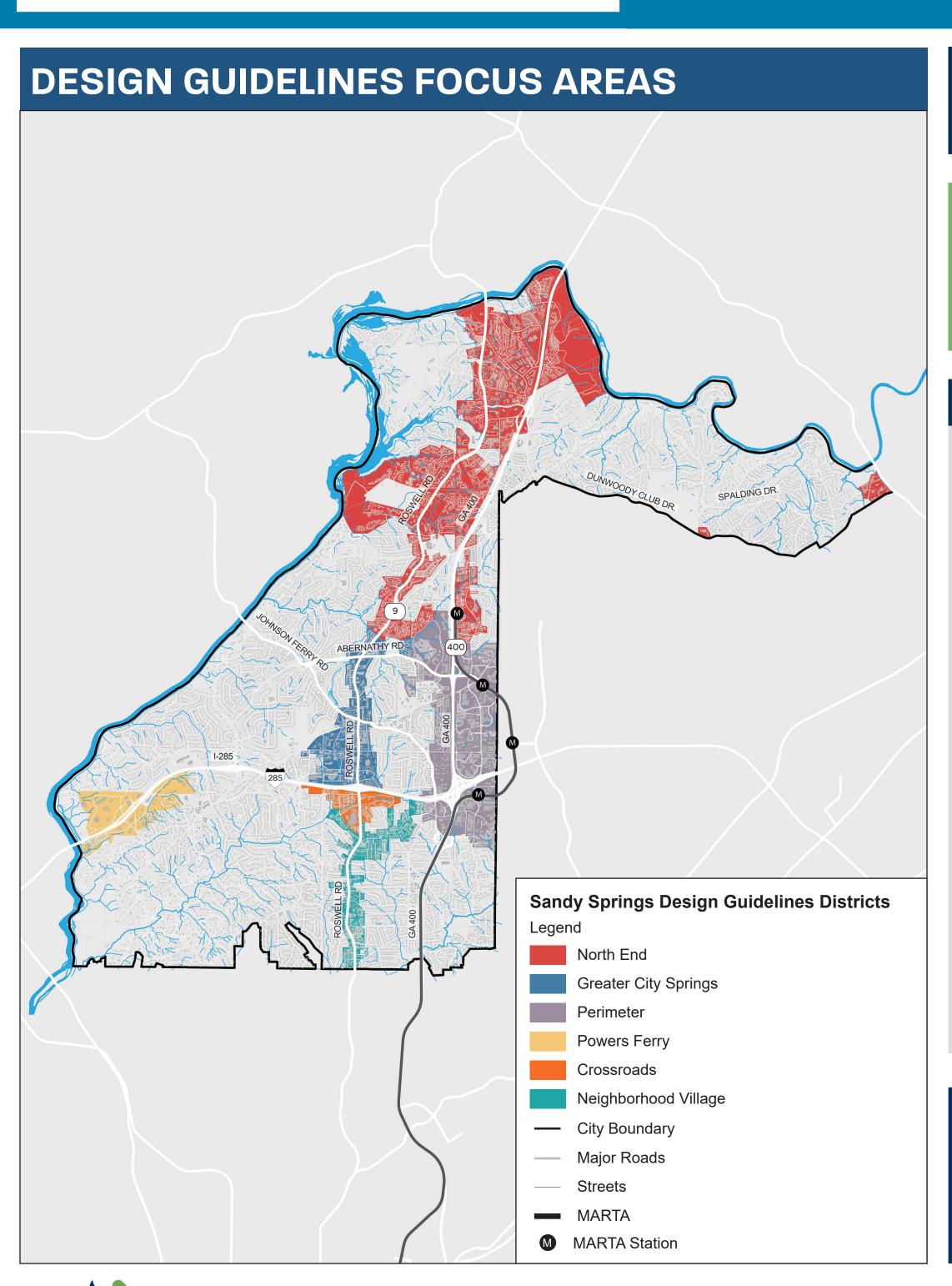


# 

# SANDY SPRINGS DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS - OPEN HOUSE

**MARCH 13, 2025** 



SANDY SPRINGS

# TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

#### SIGN IN

(SEE HANDOUT & INSTRUCTIONS)

### REVIEW EXHIBITS

(AT EXHIBIT STATIONS)

### PROVIDE FEEDBACK

(ACTIVITIES AT EXHIBIT STATIONS)

#### LIST OF STATIONS

- DESIGN GUIDELINES: BACKGROUND & PROCESS An explanation of how design guidelines work and the City's process for developing the guidelines.
- CITYWIDE CHARACTER & AREA-SPECIFIC CHARACTER What is--or should be--Sandy Springs' design character? What distinguishes individual areas of the city?
- VISUAL PREFERENCE ACTIVITY An activity to understand your preferred design approach for a range of building and site elements.
- YOUR FAVORITE EXAMPLES Share your favorite places and projects that could serve as model for Sandy Springs.

CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM

### **MATTHEW ANSPACH**

MANSPACH@SANDYSPRINGSGA.GOV

FOR MORE INFORMATION

# LIVING & WORKING IN SANDY SPRINGS

WELCOME - SANDY SPRINGS DESIGN GUIDELINES OPEN HOUSE

### **MEETING AGENDA**

6:00 – 6:15PM: Sign-in + browse exhibits

6:15 – 8:00PM: Browse exhibits + provide input at activity stations

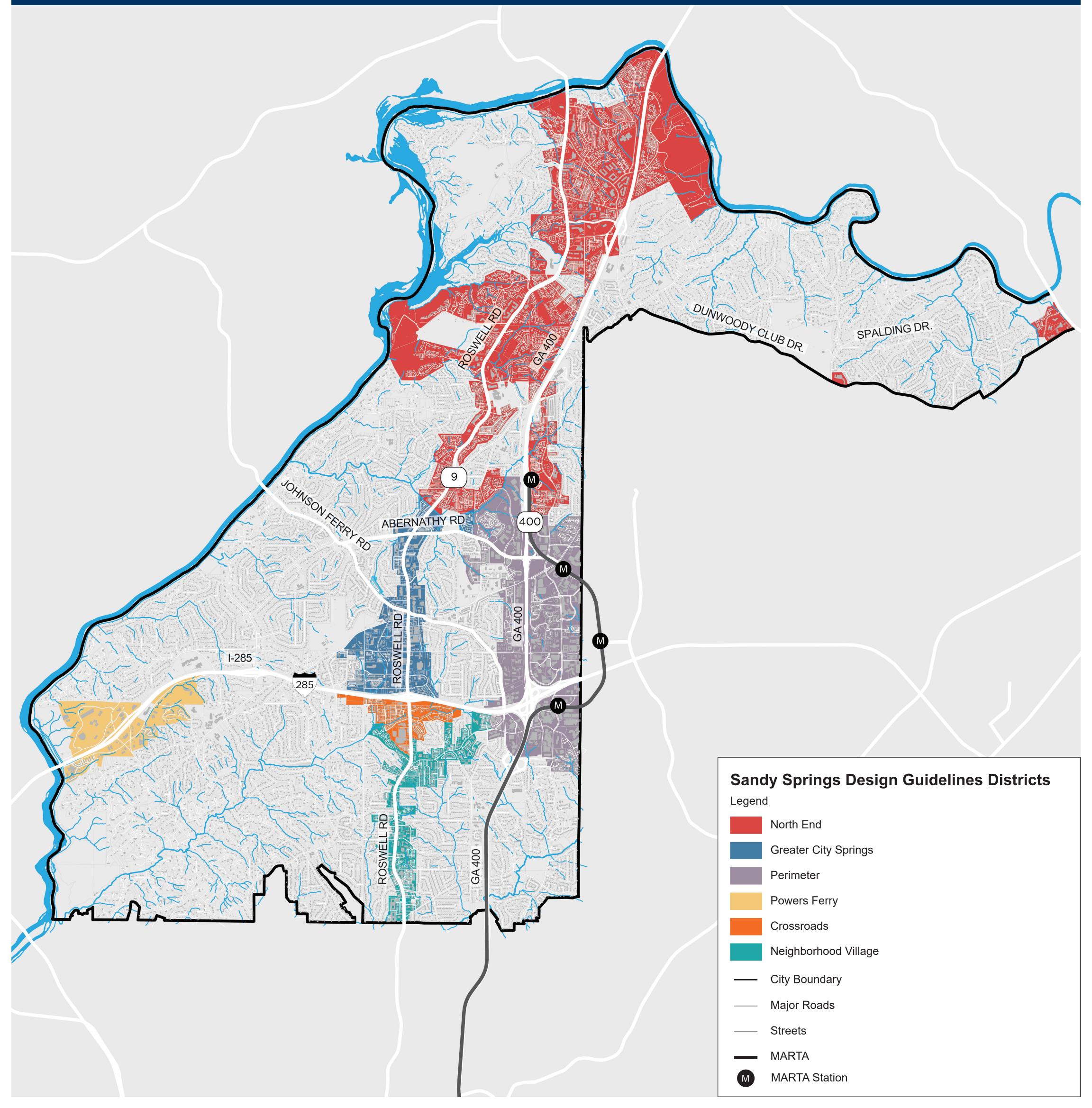
Brief informal presentations will be provided to introduce the project and outline the meeting activities

### **ACTIVITY**

Please place a green dot in the area where you live within Sandy Springs.

Please place a pink dot in the area where you work within Sandy Springs.

### SANDY SPRINGS DESIGN GUIDELINES FOCUS AREAS





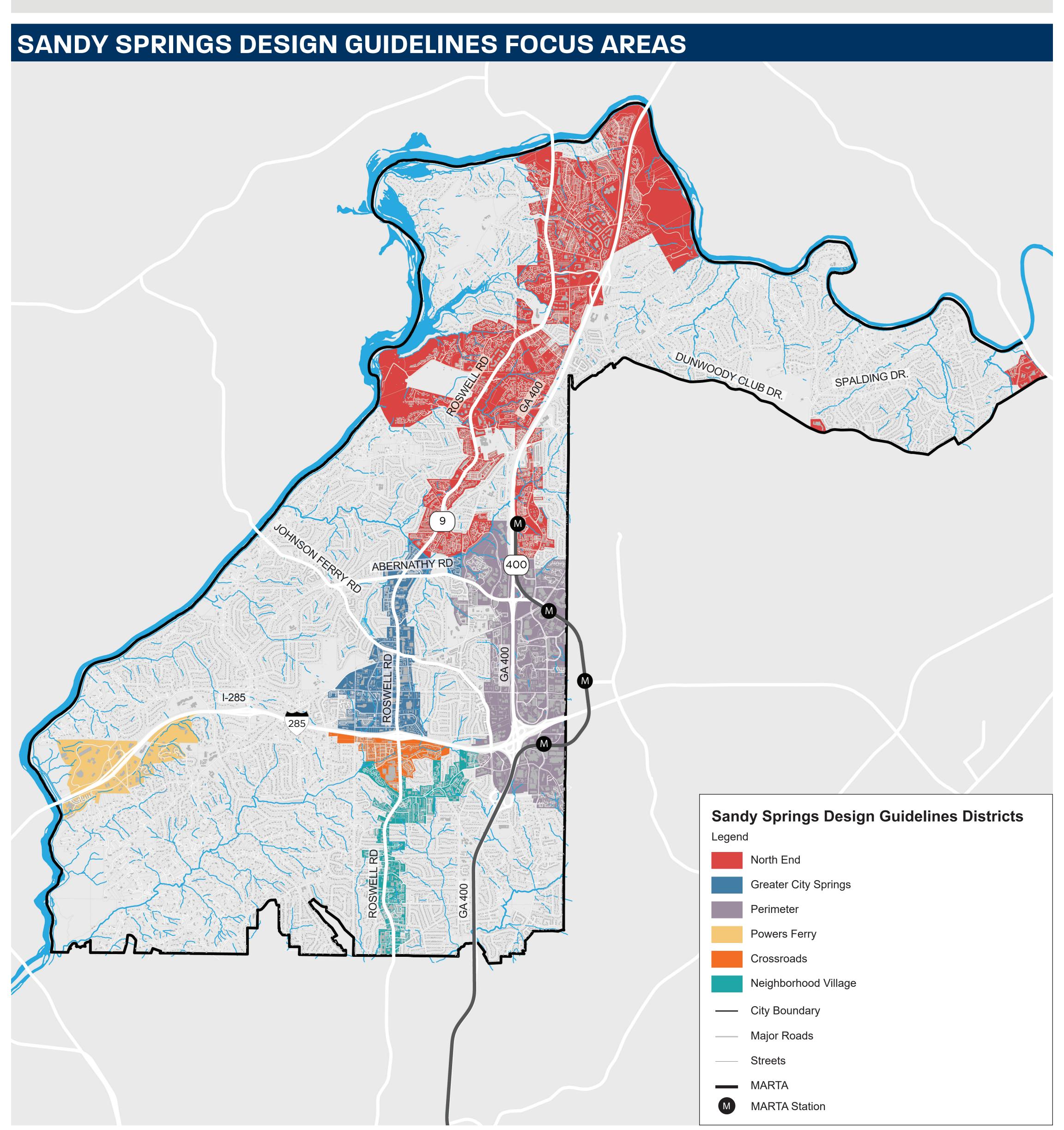
# SANDY SPRINGS DESIGN GUIDELINES

STATION 1 | DESIGN GUIDELINES & BACKGROUND PROCESS

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Sandy Springs is preparing design guidelines for six primary commercial and mixed-use areas in the city. These guidelines will assist property and business owners, developers, designers, and City staff and leadership in ensuring that future development in the city fulfills the vision of adopted planning documents and the Development Code while fostering a distinct sense of place for Sandy Springs and its commercial areas.

The guidelines will build on standards included in the Development Code and Technical Manual by providing additional design direction for building features, building sites, landscaping, streetscapes, and other elements that shape the appearance and experience of Sandy Springs' commercial and mixed-use areas.





## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DESIGN GUIDELINES, ZONING, & THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

STATION 1 | DESIGN GUIDELINES & BACKGROUND PROCESS

#### WHAT ARE DESIGN GUIDELINES?

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & DEVELOPMENT CODE

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

 The Comprehensive Plan provides the overarching vision for the future of the city and includes broad policies for achieving this vision.
 Small area plans for certain areas of the city provide more detail about the individual areas.

#### **DEVELOPMENT CODE**

- o The Development Code contains the City's legal requirements and standards for development.
- Additional, more detailed standards are included in the Technical Manual.
- While some aspects of the design guidelines could be incorporated into the Development Code or Technical Manual, design guidelines generally provide more flexibility and offer a range of potential design approaches.

#### **DESIGN GUIDELINES**

- Design guidelines help implement the policies of the Comprehensive Plan and the standards included in the Development Code and Technical Manual.
- The guidelines provide additional detail about ways to achieve the City's vision through the design of buildings, streetscapes, and public spaces.

### HOW DESIGN GUIDELINES SHAPE PLACES

URBAN STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CODE INTENSITY Development Code emphasizes these. MIX OF USES MASSING + HEIGHT SITE / STREETSCAPE Development Code provides some general standards for FAÇADE these, without detailing their

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Design guidelines emphasize these elements.

They help illustrate the intent of the code while providing additional layers of detail and examples.

application.

**DETAILS & MATERIALS** 

# WHAT WILL THE DESIGN GUIDELINES ADDRESS?

STATION 1 | DESIGN GUIDELINES & BACKGROUND PROCESS



# BUILDING DESIGN

### Building Massing & Proportions

Stylistic Treatments / Façade Requirements

**Building Materials** 

### Uses

Retail

Office & Commercial

Multi-Unit

Single-Unit Attached &

Detached

Mixed Use



# BUILDING-STREET RELATIONSHIP

### Streetscape & Public Realm

Streets & Sidewalks

Public Spaces

Public Art

### Uses

Retail

Office & Commercial

Multi-Unit

Single-Unit Attached &

Detached

Mixed Use



# PRIVATE SITE ELEMENTS

### Private Site Elements

**Building Zone** 

Site coverage/Greenspace/Plazas/Courtyards

Site Access & On-site Circulation

Landscaping & Site Lighting

Public Art

### Parking

Structured

Surface

### Signage

Materials

Colors

Lighting

Size & Location



# DISTRICTS

- Design Guidelines for Focus Areas: definition/ delineation
- Common & differentiating elements (citywide and individual focus areas)



# DEFINITIONS



ADMINISTRATION OF GUIDELINES

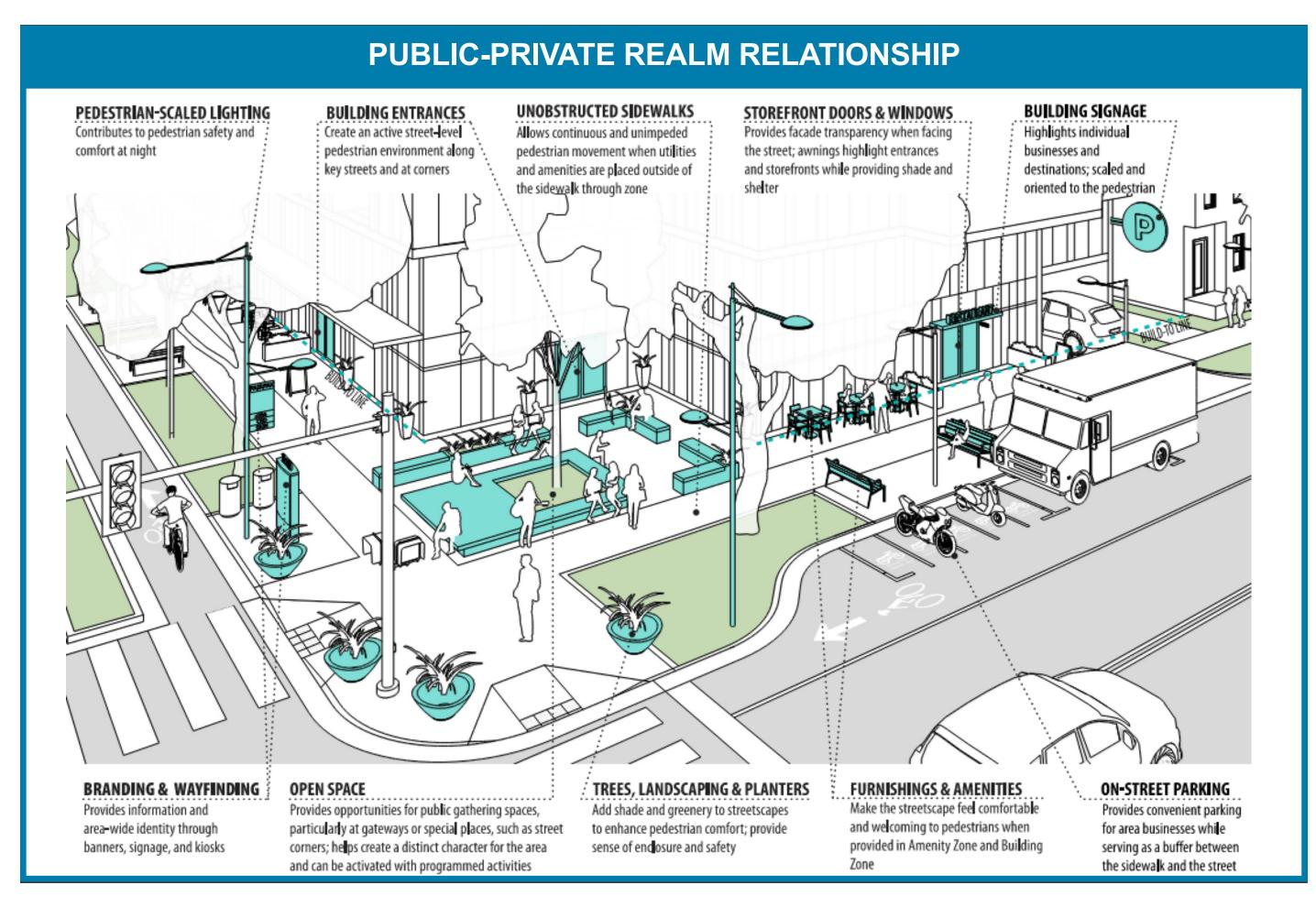


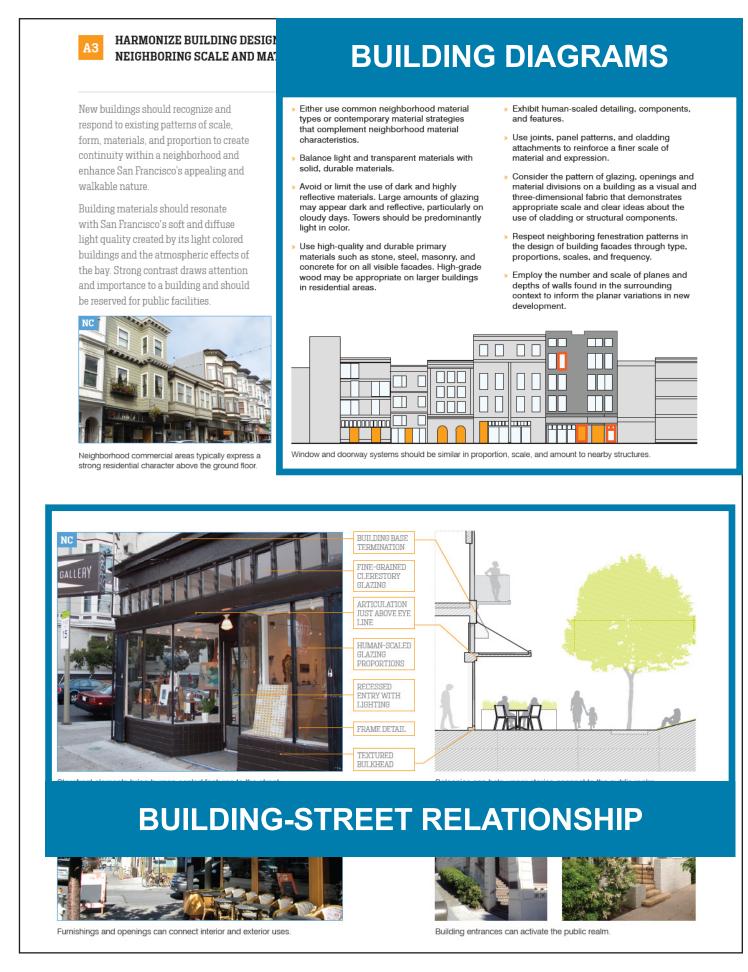
## DESIGN GUIDELINE EXAMPLES

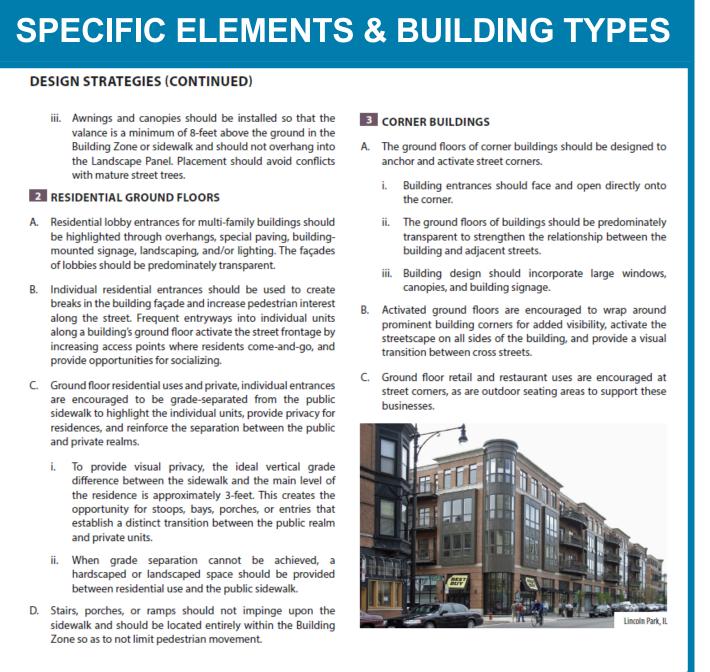
STATION 1 | DESIGN GUIDELINES & BACKGROUND PROCESS

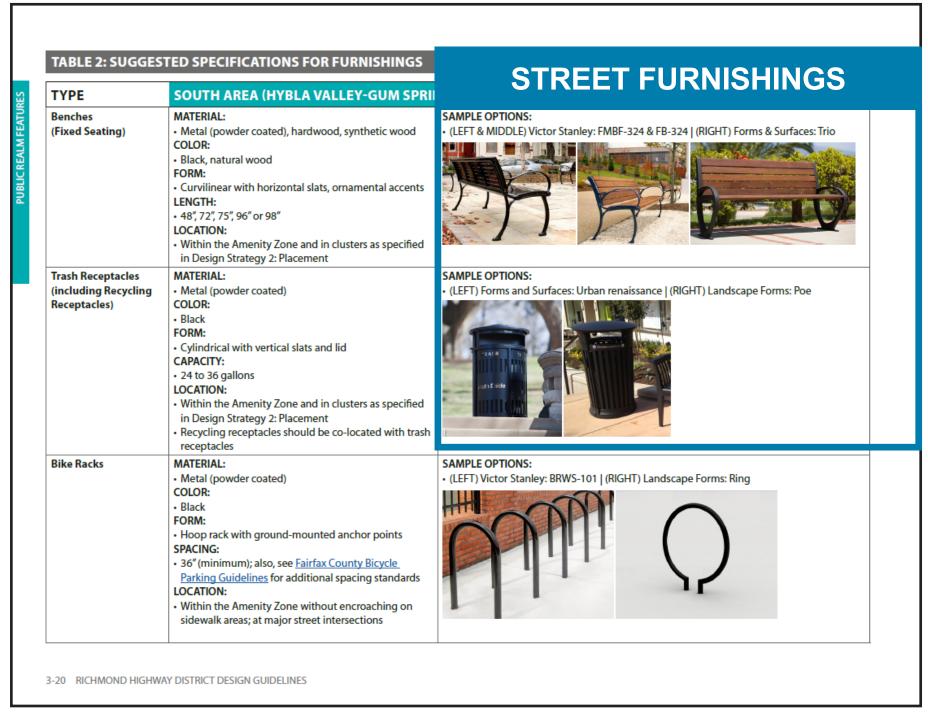
### **PRECEDENTS**

Below are selected examples and excerpts from design guideline documents. These guidelines utilize a combination of text, graphics, diagrams, and images to illustrate the intended design outcomes in urban and semi-urban contexts. Key document elements are highlighted in blue.

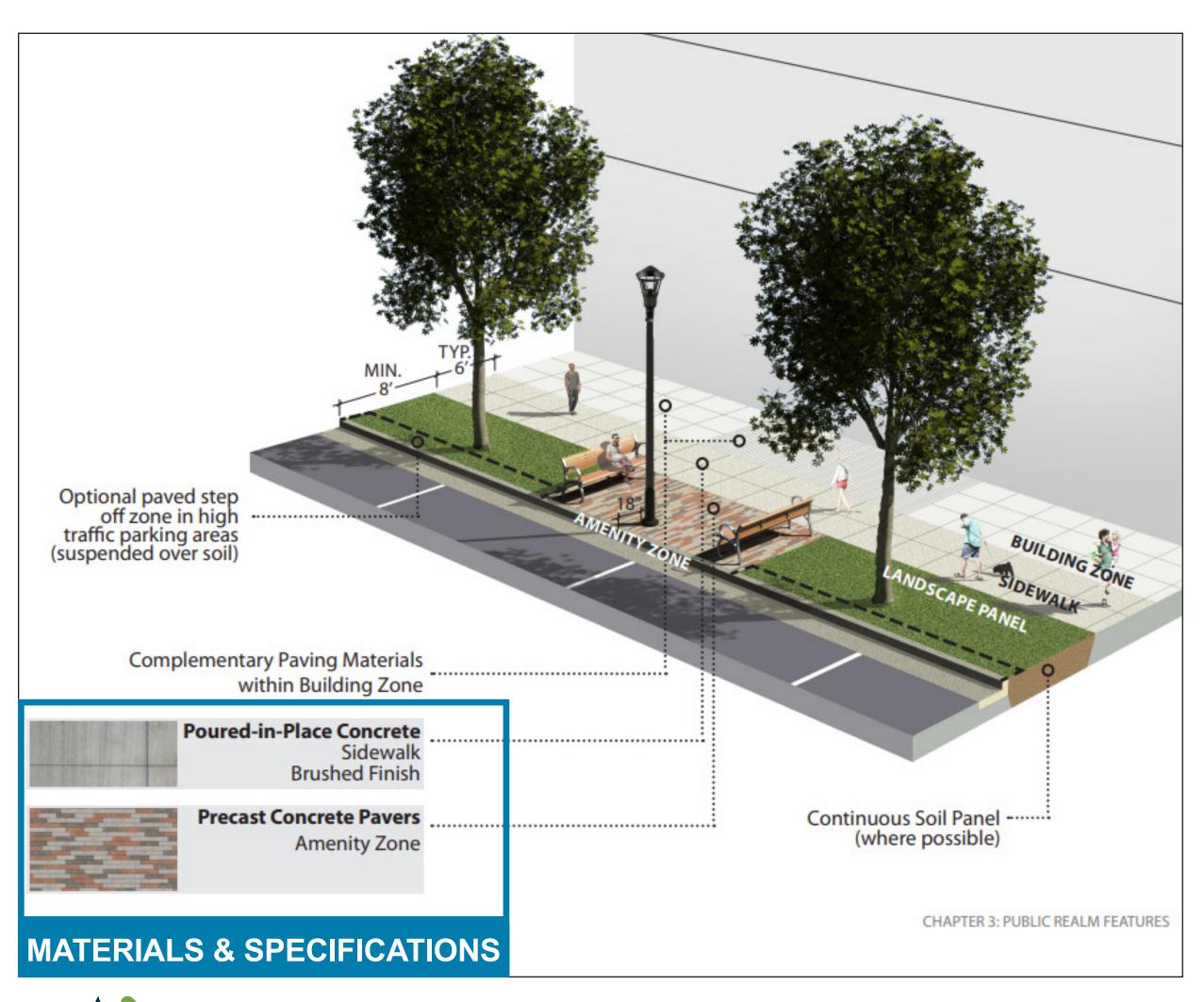


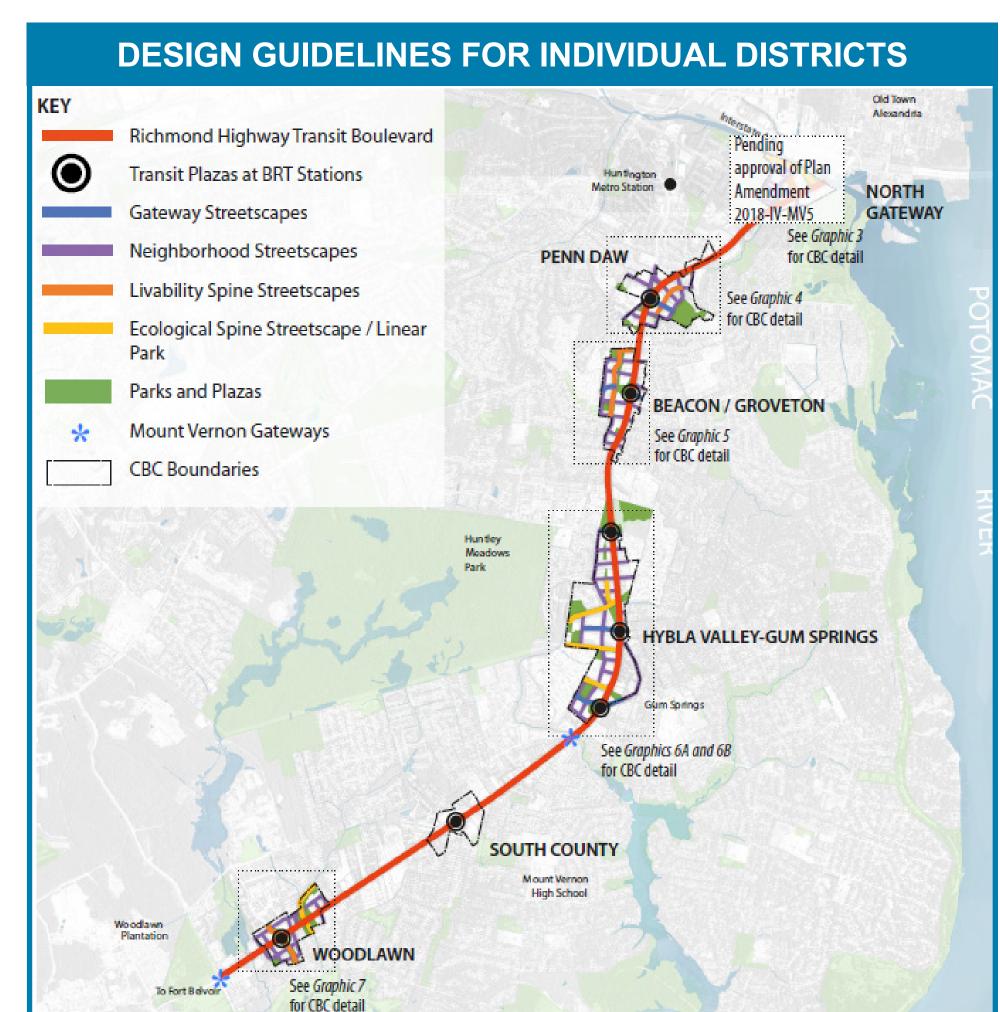














# WHAT IS SANDY SPRINGS' DESIGN CHARACTER TODAY?

STATION 2 | CITYWIDE CHARACTER AND AREA-SPECIFIC CHARACTER

#### DOES SANDY SPRINGS HAVE A CITYWIDE DESIGN CHARACTER?

What are the existing physical elements that tell you you're in Sandy Springs? How do you or others understand where you are within the city?



#### **ACTIVITY**

Please share your thoughts on the question (to the left) using a post-it note. Upon completion, please place your post-it note in the area below.



# WHAT SHOULD SANDY SPRINGS' DESIGN CHARACTER BE IN THE FUTURE?

STATION 2 | CITYWIDE CHARACTER AND AREA-SPECIFIC CHARACTER

# IF YOU LEFT THE CITY AND CAME BACK IN 10 YEARS, WHAT TYPES OF PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

Where would you bring visitors to Sandy Springs today to show them Sandy Springs' character?



#### **ACTIVITY**

Please share your thoughts on the question above using a post-it note. Upon completion, please place your post-it note in the area below.



What design features could enhance your "sense of arrival" in Sandy Springs?



#### **ACTIVITY**

Please share your thoughts on the question above using a post-it note. Upon completion, please place your post-it note in the area below.



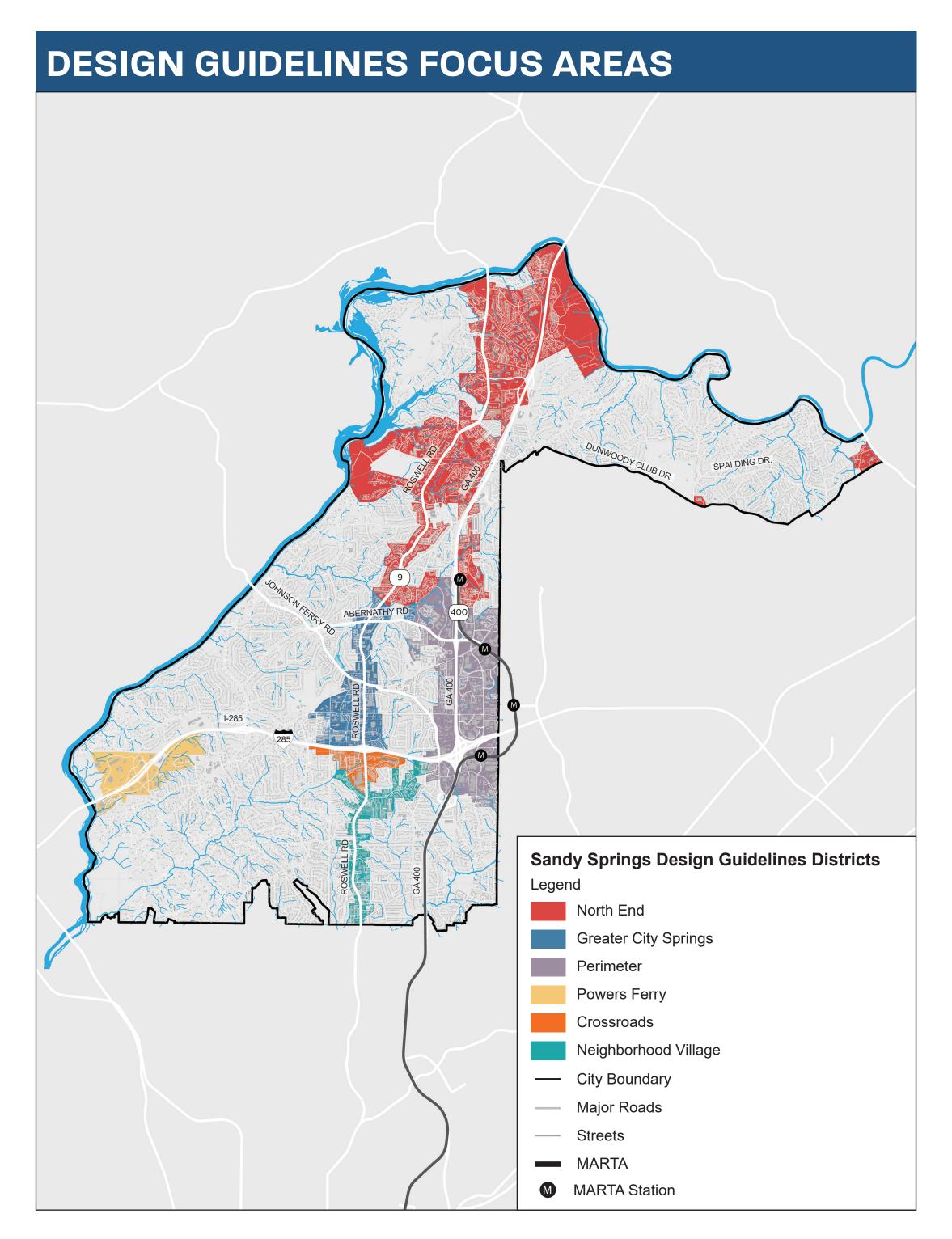
# FOCUS AREA DESIGN CHARACTER

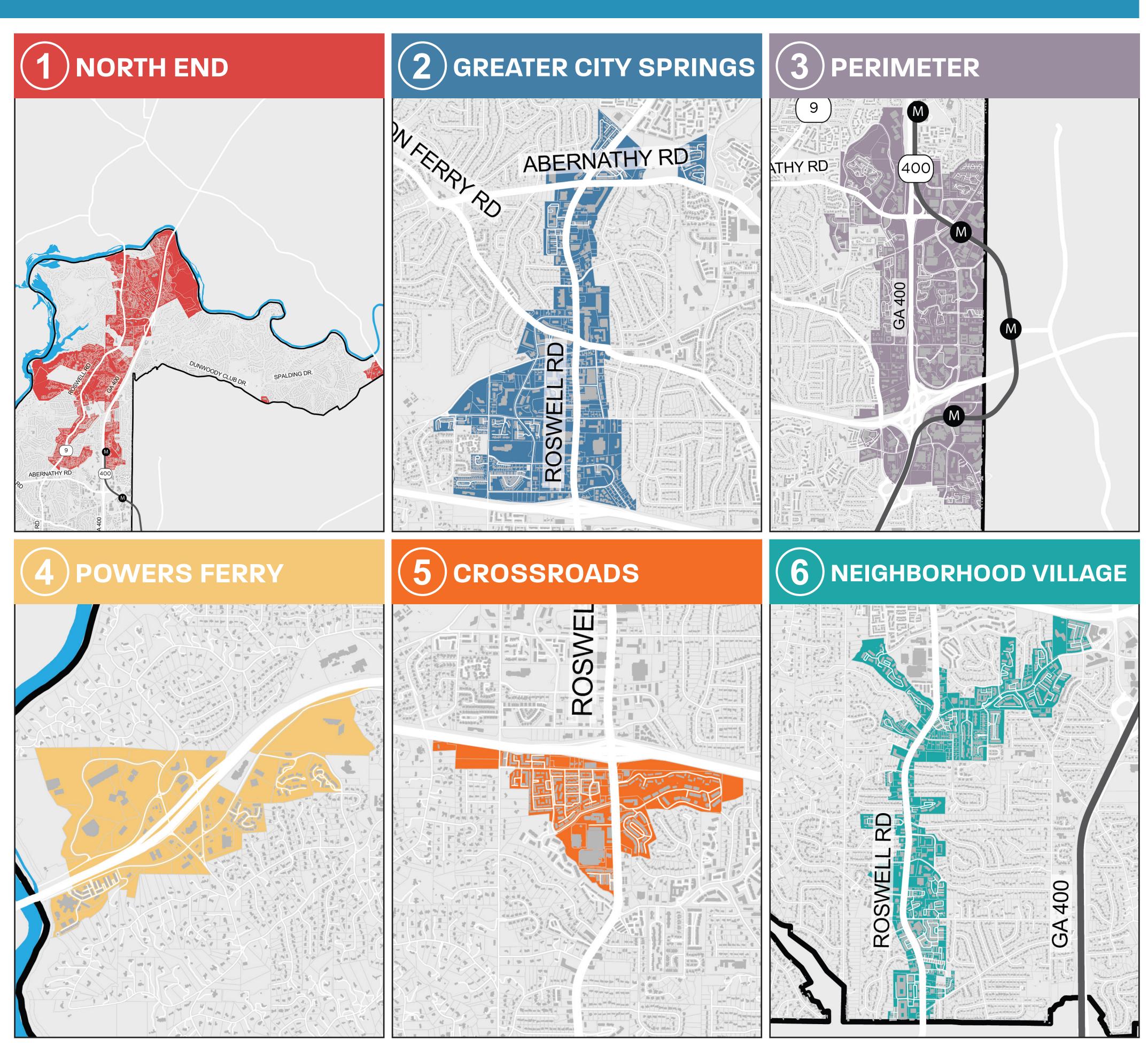
STATION 2 | CITYWIDE CHARACTER AND AREA-SPECIFIC CHARACTER



### **ACTIVITY**

Please use this board as a reference for providing feedback on specific focus areas covered by the design guidelines. Each map has a number that matches the feedback box on the following board.







# FOCUS AREA DESIGN CHARACTER: YOUR INPUT

STATION 2 | CITYWIDE CHARACTER AND AREA-SPECIFIC CHARACTER

WHAT WORDS OR PHRASES WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER OF EACH AREA?



### **ACTIVITY**

Please share your thoughts on the question using a post-it note. Please refer to the previous board to respond to the question for the numbered areas.

1 NORTH END	2 GREATER CITY SPRINGS	3 PERIMETER
4 POWERS FERRY		
4 POVERS FERRY	5 CROSSROADS	6 NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE



# BUILDING ELEMENTS & TERMINOLOGY

STATION 3 | VISUAL PREFERENCE

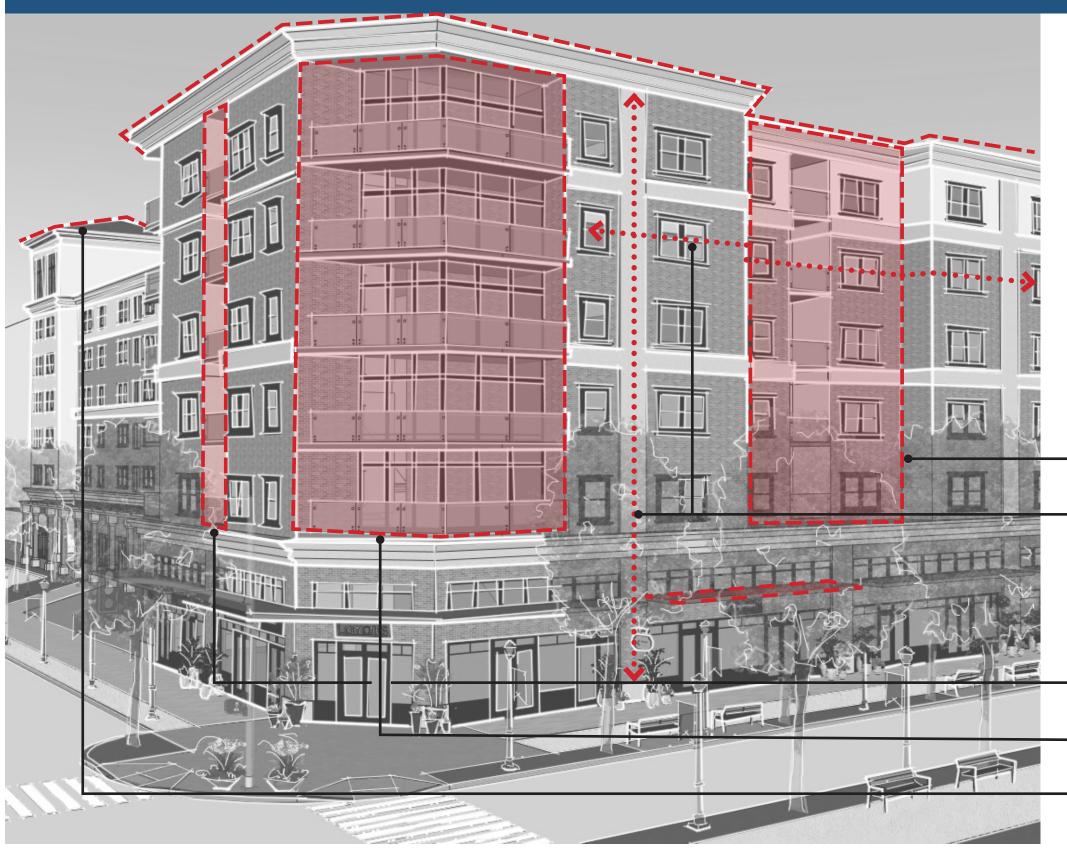
### MASSING



Building massing is about the overall shape and size of the building. Massing addresses how the different parts of the building come together to create its appearance and how it fits into its surroundings.

- Strong Base, Defined Middle Section and Distinguished Top Section
- Upper Level Step-backs
- Step Downs (gradual changes in building heights to respect surrounding building)

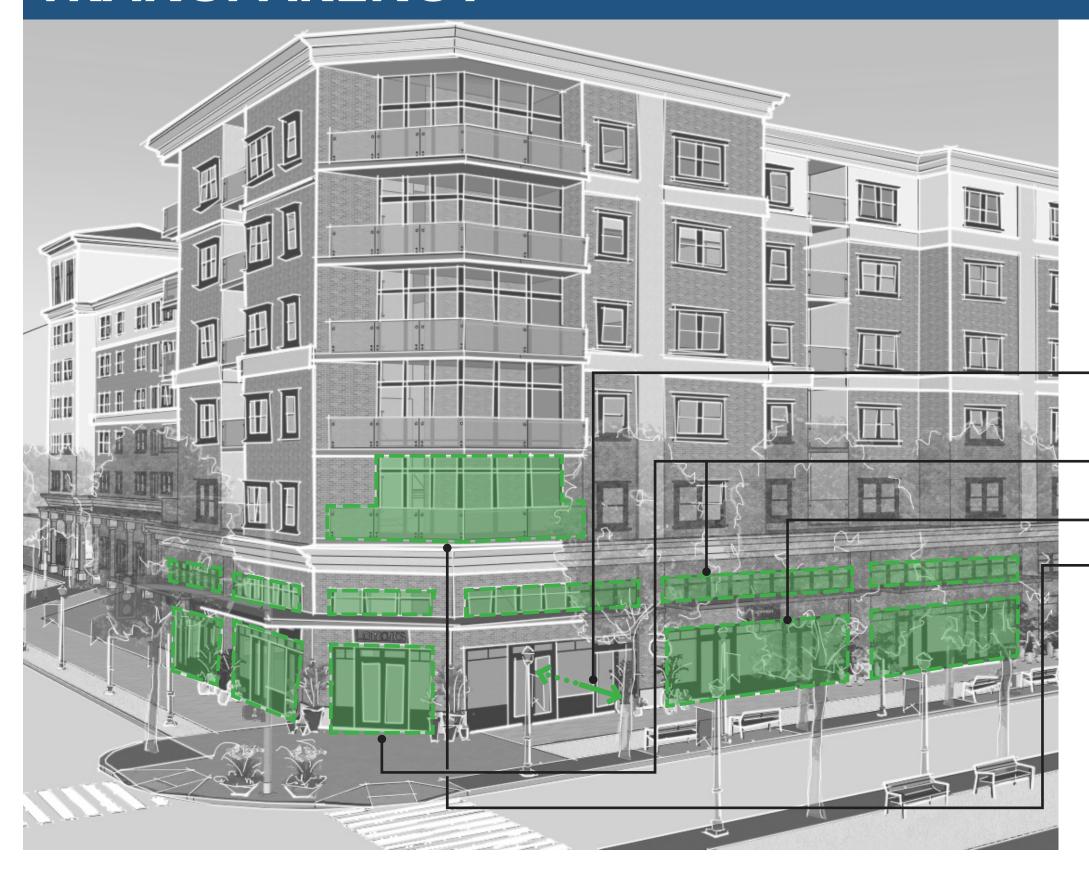
### ARTICULATION



Building articulation is about how different parts of a building are designed to make it look interesting. The features break up large areas and highlight different sections.

- Façade Relief (Recess/Inset/ Projecting Features, offsets)
- Offset above Ground Floor
- Coordinated Vertical and Horizontal Elements (including window placements, columns, bands, canopies)
- Balconies
- Corner Treatments
- Roofline Variations

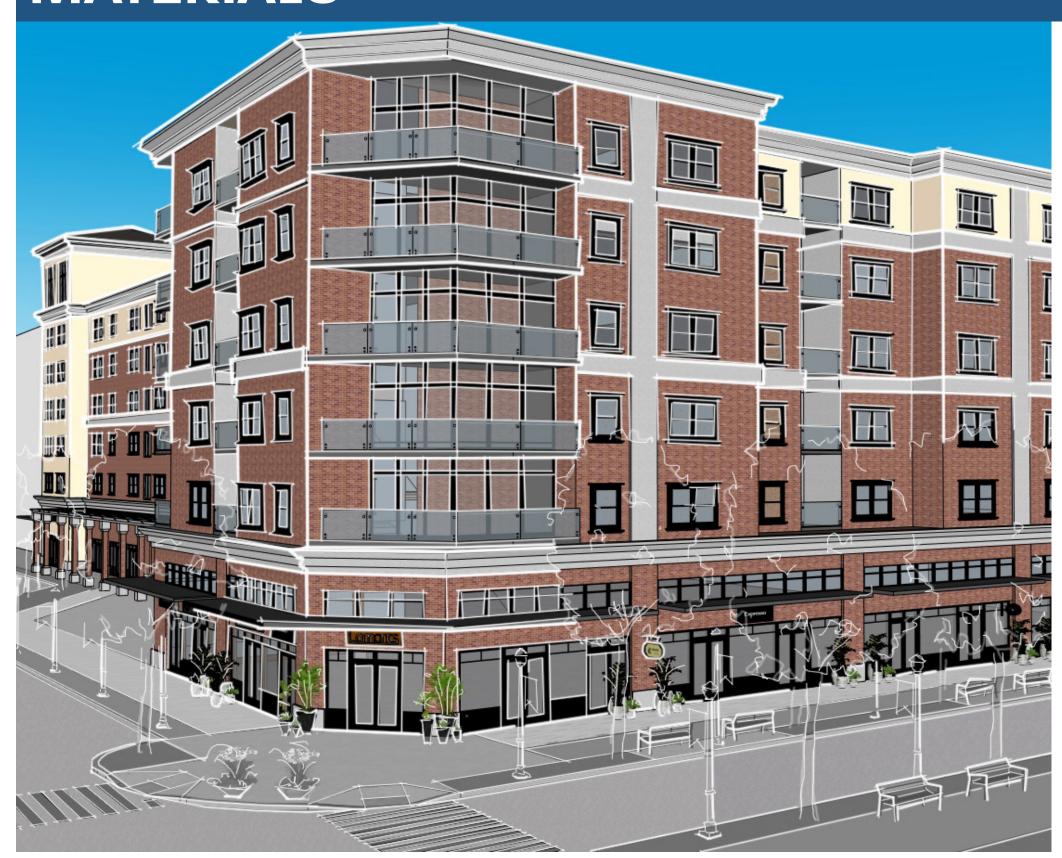
### TRANSPARENCY



Building transparency is about incorporating elements that let light into a building. It helps create a sense of openness and connection between the inside and outside of the building.

- Visual Connectivity Between Interior and Exterior
- **Doors and Windows**
- Storefronts
- Curtain Walls Exterior Glass Systems

### **MATERIALS**



Materials can include brick, stone, wood, metal panels, concrete, glass, etc.



# PUBLIC & PRIVATE REALM ELEMENTS & TERMINOLOGY

STATION 3 | VISUAL PREFERENCE

### TERMINOLOGY

### Furnishings -

- Bench
- Planter
- Light Pole

Landscape Panel / Amenity Zone

### Paving-

- Standard Paving
- Special Paving

### TERMINOLOGY

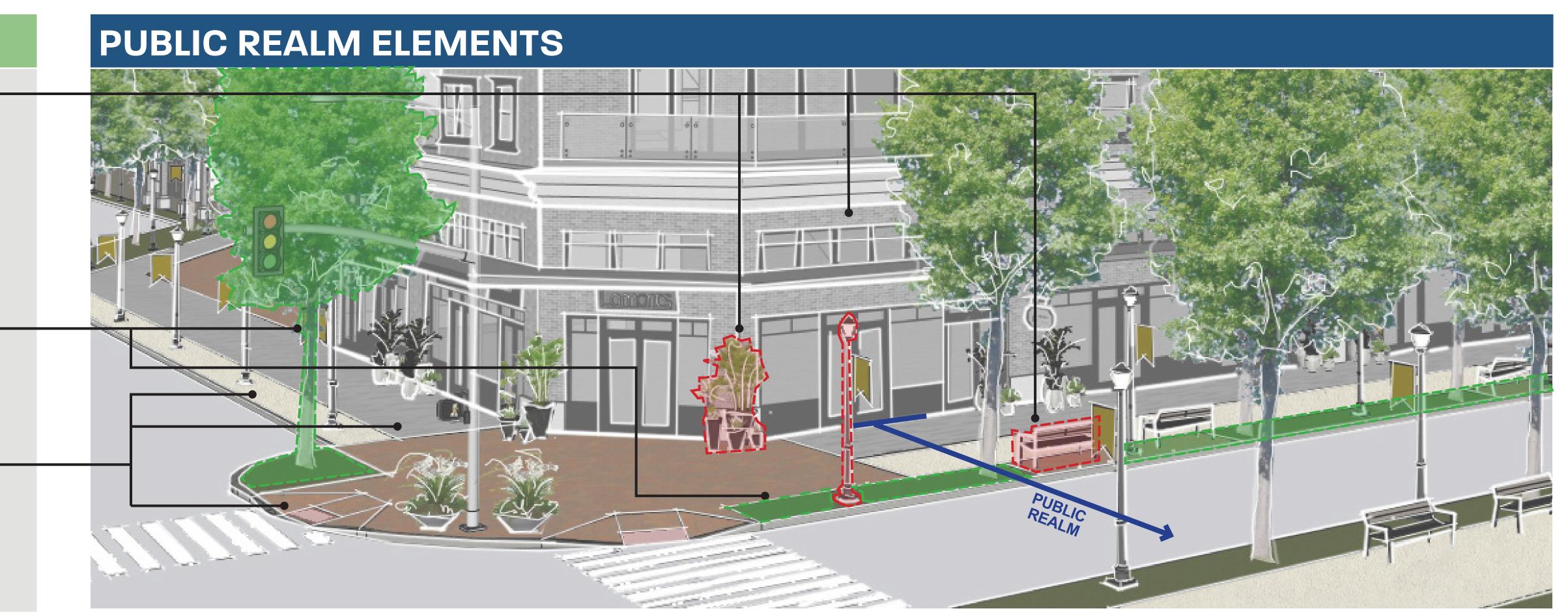
#### Interface Area Between Private and Public Realm

- Seat Walls
- Planting

### **Outdoor Amenity Space**

- Seating
- Public Art Feature

### Landscaping-









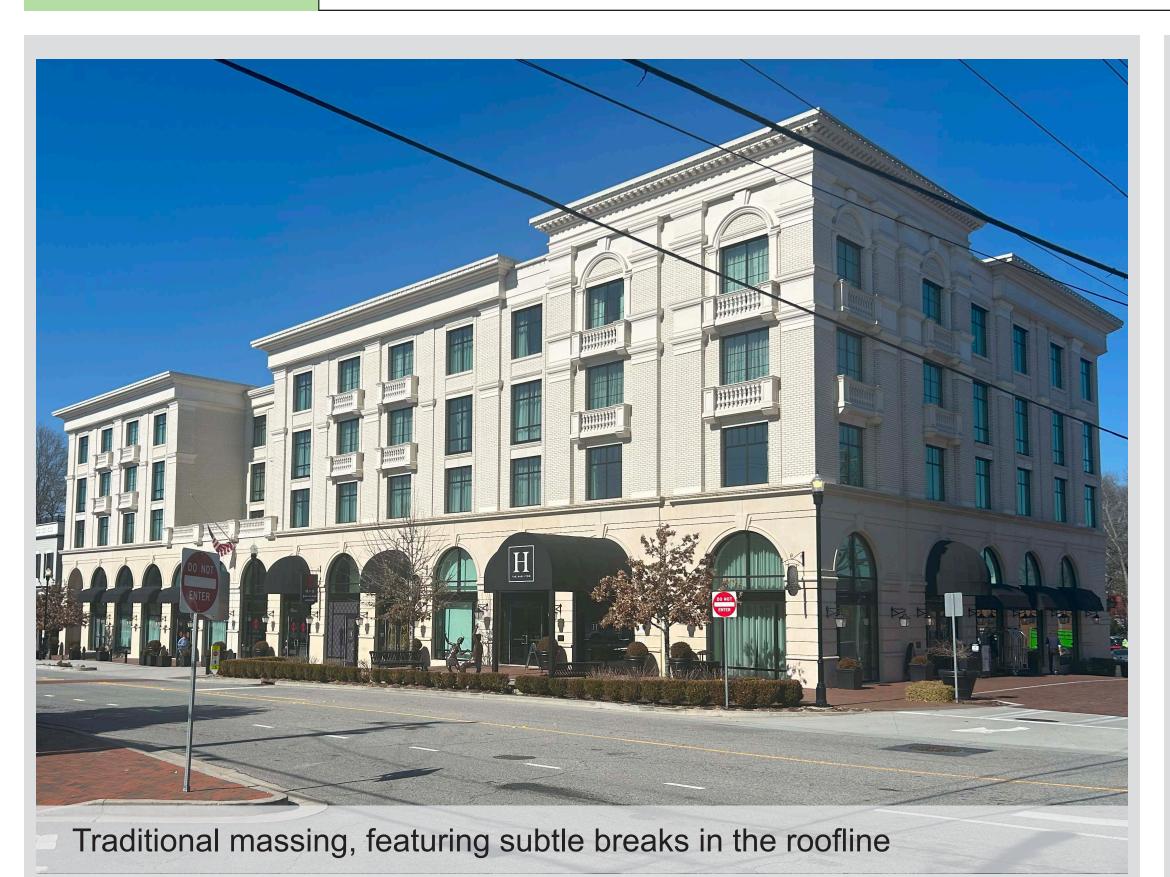
# BUILDING ELEMENTS: MASSING

**ELEMENT DEFINITION:** 

Building massing is about the overall shape and size of the building. It involves how the different parts of the building come together to create its appearance and how it fits into its surroundings.

**ACTIVITY:** 

PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



A modern building featuring pronounced massing breaks at the corners

PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Massing with a protruding first floor and pronounced breaks at the entry corner

PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Traditional massing, and more pronounced breaks in the roofline

PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



PUBLIC MEETING #1

SANDY SPRINGS DESIGN GUIDELINES | MARCH 13, 2025

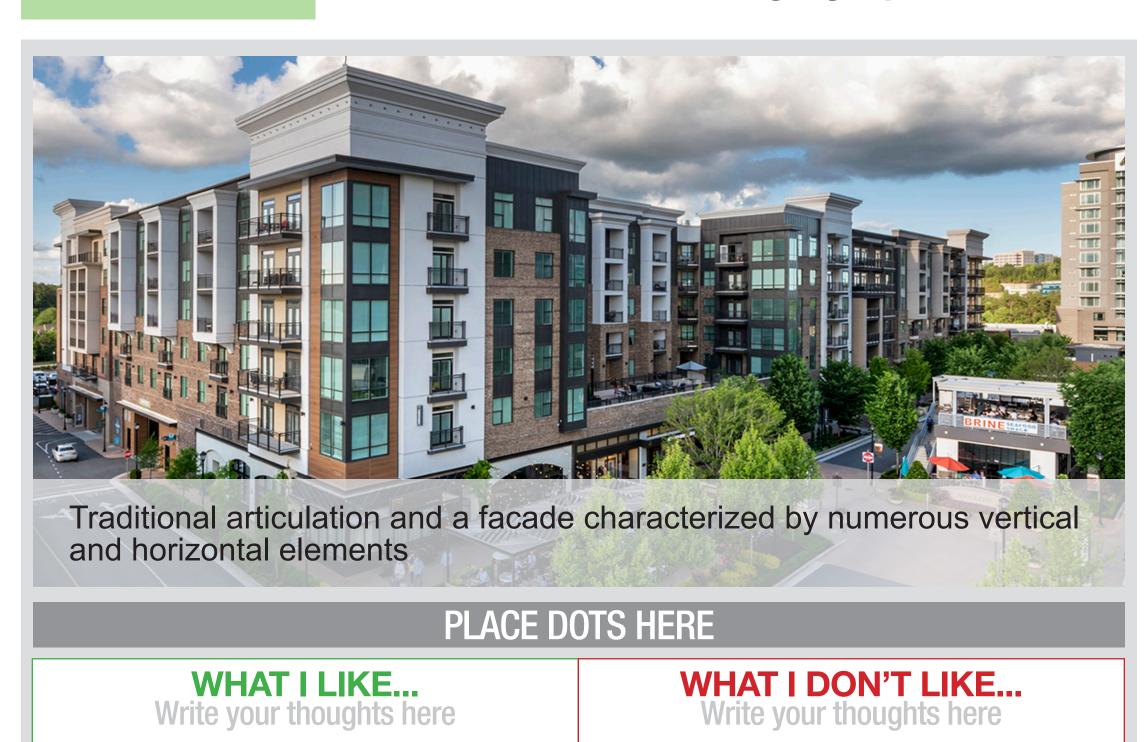
# BUILDING ELEMENTS: ARTICULATION

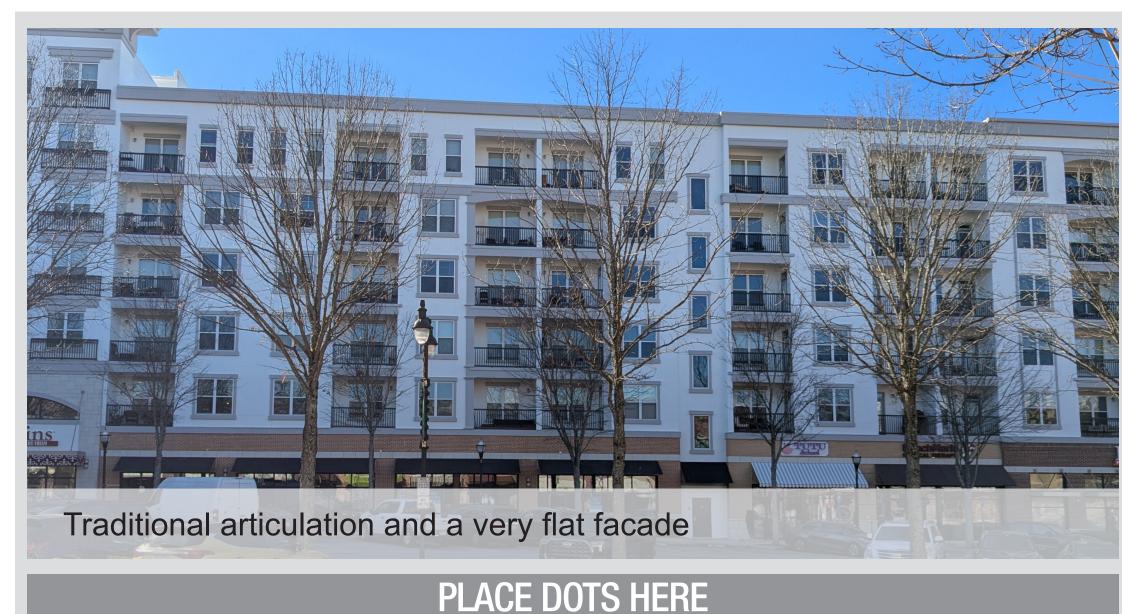
**ELEMENT DEFINITION:** 

Building articulation is about how different parts of a building are designed to make it look interesting. It uses features like vertical and horizontal breaks in the façade and roofline, to break up large areas and highlight different sections.

**ACTIVITY:** 

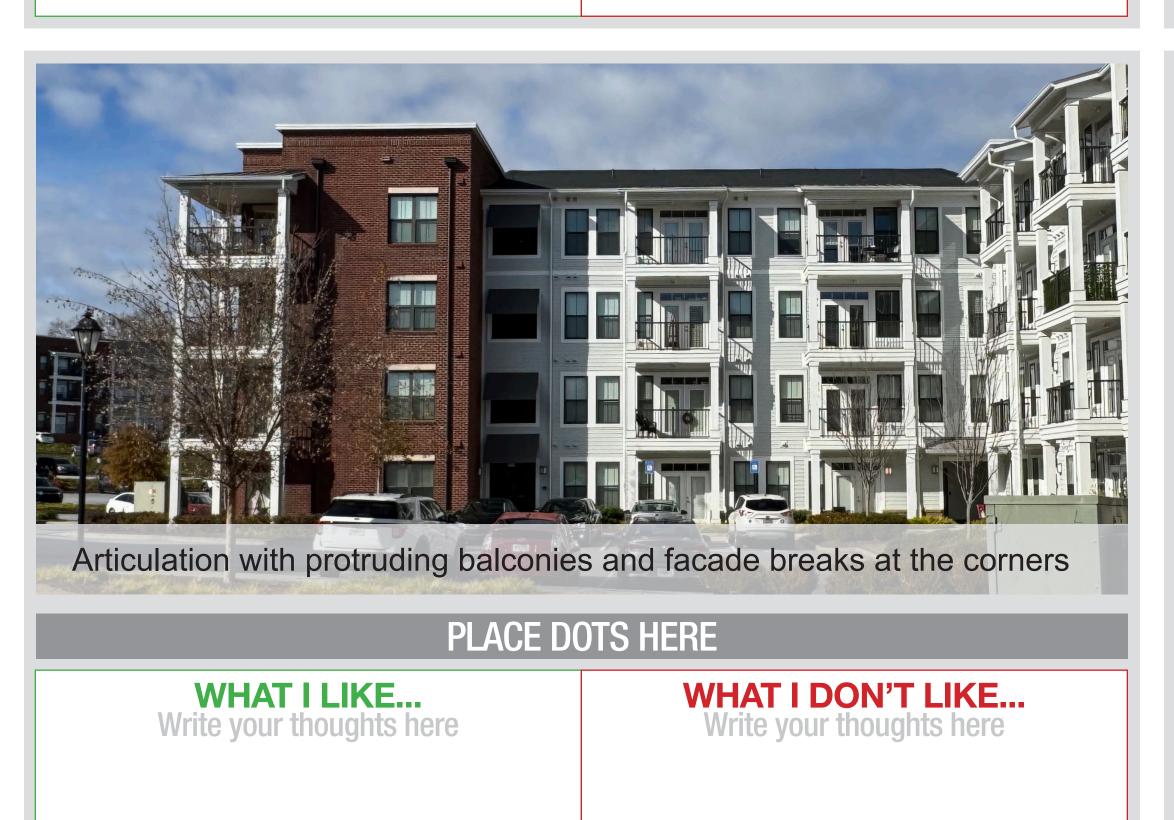
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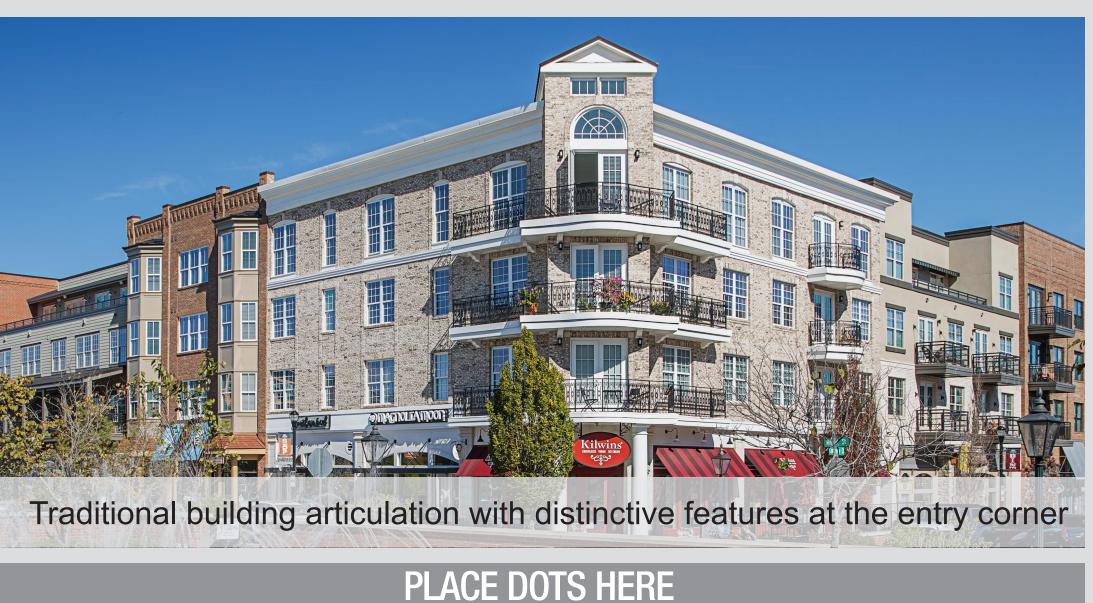
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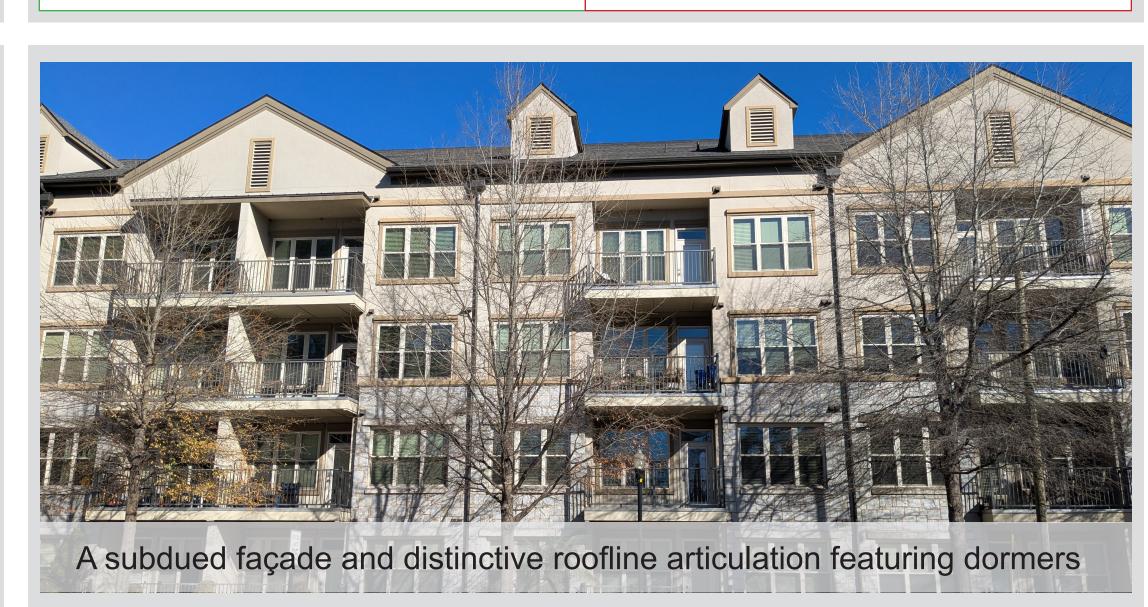




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WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here





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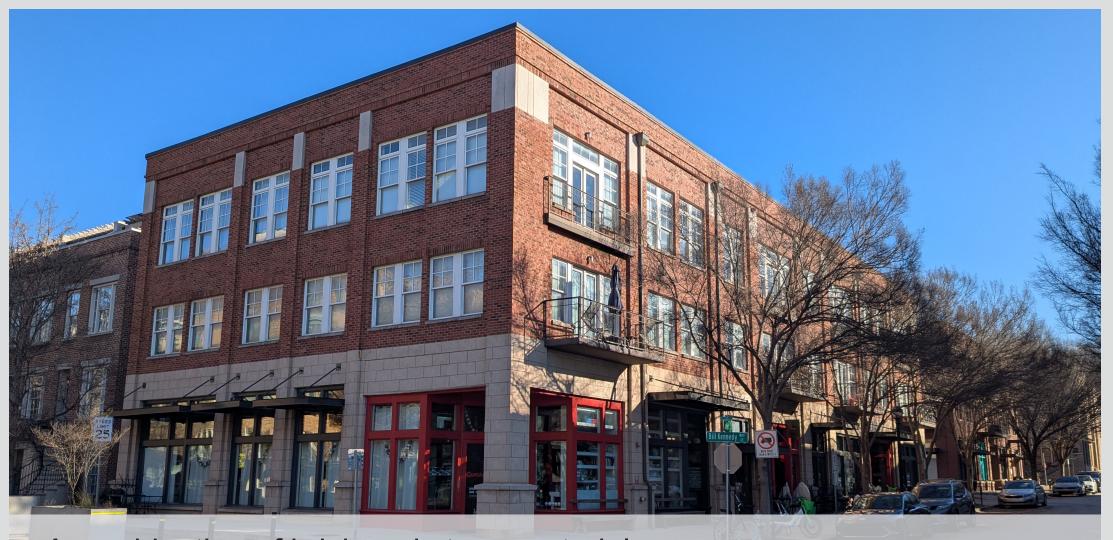
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# BUILDING ELEMENTS: MATERIALS

**ACTIVITY:** 

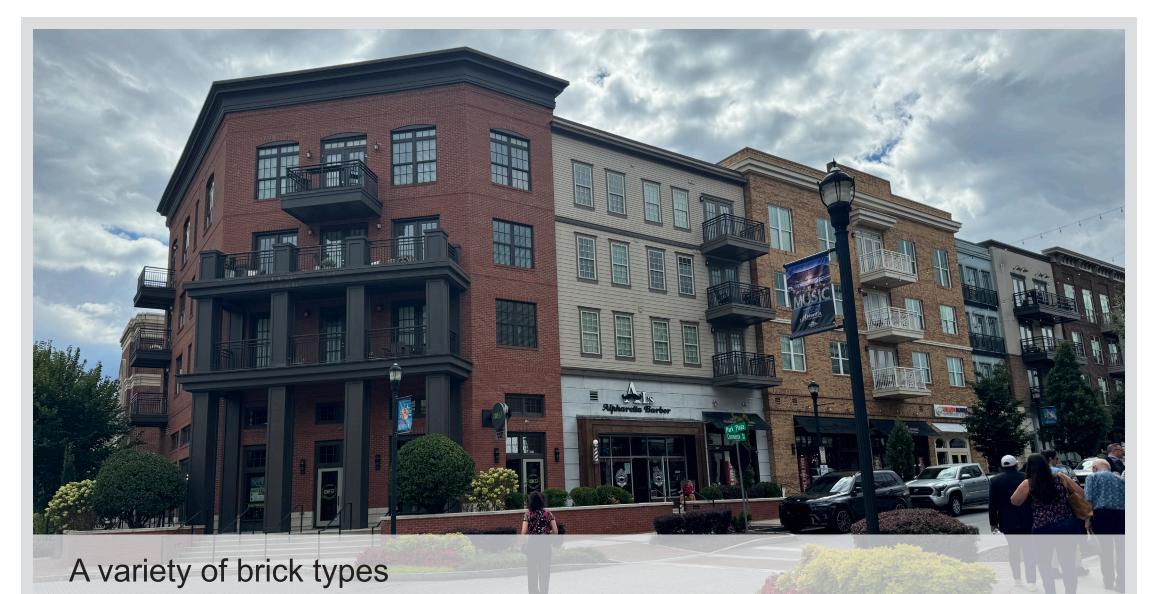
dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



A combination of brick and stone materials

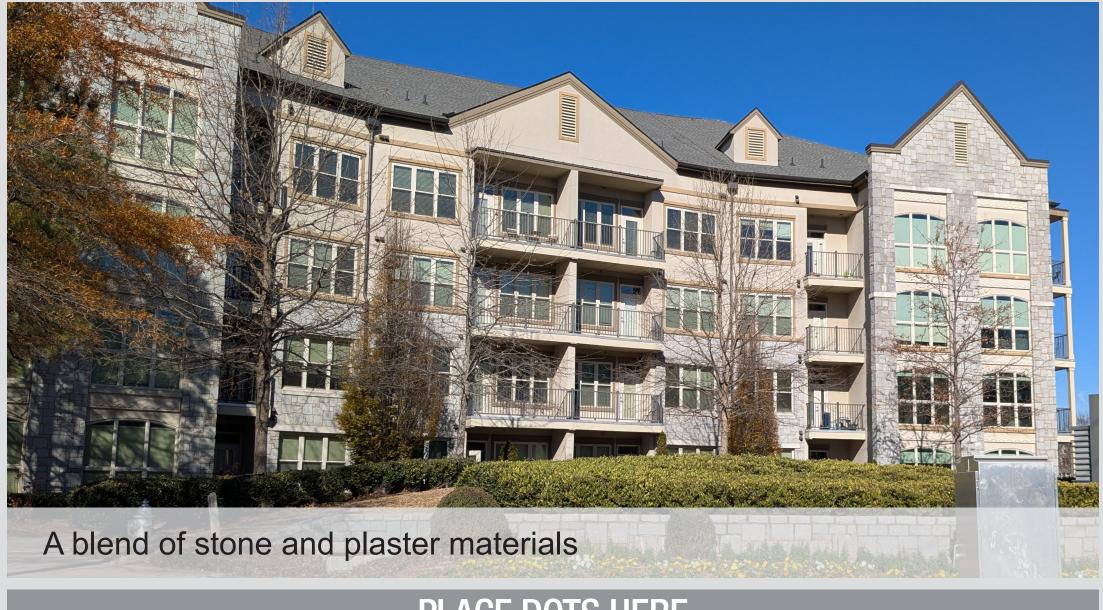
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WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here



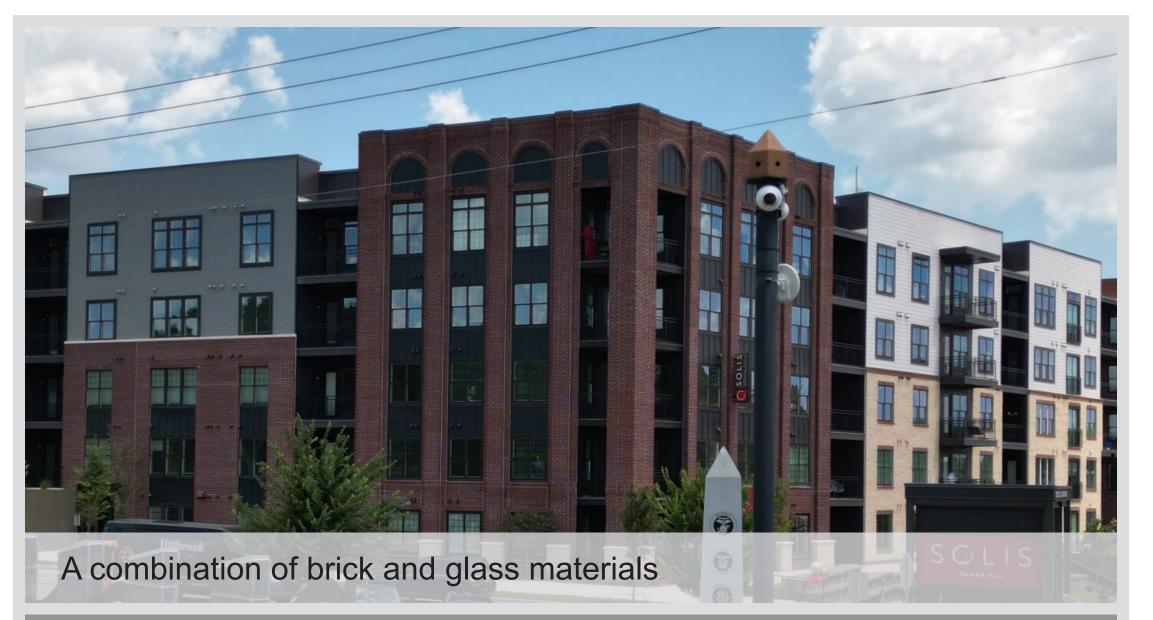
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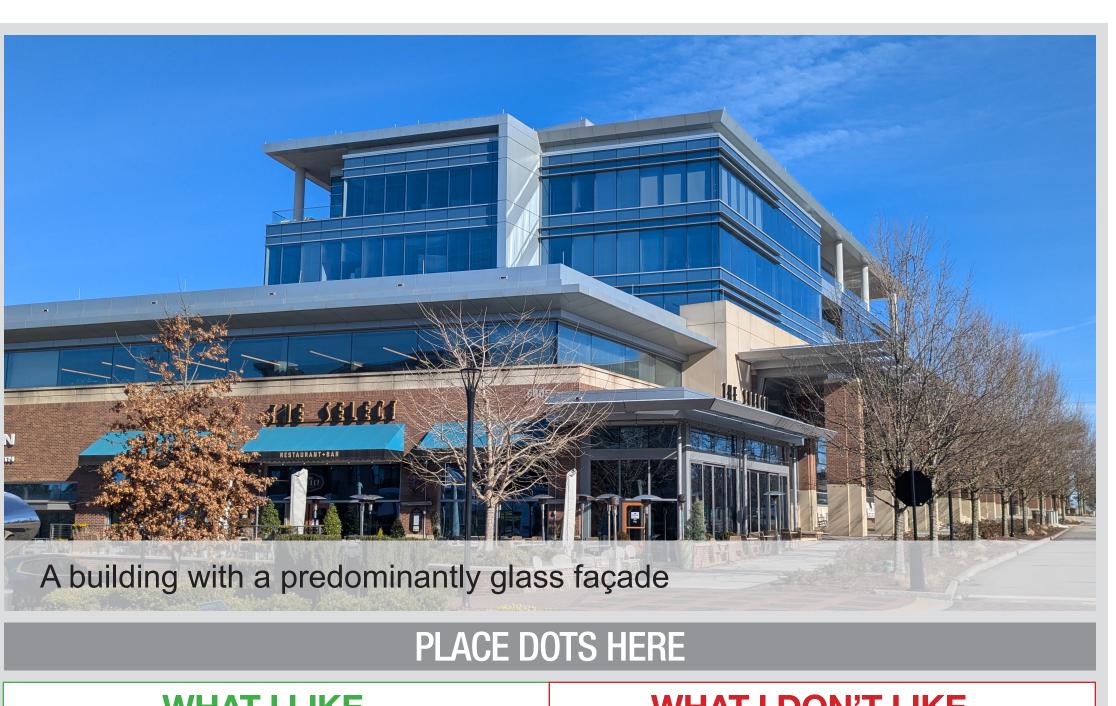
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Write your thoughts here

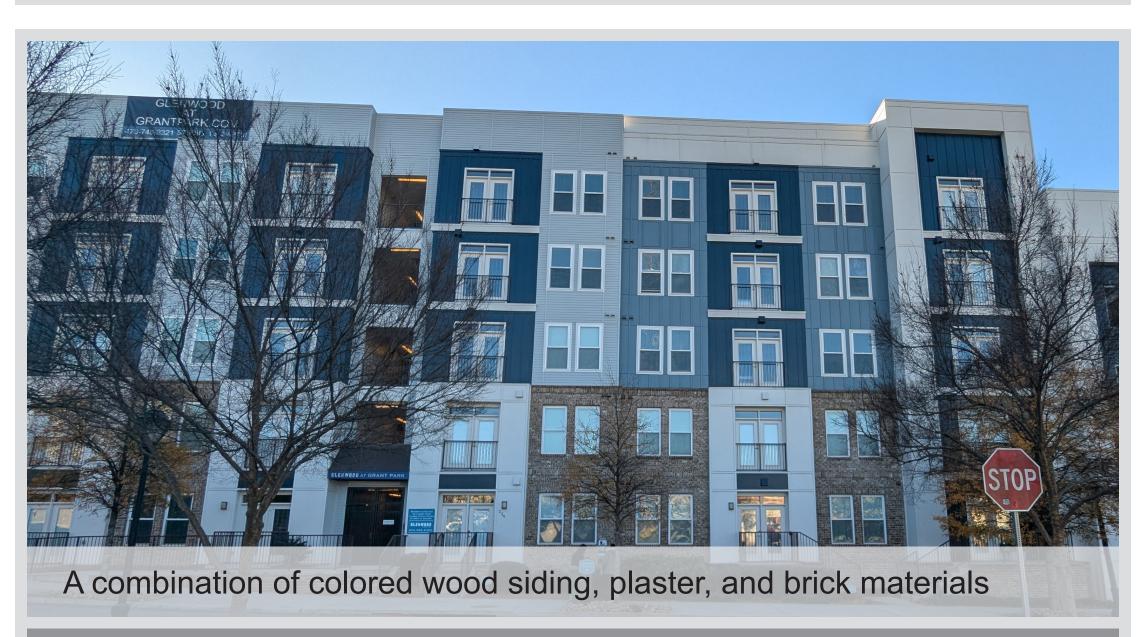


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WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

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WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



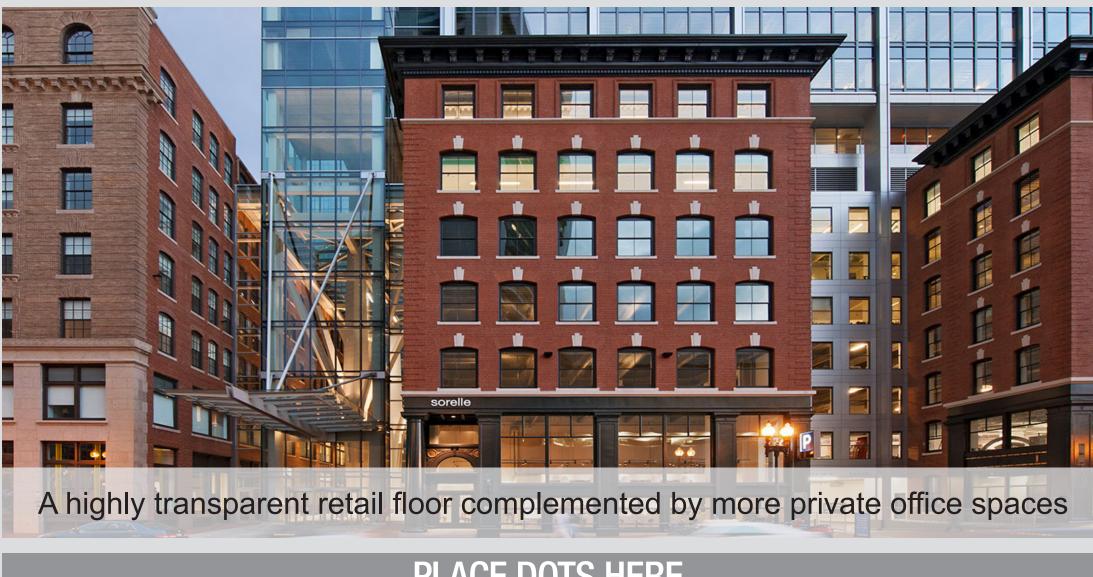
# BUILDING ELEMENTS: TRANSPARENCY

**ELEMENT DEFINITION:** 

Building transparency is about using elements, that let light into a building. This can include features like large windows, glass walls, and open spaces, which help create a sense of openness and connection between the inside and outside of the building.

**ACTIVITY:** 

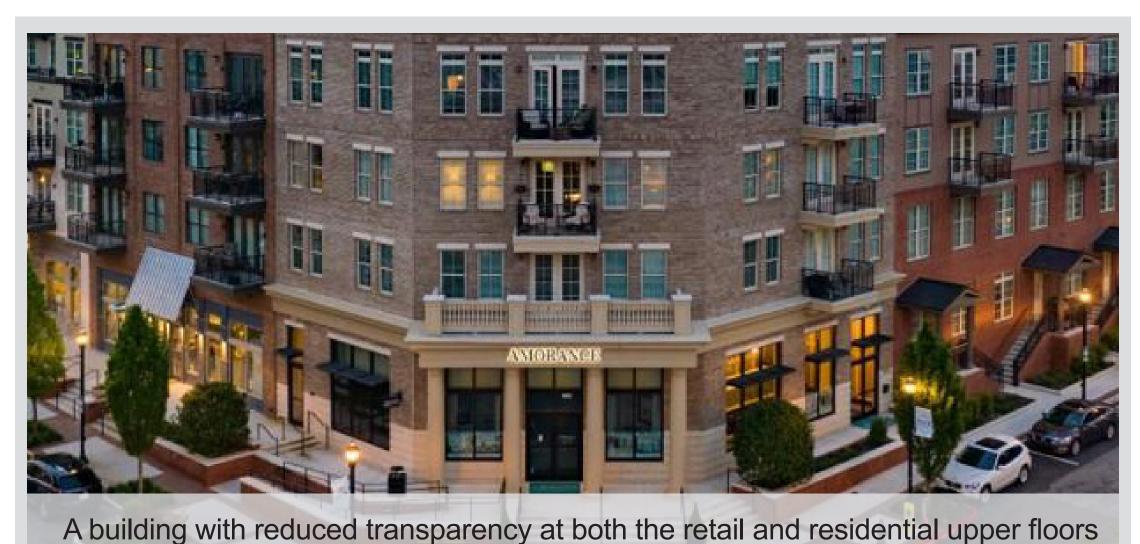
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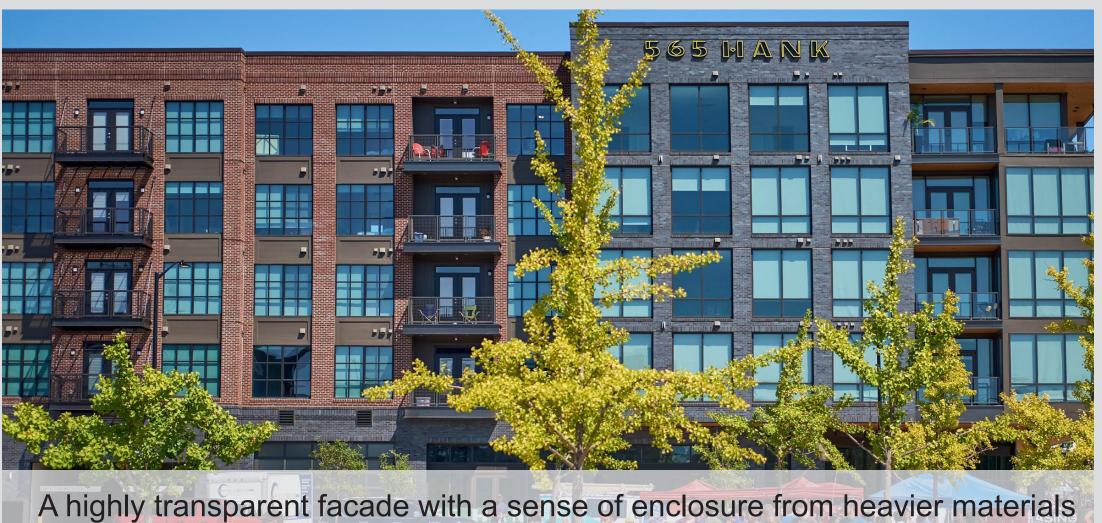
WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here



PLACE DOTS HERE

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here



PLACE DOTS HERE

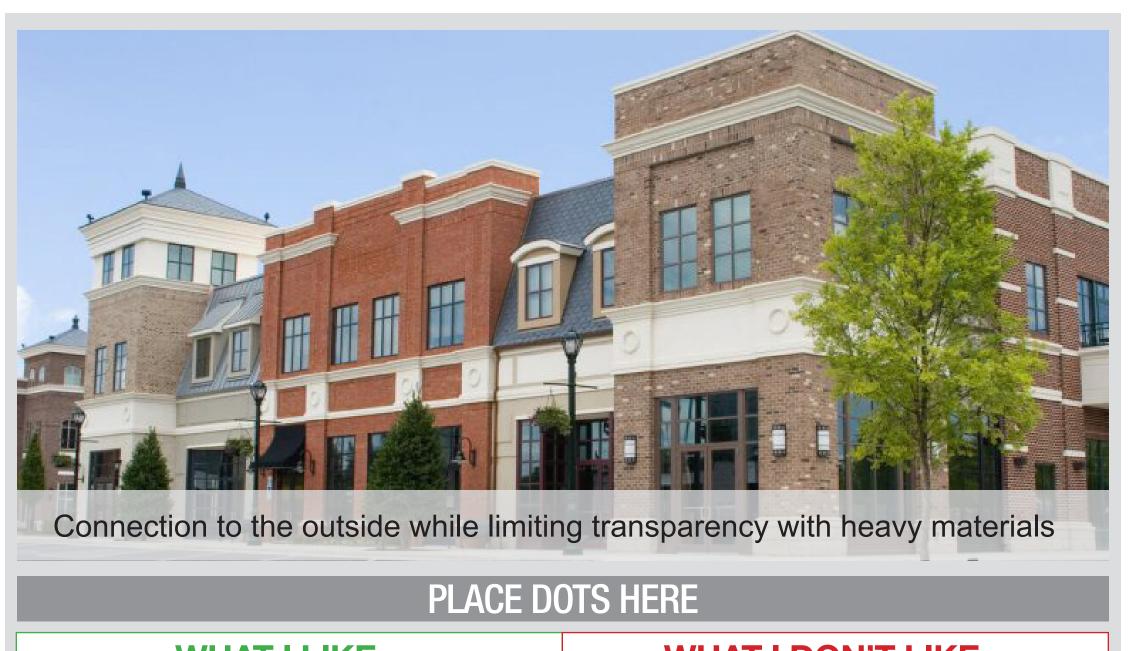
WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here

Exuding transparency by use of large windows, openings, and light materials PLACE DOTS HERE WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here

High transparency while maintaining a sense of enclosure with a heavy material PLACE DOTS HERE WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



# TOWNHOMES

**ACTIVITY:** 

PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...
Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...
Write your thoughts here



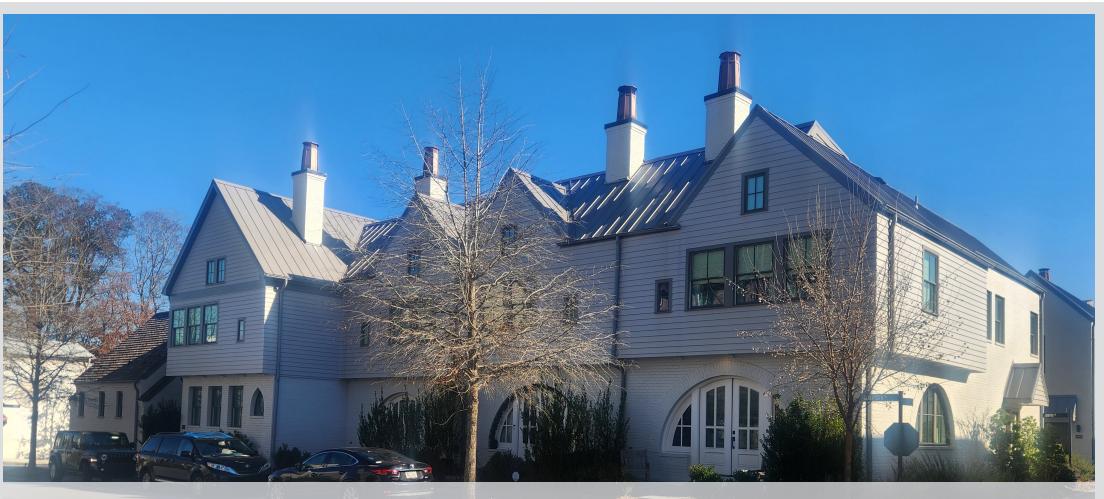
Townhomes with varying roof materials to differentiate units while remaining attached

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...
Write your thoughts here



Townhomes arranged in a non-linear fashion, adding variety to the overall massing

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Townhomes constructed with a single material, appearing as one continuous building

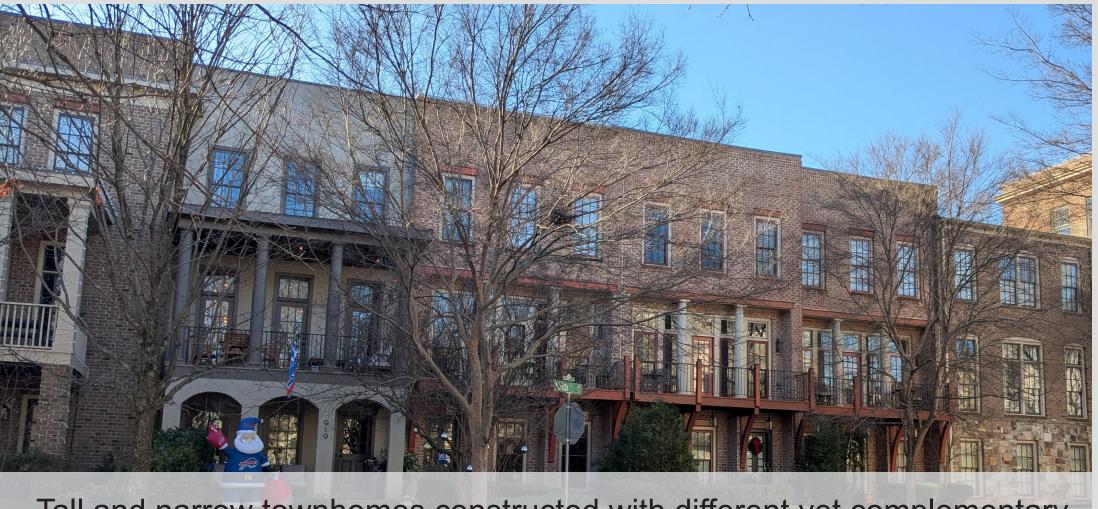
#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Tall and narrow townhomes constructed with different yet complementary materials

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



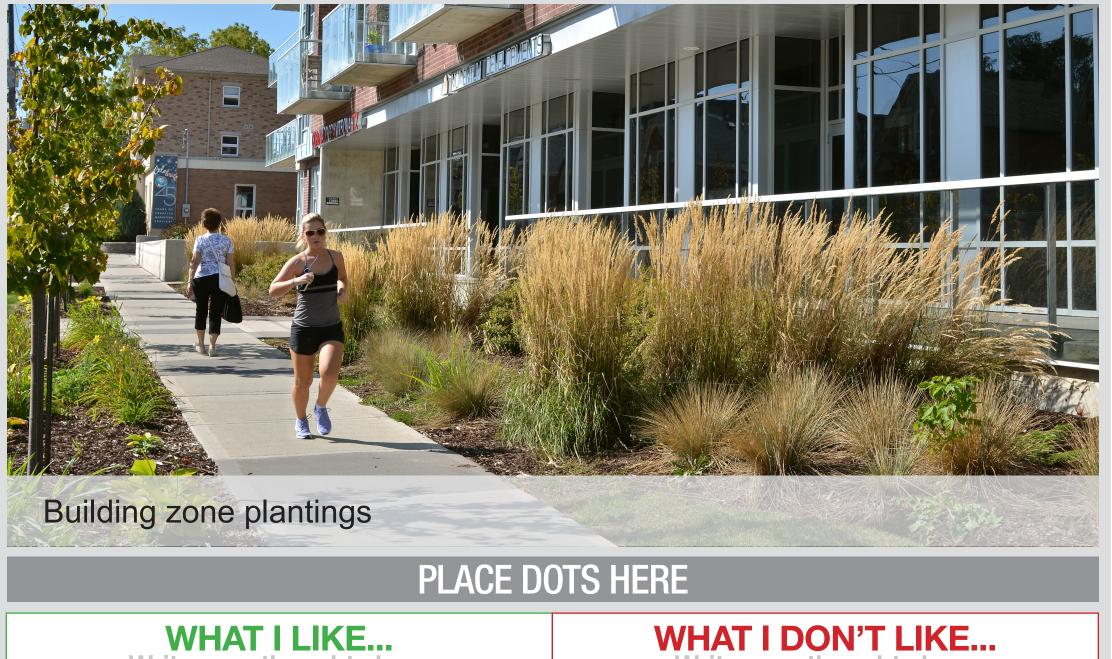
# PRIVATE REALM

**ELEMENT DEFINITION:** 

The private realm refers to areas that are privately owned, such as homes, businesses, or private spaces that are not accessible to the public. These spaces are typically protected and managed by individuals or property owners.

**ACTIVITY:** 

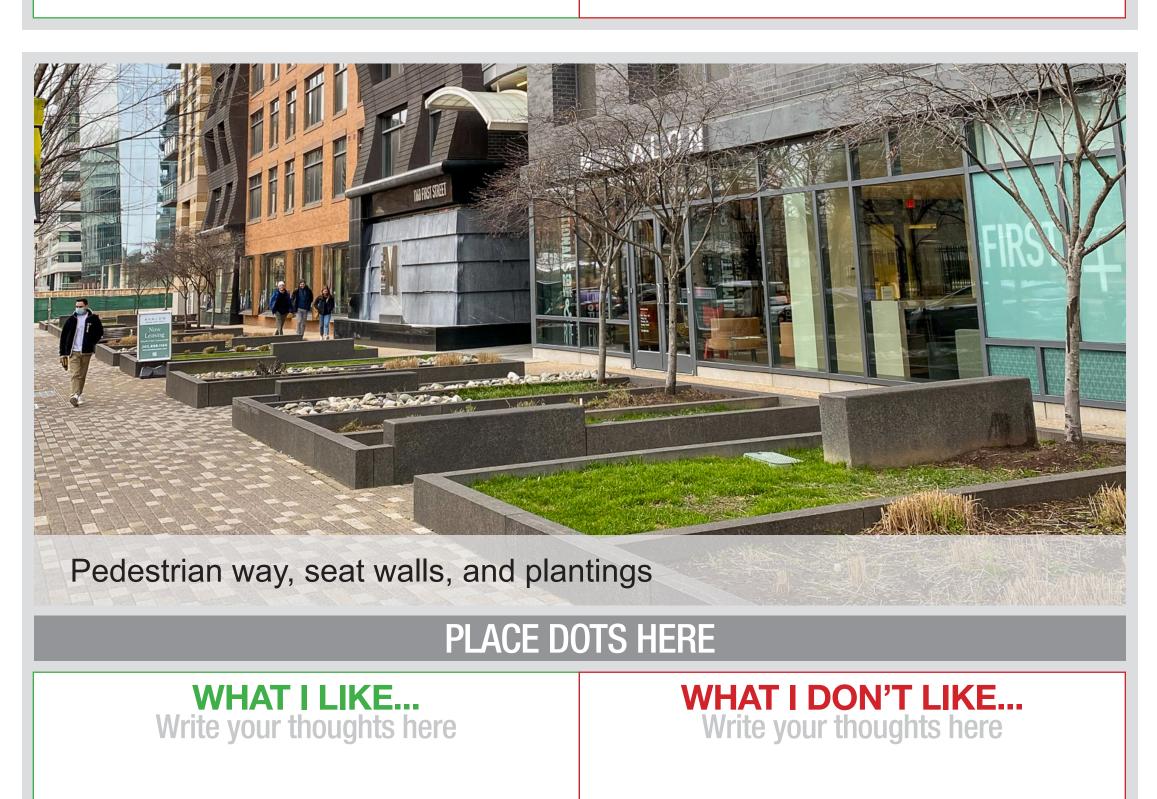
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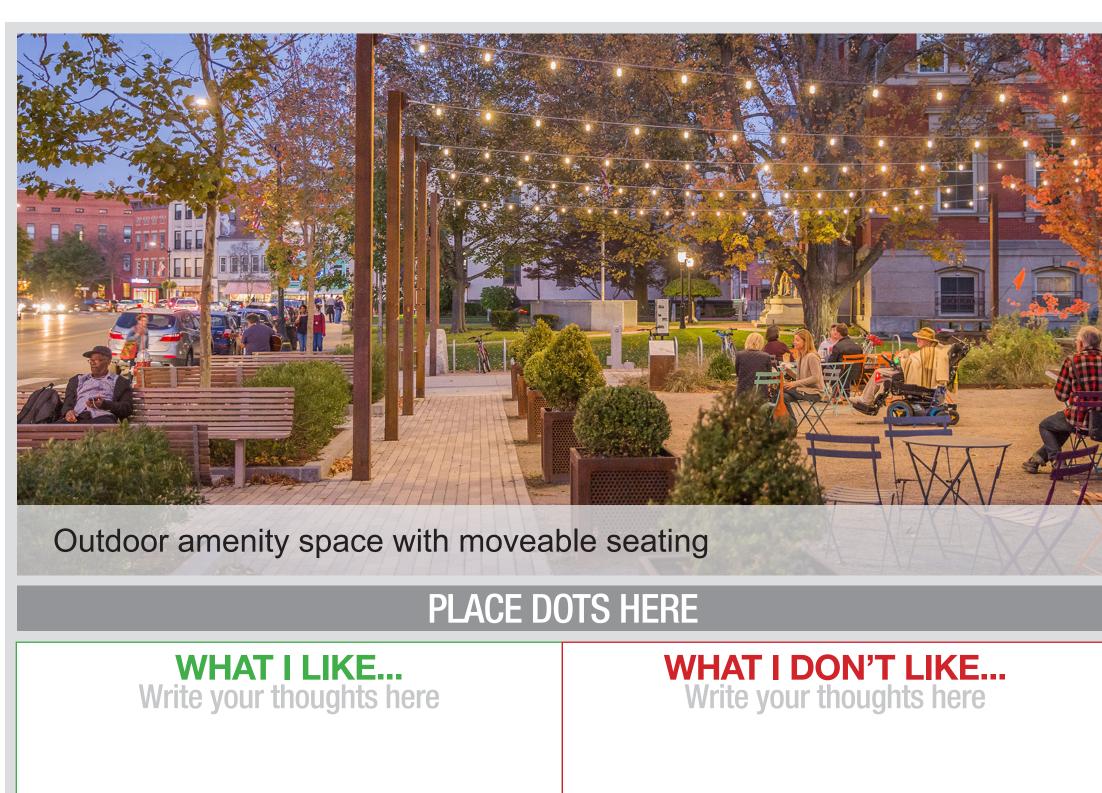


Write your thoughts here Write your thoughts here



WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here Write your thoughts here











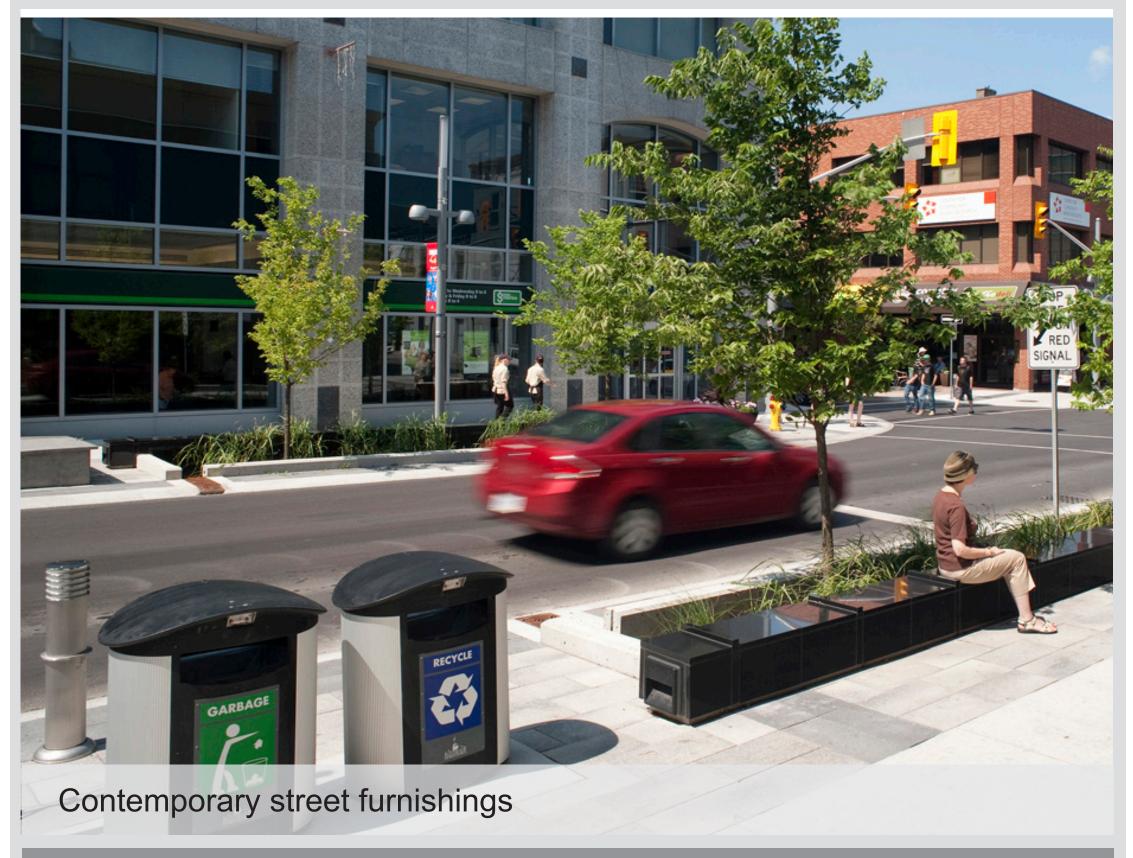
# FURNISHINGS

ELEMENT DEFINITION:

Furnishings are the design elements in public spaces that enhance comfort, function, and aesthetics, such as benches, bike racks, lighting, and trash bins.

**ACTIVITY:** 

PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



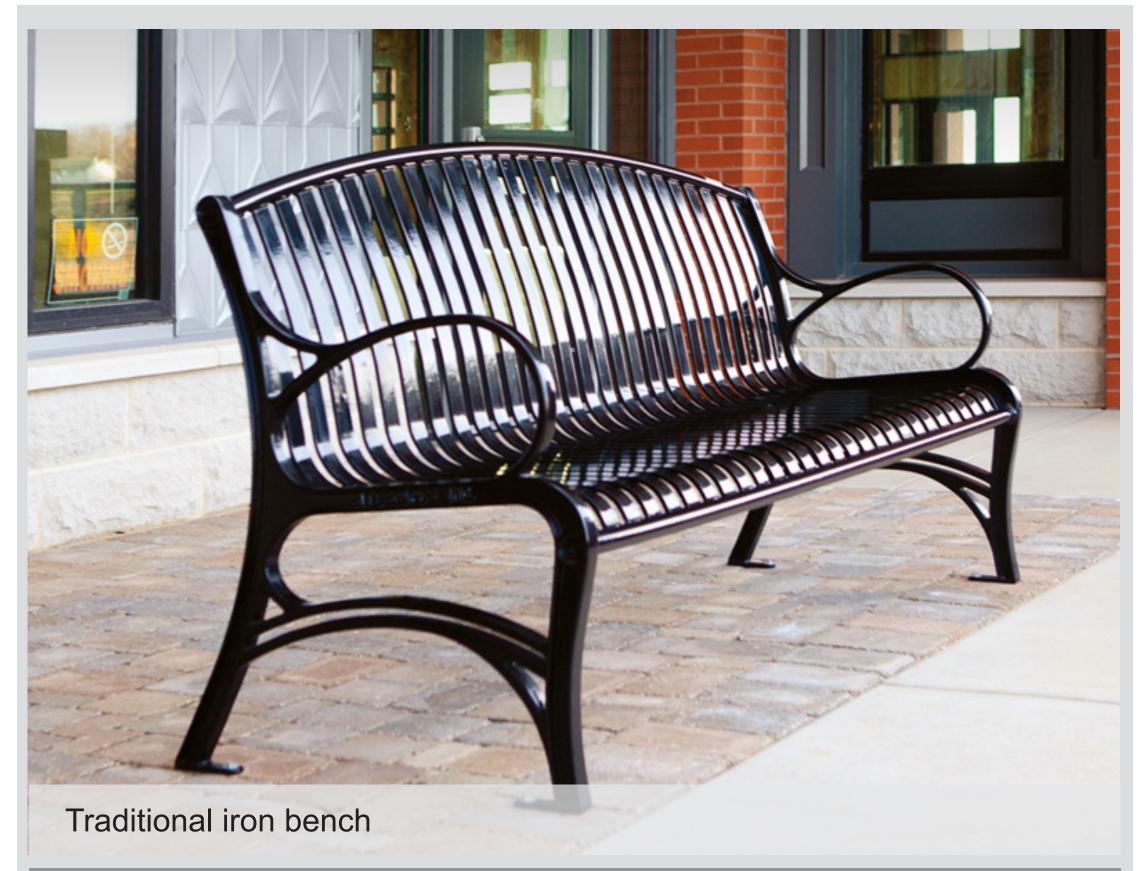
PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Family of branded custom street furnishings

PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



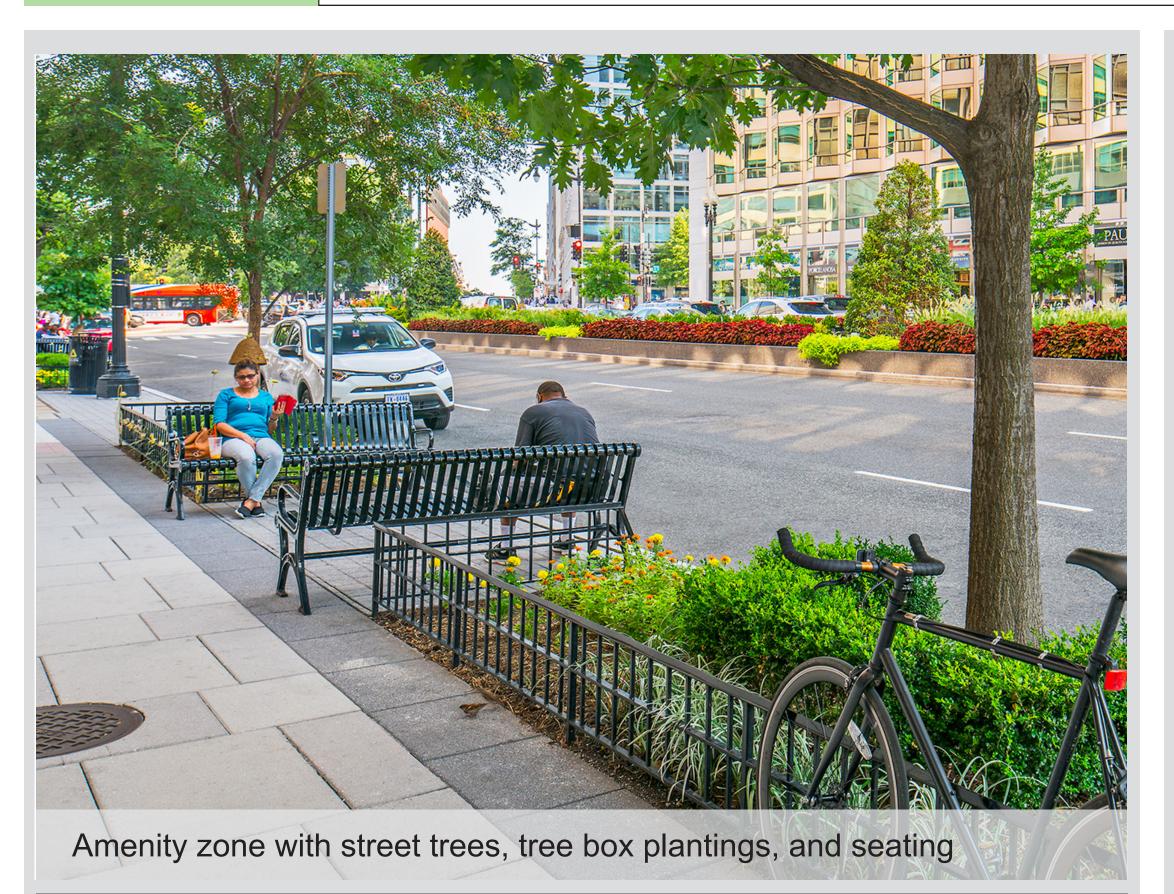
# LANDSCAPE PANEL / AMENITY ZONE

ELEMENT DEFINITION:

A landscape panel or amenity zone is a designated area in urban spaces where landscaping, seating, and recreational features are provided for public enjoyment and comfort.

**ACTIVITY:** 

PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

#### WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

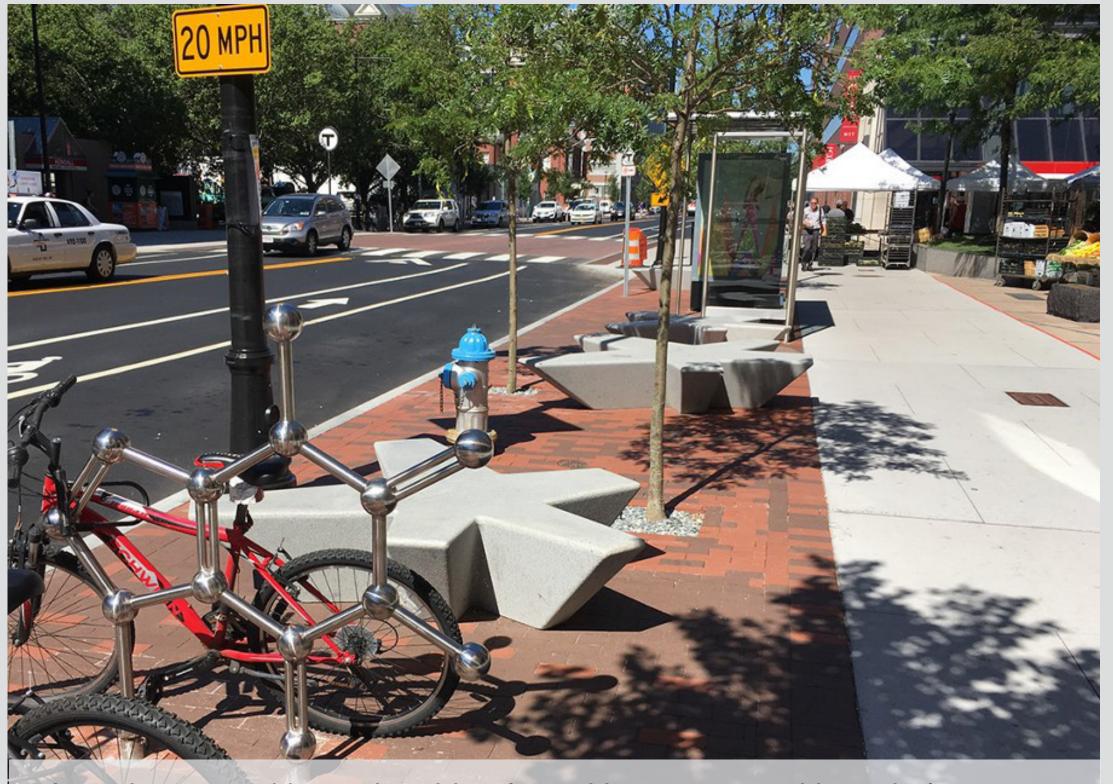
Amenity zone with natural plantings and seat wall, plus street furnishings

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

#### WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Amenity zone with seating, bicycle parking, trees, and bus shelter

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

#### WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Amenity zone with stormwater plantings, seat walls, and curbside pedestrian access

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

#### WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



20

# PAVING

**ACTIVITY:** 

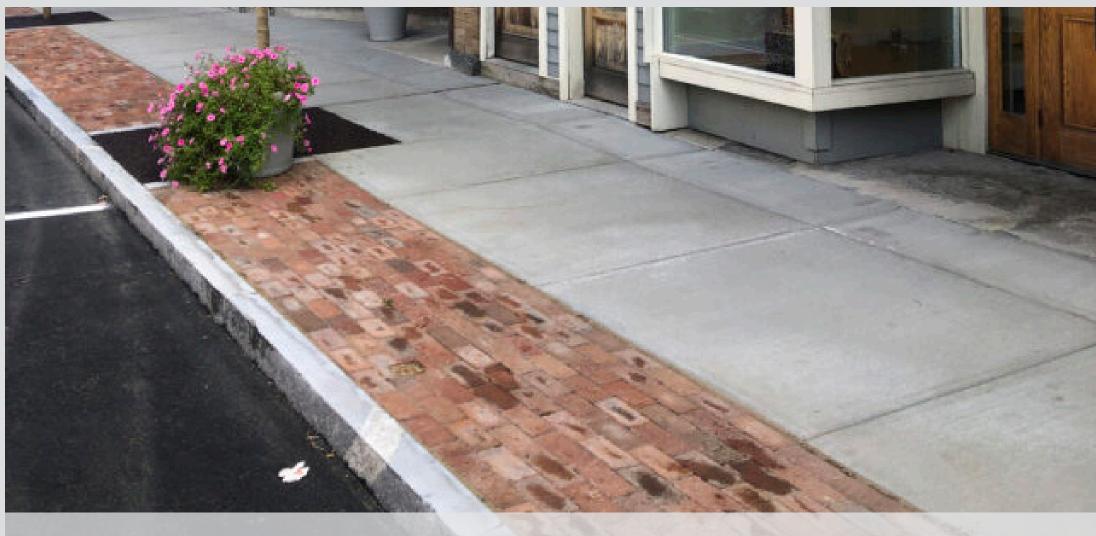
**PLACE** dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



Warm-toned brick paving

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here



Scored concrete sidewalk with brick amenity zone

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here Write your thoughts here



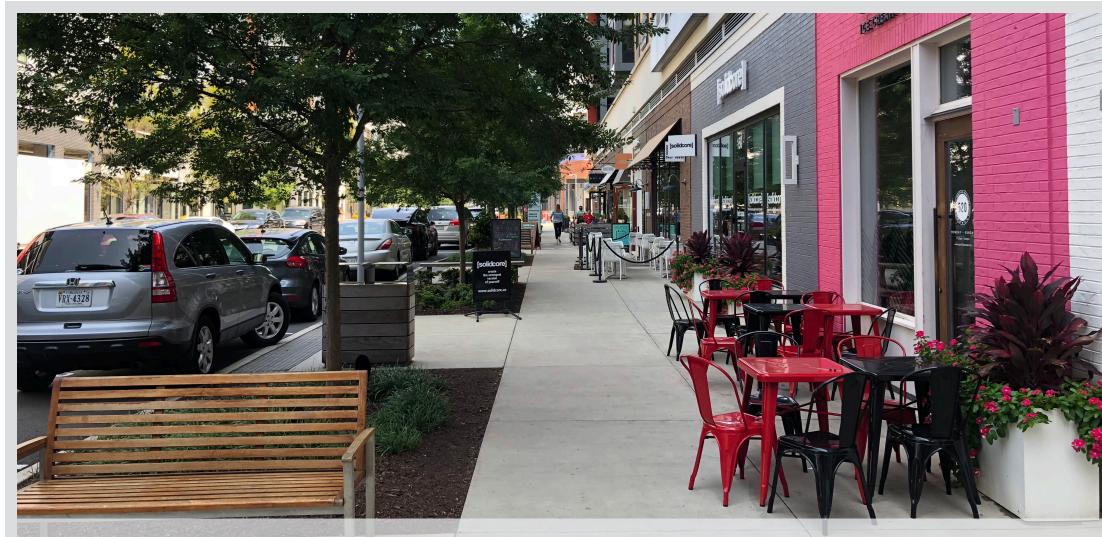
#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



Neutral-toned scored concrete sidewalk and amenity zone

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



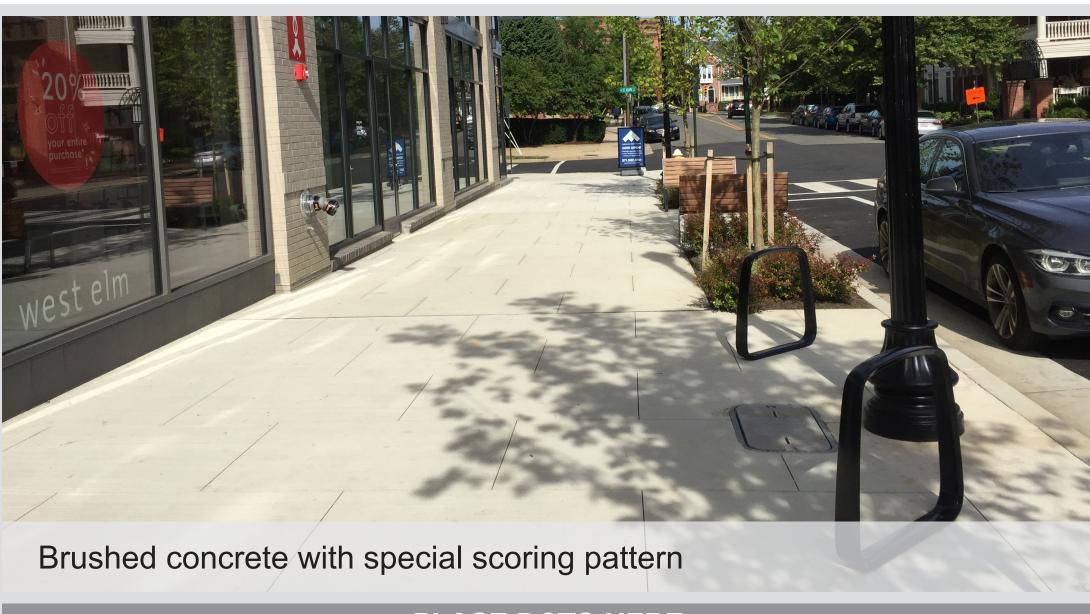
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Write your thoughts here



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

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WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

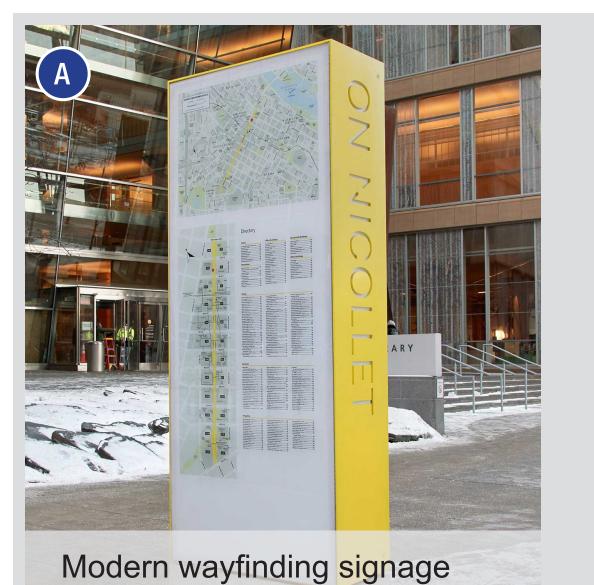
Write your thoughts here



# SIGNAGE

## **ACTIVITY:**

PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you like PLACE dots on the grey space below the images that show DESIGN character that you dislike



**You Are Here** 

Traditional wayfinding signage



PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here

Interpretive wayfinding signage

### WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

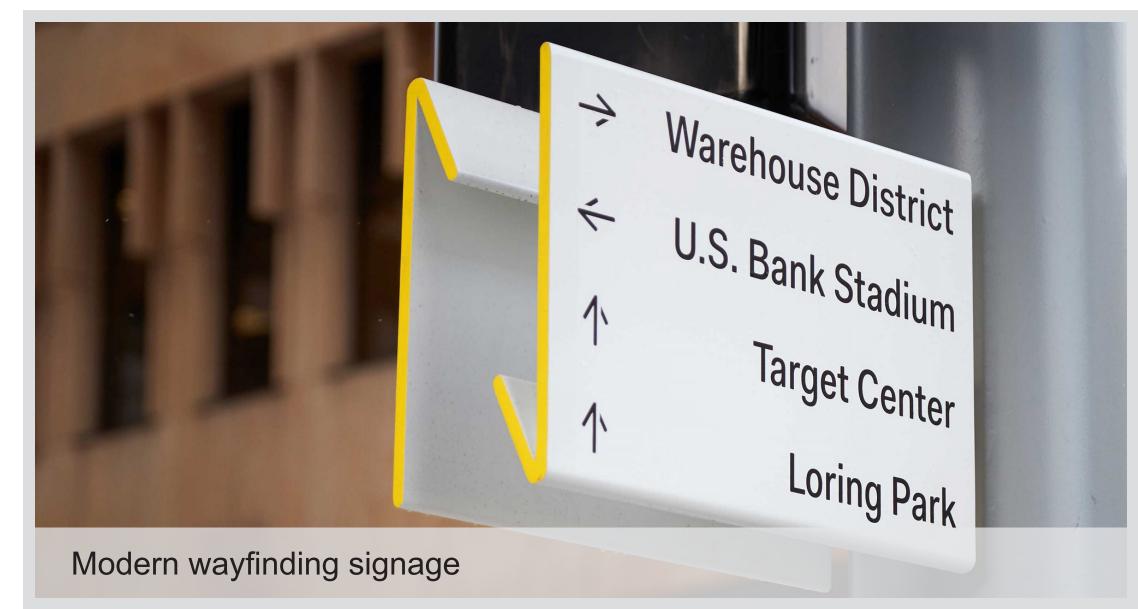
Write your thoughts here



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

WHAT I DON'T LIKE... Write your thoughts here Write your thoughts here



PLACE DOTS HERE

#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE... Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here





Gateway signage for city district

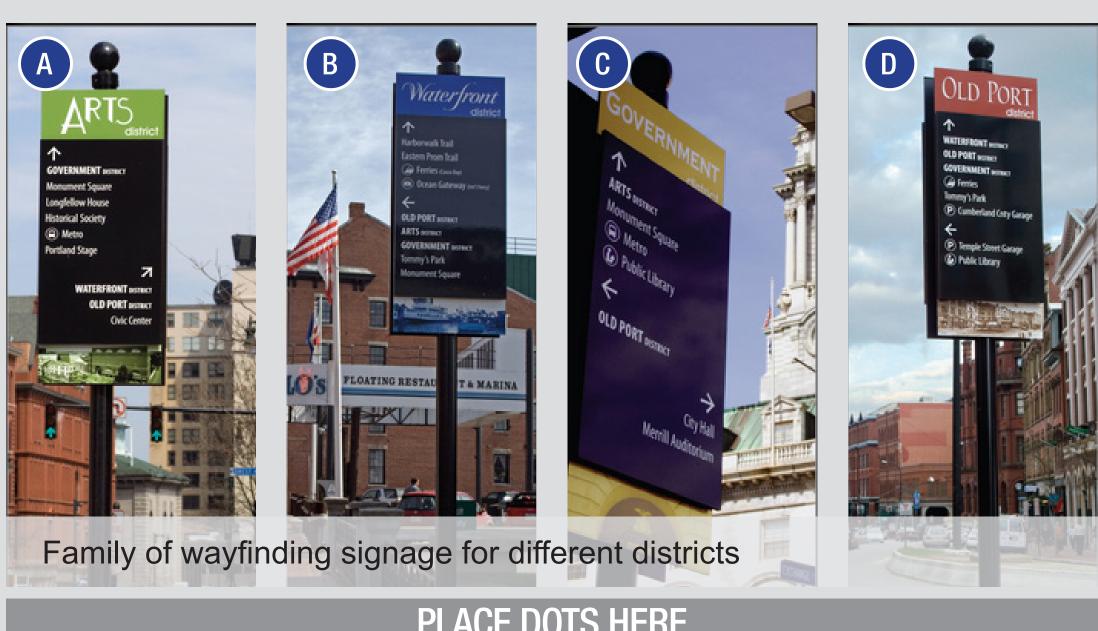
### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



#### PLACE DOTS HERE

WHAT I LIKE...

Write your thoughts here

WHAT I DON'T LIKE...

Write your thoughts here



# YOUR FAVORITE PLACES

STATION 4 | YOUR FAVORITE EXAMPLES

# WRITE THE NAMES OF PLACES YOU HAVE VISITED THAT COULD SERVE AS INSPIRATION FOR SANDY SPRINGS

What are the elements you liked?



#### **ACTIVITY**

Please share your thoughts on the question above using a post-it note. Upon completion, please place your post-it note in the area below.

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF INSPIRATIONAL PLACES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

UPLOAD THEM VIA THE ONLINE SURVEY USING THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT!

