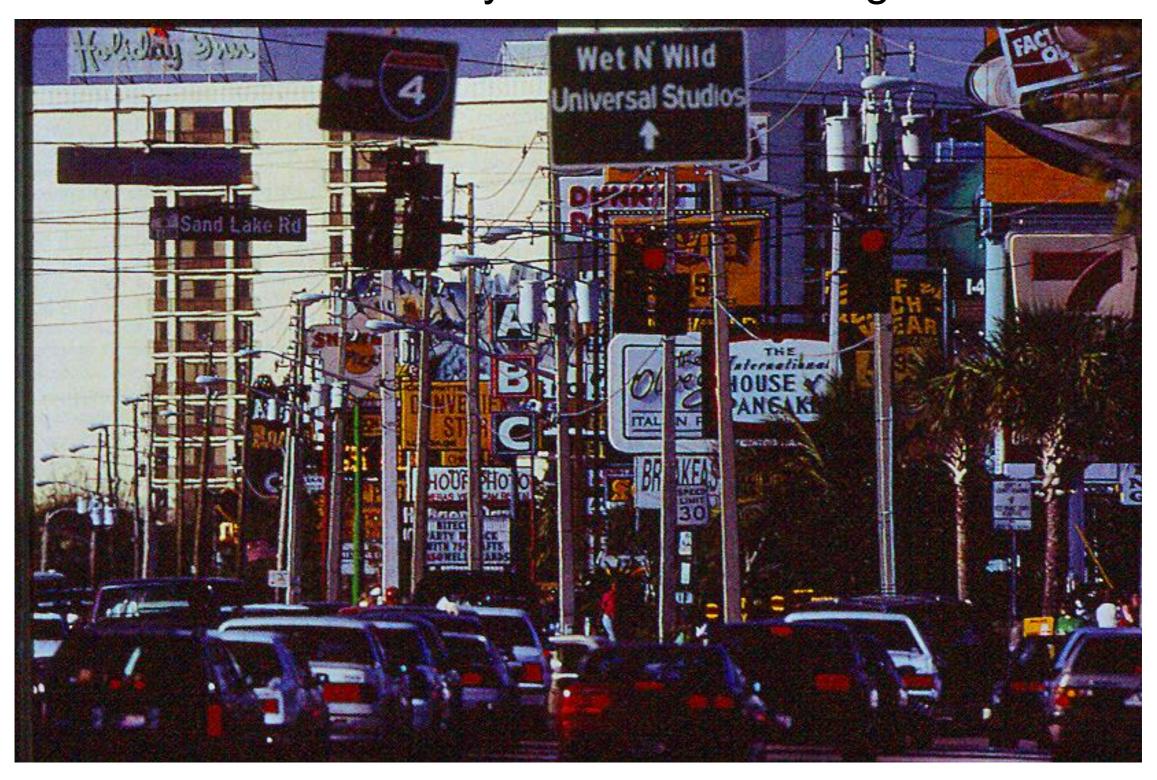
APA Chaddick Institute

# "Appearance Commissions"

(Design Review Boards)



"...the values we want to live by -- rather than merely how we want things to look."





## Overall Benefits of Quality Design

Financial/ Property



Economic/B usiness



Social /
Civic



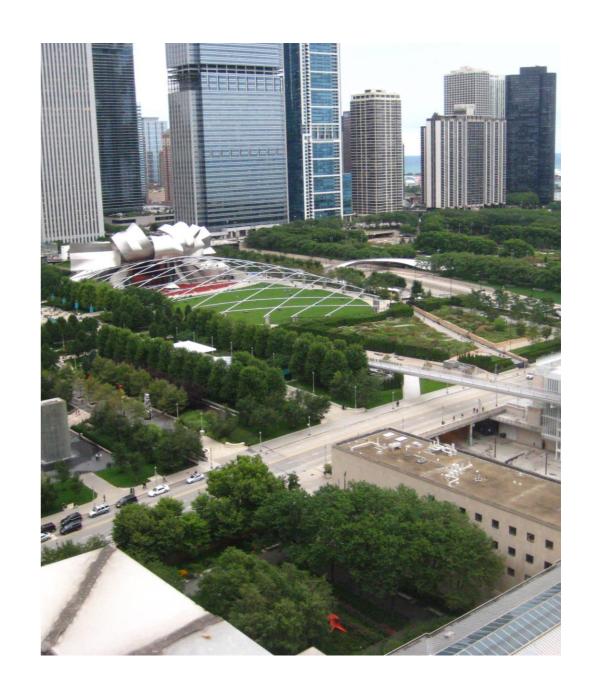
Green/ Sustainability





# Financial / Property

- Urban Land Institute studies
- "Urban Design Bottom Line"
- Eg. 25% increase in nearby property values



## **Economic/Business**

- Encourages expanded visits
- Increased tourism and shopping
- Ambience for increased purchases



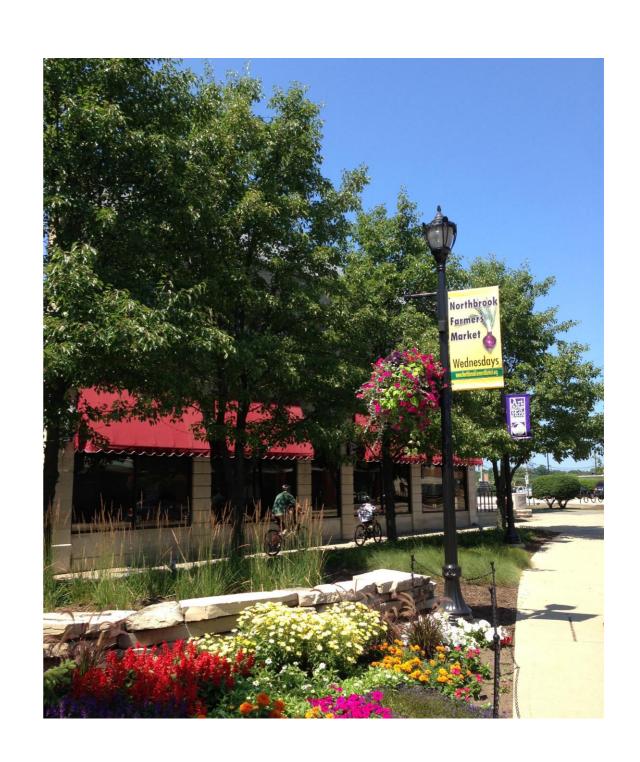
# Social / Civic

- Creating "Sense of Place"
- Neighborhood identity and pride
- Resulting local security, socialization, and property maintenance



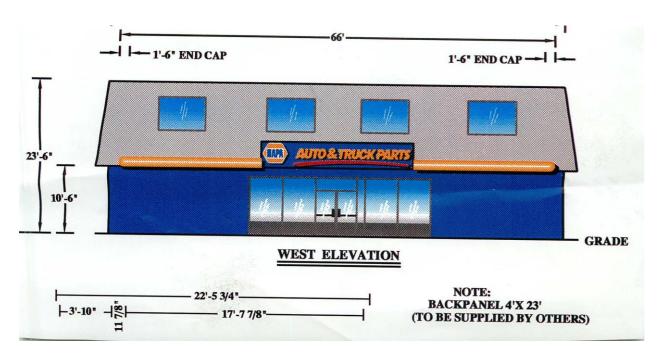
# "Greening" / Sustainability

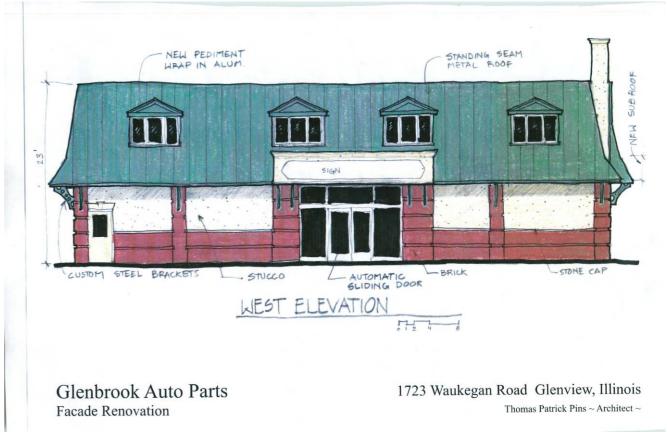
- Designing to preserve green space
- Mixed-use options for land conservation
- Use of new energy-efficient technologies



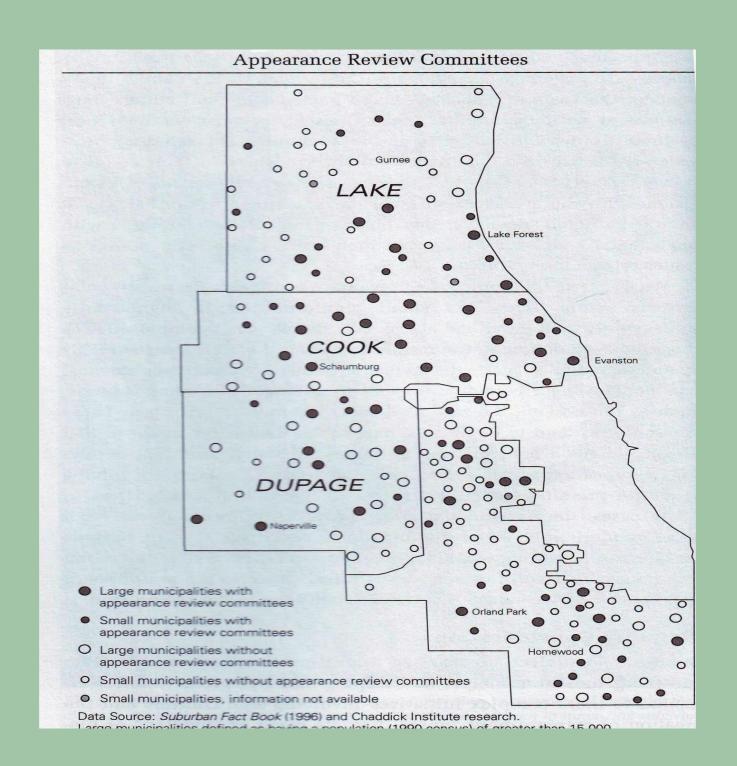
## **Example - Case History**







### Prevalence of Design Review – IL Metro





#### **Municipal Design Review Network**





## Design Review Best Practices



# Design Guidelines

#### Downtown Sign Design Guidelines

#### 2. Pin-mounted wall signs

- a. Pin-mounted letterforms should be unobtrusive and should project no more than 12 inches from the storefront
- b. Pin-mounted letterforms should be attached to a thin, flat background, not a raceway. Backgrounds should be no more than four (4) inches or less than the depth of the pin-mounted letters.
- c. Pin-mounted letterforms should contrast with the material color on which they are mounted.
- d. Pin-mounted letterforms should not use mirror finishes
- e. Pin-mounted letterforms should not use metals or pins that will rust.





Contrasting, non-illuminated pin letters maintain the character of the existing storefront façade (2c)



Illuminated pin-mounted letterforms are simple to read and are centered over a thin background (2b)

no



Pin-mounted letters on an obtrusive box that projects from the storefront (2b)



Pin-mounted letterforms should contrast with the background material, not blend in so that the sign is illegible (2c)

# Community Engagement



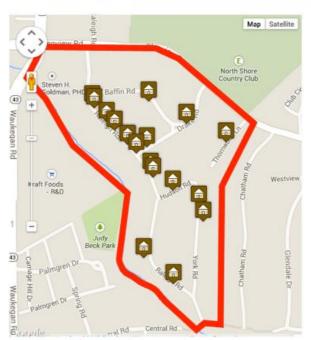


#### Welcome to our Architectural History

In the 1920's, this Glenview area was advertised as an "elite playground" offering a private airfield, country clubs and plans for a polo field. This neighborhood was then a destination for the nearby Inn, which attracted day travelers to this "scenic location on the wooded banks of the river." At this earlier period, this neighborhood was known as the "Borders" because it was adjacent to the North Shore Country Club.

. . . . . . . . . .

This pilot project website is intended to illustrate and compile the architectural history of our unique neighborhood -- with the view to conserve its character and enhance The CIRCLES.

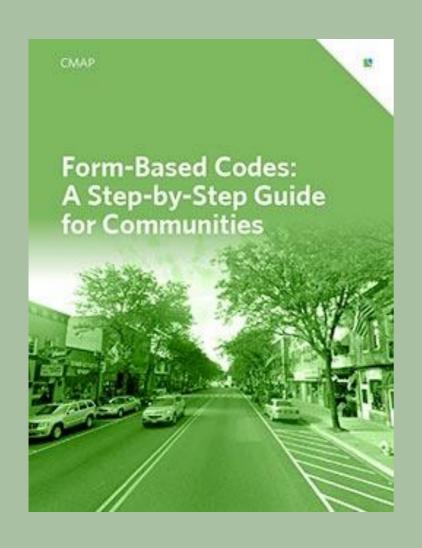


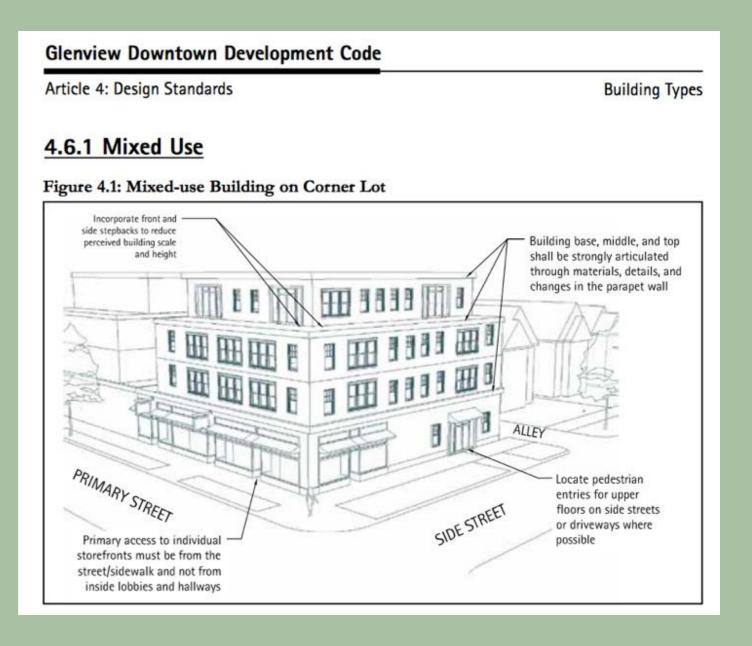
Home Map Property List Image Gallery Search

Properties in Database: 18

www.sitevistamaps.com/Circles

### **New Directions?**





#### **CLOSING OBSERVATIONS...**



"In essence, what works of design and architecture talk to us about is the kind of life that would most appropriately unfold within and around them."

— Alaine de Botton, "The Architecture of Happiness"

### Quality Development Through Collaboration

#### Blog

MARCH 12, 2014



#### **New Look at Window Signs**

March 12, 2014

"...For now we see through a glass, darkly; ... " Corinthians

#### Recent Posts

New Look at Window Signs

50. Parties - H. M. Alberton (1941) (1955) (1945) (1945) (1945) (1945) (1945)	
New Ideas on Main Street Design Review "Risks"	>

### Categories Community



Design

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For over twenty five years, John has represented corporations, nonprofits and local governments at the national, state and local levels.