# Town of Gypsum Master Plan Design Architectural and Landscaping Design Requirements for Building and Land Improvements

Adopted by the Town of Gypsum Planning Commission on September 3, 2025, Resolution PZ No. 10 (Series 2025)



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#### 1.0 Introduction

These design requirements are in place in order to achieve the goals and vision of the 2017 This is Gypsum Master Plan ("Master Plan"). Architecture, landscaping, lighting, and signage are coordinated in order to create a sense of place and quality for all individual properties and development within certain areas of the town set forth in this document. Architecture is coordinated through common design criteria for character, massing, facades, fenestration, materials, and colors.

# A. Design Requirement Purpose

To promote the quality of development, the design requirements given in this document define criteria for implementing coordinated design, organizational unity, and overall visual identity for the area, while maintaining opportunities for individual needs and creativity for each project. Included are procedures and requirements for design submittal and review. The intent of these requirements is to establish a consistent design concept that produces the "Industrial Ranch" image set forth in the Master Plan, allows for creativity and efficiency, as well as value for the community and all projects within the area. The Master Plan set forth the following goals and visions regarding architecture and design for the areas regulated under these design requirements:

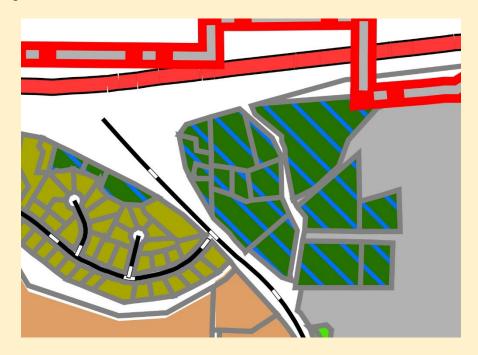
- i. Work with private landowners, developers, designers, and local businesses to celebrate Gypsum's industrial and ranching identity through character-driven design standards for new development projects;
- ii. Work with private landowners to celebrate Gypsum's industrial and ranching identity through the use of building elements and materials;
- iii. Create a sense of arrival immediately upon exiting I-70 to suggest to visitors that they have entered an eclectic and vibrant town;
- iv. Orient and plan highway commercial uses together that create a more attractive and genuine sense of place;
- v. Work with private landowners to promote the development of service-oriented businesses, restaurants, and entertainment to create a walkable commercial center;
- vi. Build a street presence within the market area using minimal road setbacks, mixed-use buildings, and unique architectural character.

All development designated on the Town of Gypsum Official Zone Map ("Map") as requiring Master Plan Design Requirements shall meet the requirements set forth in this document.

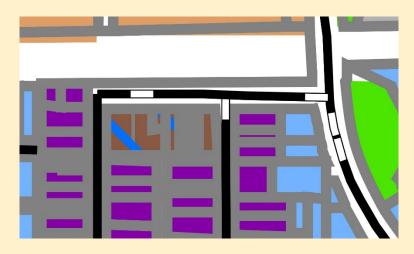
Below are portions of the Town of Gypsum Official Zoning Map identifying these areas with dashed lines over the underlying zone district. For the most up-to-date map, please contact the Town of Gypsum Community Development Department:



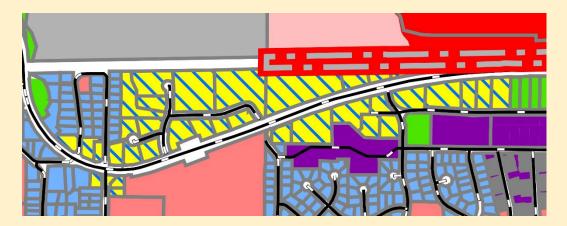
Close-up of Interstate Commercial Zone District:



# Close-up of Commercial Historical Zone District:



Close-up of Market Area Zone District:



# **B.** Related Controls

All development projects subject to these design requirements must also comply with the codes and regulations of all governing bodies. These requirements are to be used in conjunction with the Town of Gypsum Municipal Code ("Code"). To the extent these design requirements provide a more stringent development standard than any applicable county, state or federal regulation, or the Code, these design requirements shall control.

# 2.0 Architecture

# A. Objectives

Architectural design should express the character of an industrial ranching community as identified in the Master Plan. Individual creativity and identity are encouraged, but care

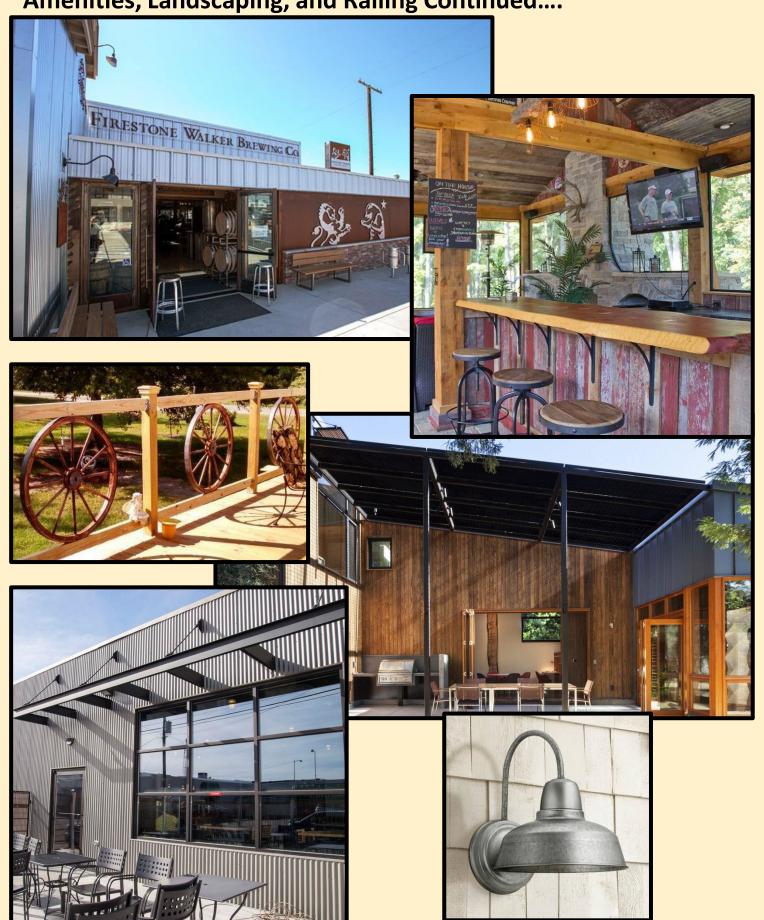
must be taken to maintain design integrity and compatibility among all projects in order to establish a unified image.

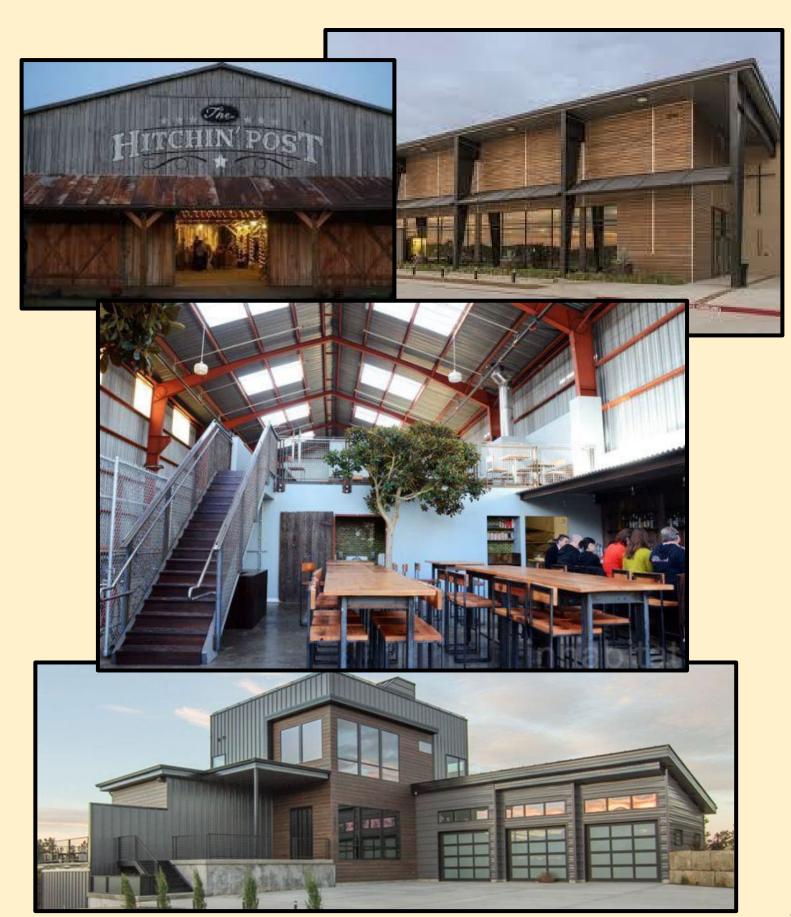
The following guidelines present parameters for architectural, character-building form and massing, facades, fenestration, structure, entries, materials, colors, details, service areas, and mechanical equipment.

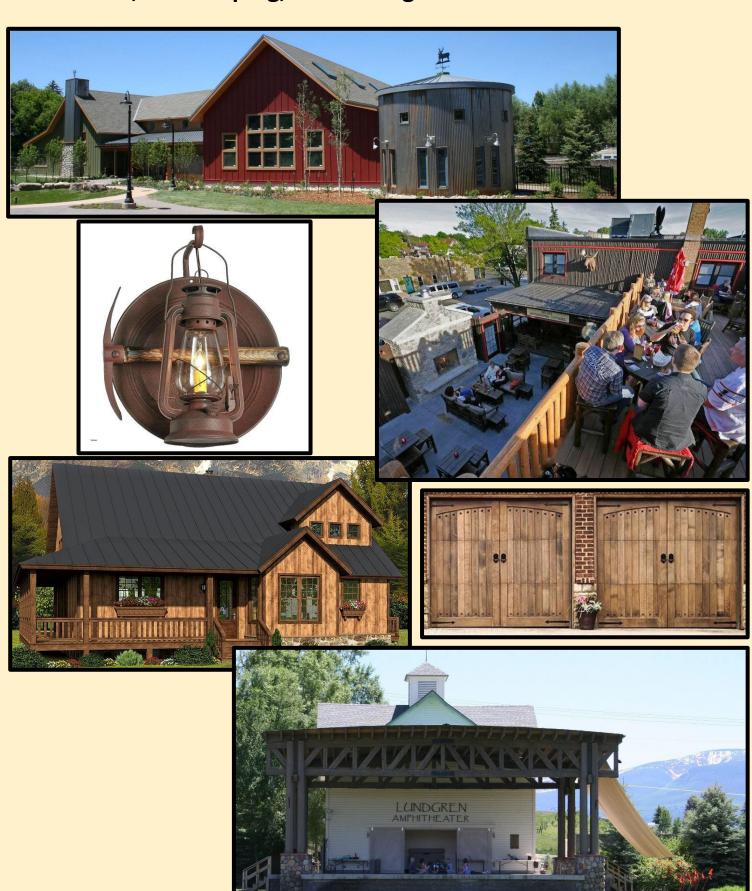
Figure A, on the following pages, provides photos of structures, elements, and materials desired in the design vision of these regulations. Each application shall include a variation of these components.

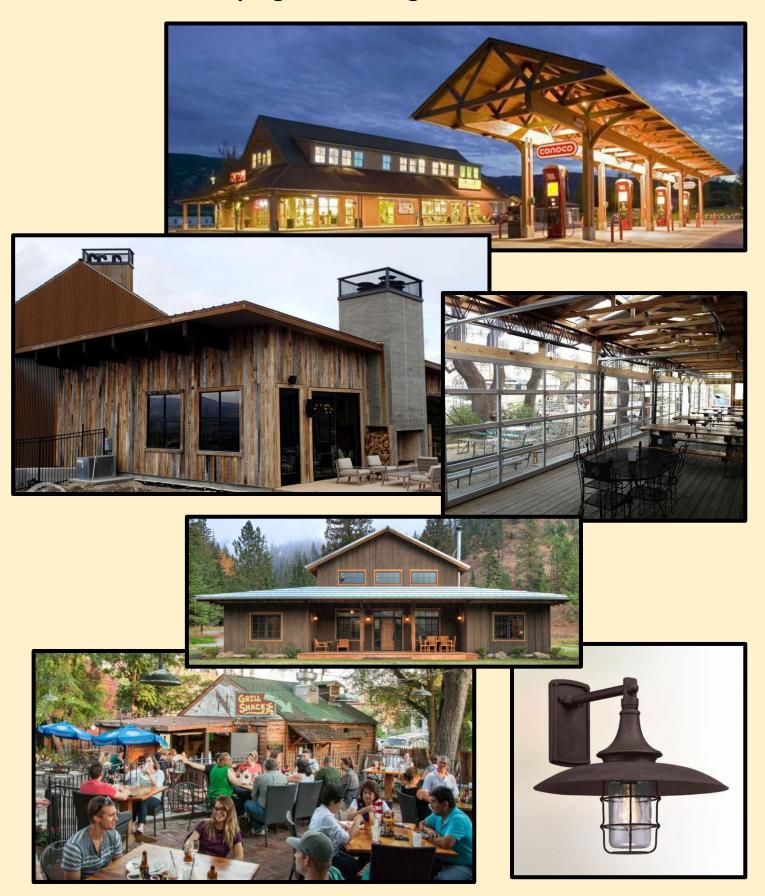
Figure B, below, provides photos of structures, elements, and materials that are **undesirable.** 

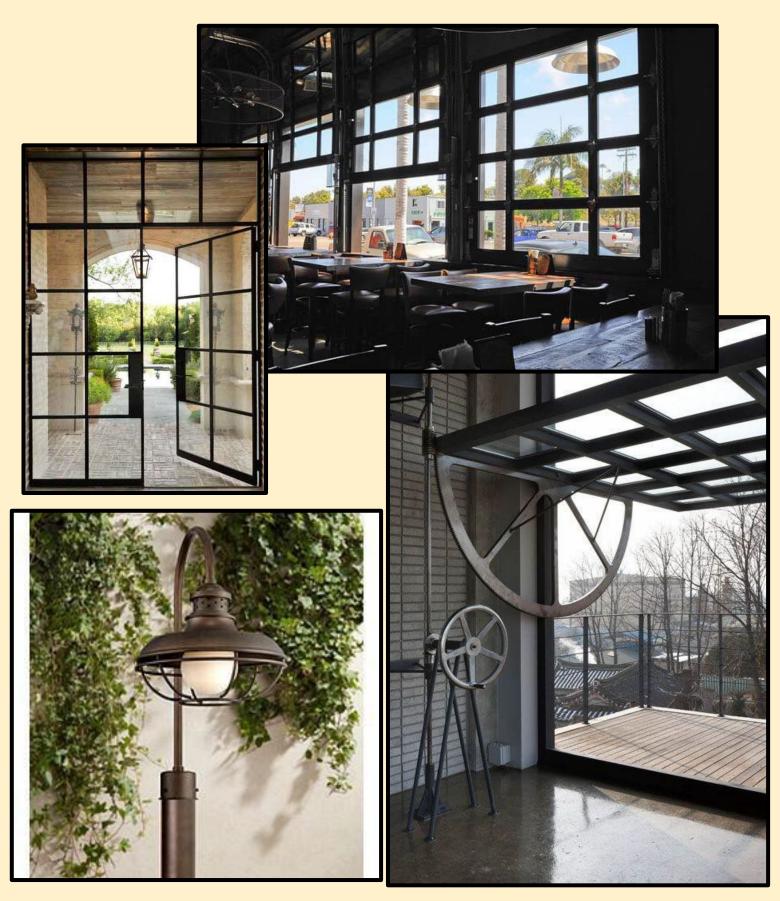










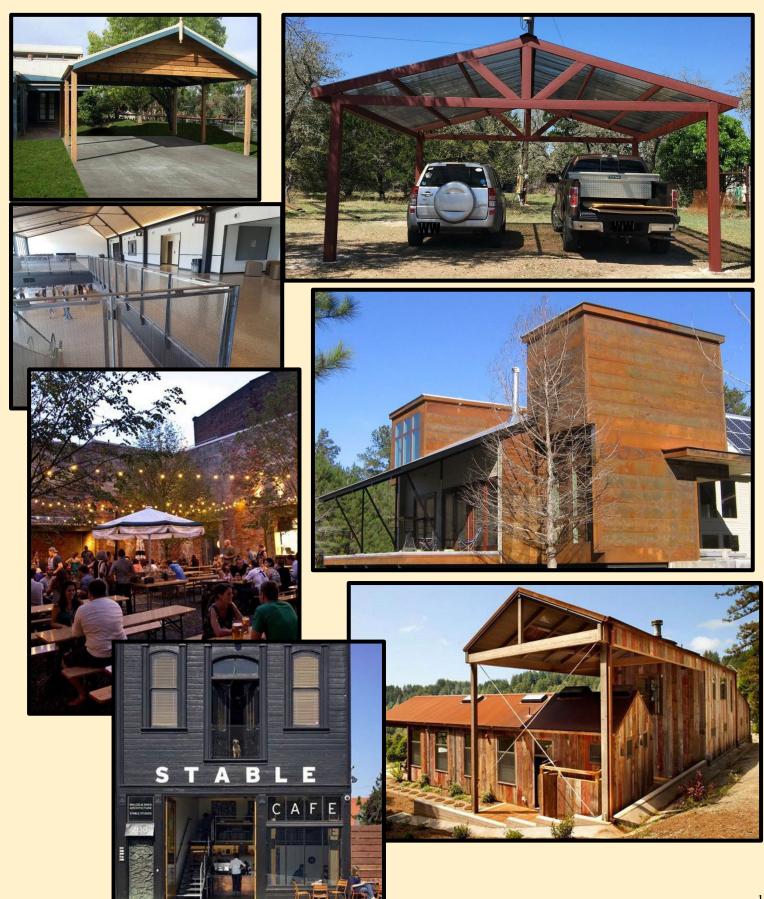


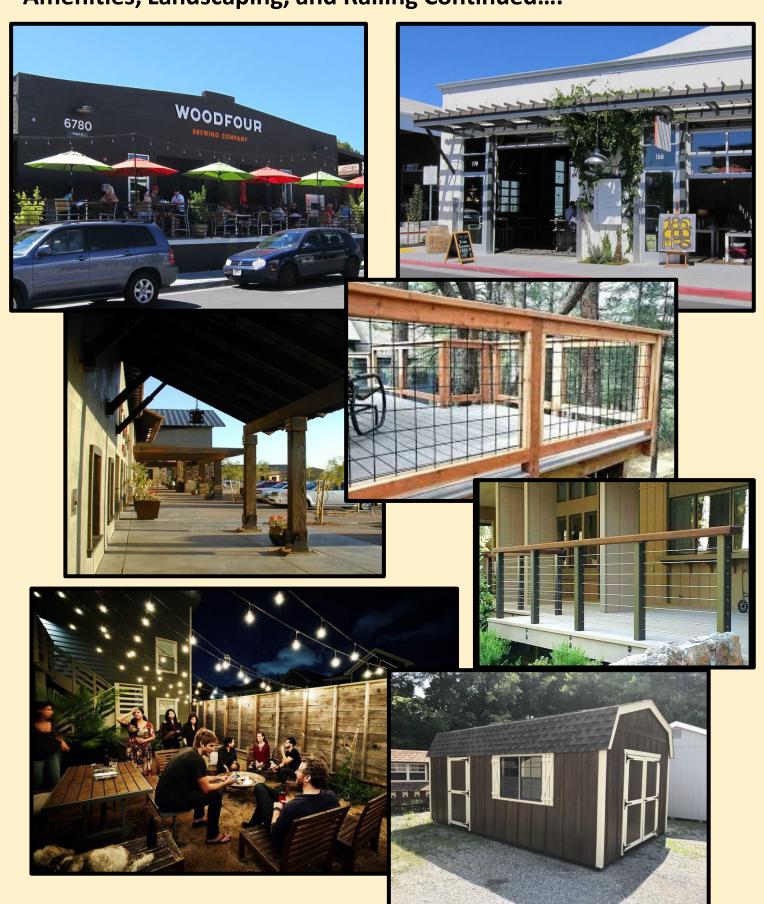
























Canopy's must have industrial ranch materials component to them



Too plain with all simple metal siding. Sheds and accessory buildings should be more industrial ranch in appearance



Too much brick used here as a single siding material, and no balconies



All white railing should not be used or minimized



Wrought iron metal railing may be appropriate if used with industrial ranch architecture on the rest of the project



White privacy fencing shall not be used



This stucco building is too plain, stucco is the only siding material used and the trim is very plain

#### B. Architectural Character

Architectural character should portray a sense of place with a casual, natural, western heritage and industrial feel. Visitors should be able to acknowledge that buildings are vastly different yet charming and more inviting than other structures and services in the region.

# **Appropriate Characteristics**

- Historical, western, rustic, style
- Distinctive, but compatible image

# C. Building Form and Massing

Building design should employ geometric forms and coordinated massing that produce overall unity, scale, and interest with unified composition.

# **Appropriate Treatment**

• Unified composition in accordance with the Master Plan

#### D. Facades

Facades should reflect a coordinated design concept, including the expression of building function, structure, and scale.

# **Appropriate Treatment**

- Straightforward, functional design
- Expression of structure

#### E. Entrances

Entrances should be clearly defined and inviting.

# **Appropriate Treatment**

- Articulation and color for identity and interest
- Light, open, inviting aspect
- Entry space sequence
- Recessed protected doorway
- Integration with the overall building form

# **Inappropriate Treatment**

- Dark, confined appearance
- Abrupt entry space
- Flush doorways

# F. Design Details

Detailing should be clean, clear, and straightforward. Details should reinforce overall design unity, interest, and scale.

# **Appropriate Treatment**

- Expression and alignment of structural connections
- Finishes commensurate with building materials
- Coordinated entry spaces and landscaping

#### G. Roofs

# **Appropriate Treatment**

- Asphalt shingles
- Corrugated metal

# **Inappropriate Treatment**

- Mansard roof forms
- Tile roofing

# H. Mechanical Equipment

All exterior mechanical equipment, including but not limited to: HVAC, electrical equipment, natural gas meters, and storage tanks, must be screened from on-site ground-level view.

#### **Appropriate Treatment**

- Rooftop equipment on flat roofs shall be hidden from off-site view as much as possible by a parapet or screening
- All mechanical screening shall be fully integrated into architectural design
- Ground equipment may be hidden by screening or landscaping
- Screening shall consist of walls, fencing, or similar material as adjacent building walls

# **Inappropriate Treatment**

- Rooftop equipment extending above parapet or screen.
- Rooftop screen too close to building parapet.
- Screen material contrasting with adjacent building materials.
- **I. Materials** Exterior building materials should create an appearance to achieve the "industrial ranch" vision.

#### **Appropriate Materials**

- Corrugated metal
- Barn like materials

- Wood or rustic wood siding
- Tinted or lightly reflective glass
- Textured concrete
- Stucco- should be used with other materials and with sufficient detail
- Brick or stone appropriate as part of material palette, not as sole material.
- Wood beams and siding

# **Inappropriate Materials**

- Smooth, shiny sheet metal
- Contemporary industrial construction materials

#### Other Material

All other materials, including EIFS, concrete masonry, wall tile, glass fiber reinforced concrete, and new technology materials, must be approved by the DRB.

#### J. Exterior Colors

Exterior building colors shall generally maintain compatibility with the rest of the area, while allowing for a variety of colors among projects.

# **Appropriate Treatment**

- Concrete or stone may have a light, natural finish
- Service door and mechanical screen colors are to be the same as the adjacent wall colors

# **Inappropriate Treatment**

- Large areas of dark natural finishes
- Arbitrary patterns, strips
- Garish use of color

# 3.0 Site Planning

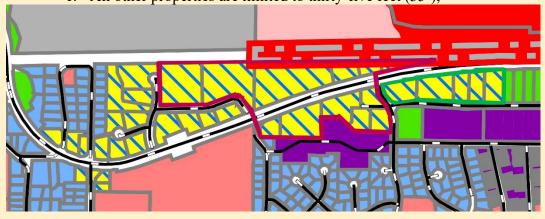
The following requirements present parameters for site coverage, building materials and colors, building height, setbacks, building location, site access, service areas, signage, landscaping, utilities and other objectives for the proposed project.

# A. Maximum Lot Coverage –

- i. Commercial Historical 75%
- ii. Interstate Commercial 75%
- iii. Market District 80%

# B. Maximum Building Height -

- i. Height is measured from the top of the structure to the average finished grade below (including parapets and mechanical screens). Pitched roofs are measured from the midline of the roof. For further definition of "height" refer to the Code.
- ii. Commercial Historical thirty-five feet (35') with first floor heights greater than ten (10') feet encouraged in mixed-use buildings.
- iii. Interstate Commercial All properties shall be limited to sixty feet (60') unless otherwise approved by the DRB, with first floor heights greater than ten (10') feet encouraged in mixed-use buildings.
- iv. Market District
  - a. Properties inside of the dark red boundary line (below) are limited to sixty feet (60') or four (4) stories, whichever is more restrictive;
  - b. Properties inside of the green boundary line (below) are limited to forty-five (45') feet or four (4) stories, whichever is more restrictive;
  - c. All other properties are limited to thirty-five feet (35');



- v. Maximum building heights for accessory uses to the main structures in all three areas is limited to twenty-five feet (25');
- vi. The first floor of mixed-use buildings should be fifteen (15) feet.

# C. Minimum Landscaped or Public Areas

- i. Commercial Historical 0%
- ii. Interstate Commercial 5%
- iii. Market District 10%
- **D.** Setbacks Zero setbacks are required. However, the site shall be evaluated based on a reasonable flow of the site and building location, and buildings will need to meet proper separation construction requirements per the building code.
- E. Building Location Buildings should be arranged to provide convenient access to entrances, efficient on-site circulation for vehicles and pedestrians, and provide an inviting "front" to either the nearest street or group of buildings, creating a sense of shared place. The orientation of multiple buildings on a single site must be clearly coordinated. Buildings are strongly encouraged to be built with zero setbacks to right-of-way, however, additional space for sidewalks, restaurant seating, or other outdoor commercial uses is encouraged where appropriate.
- F. Site Access Sites should generally be limited to one access point per street frontage to minimize disruption of traffic flow, unless shared access driveways are shared by adjacent parcels or there are multiple commercial tenants on one property.
- G. Parking Required parking spaces shall comply with the Code. Off-street parking is highly encouraged to be on the side and/or rear of the building to maximize pedestrian orientation. It is encouraged to screen surface parking with buildings, landscaping, and other features that prevent dead spaces for pedestrians.
- H. Pedestrian Circulation Safe, clear pedestrian circulation must be provided between buildings, parking areas, and entries on all sites. Therefore, buildings are encouraged to be built adjacent to sidewalks to maximize pedestrian orientation of the environment.

# I. Service Areas –

- i. Service, maintenance, loading, and refuse collection areas are to be located out of view by public roadways and buildings on adjacent sites, or screened by dense landscaping and/or architectural barriers.
- ii. Service areas should be located so that service vehicles have clear and convenient access and incur minimal disruption for other vehicle and pedestrian circulation.
- **J. Grading and Drainage** Grading and drainage shall be designed so that surface drainage reaches the appropriate off-site location.
- **K. Utilities** All utility systems are to be installed underground. Necessary aboveground equipment (such as backflow preventers, transformers, natural gas meters, and irrigation controllers) should be located away from the street frontage.

#### L. Walls and Fences –

- i. Walls, when used, must be designed and built of materials and finishes that are an integral part of the overall architectural or landscaping design concept.
- ii. Fences Maximum fence height in the front of projects shall be three feet six inches (3'6") and a maximum height of six feet (6') in the side or rear.
- iii. Refuse enclosure walls must be at least 6'0" high.
- iv. Fences may be used to cordon off restaurant seating areas, help direct pedestrian traffic flow, or as barriers from steep drop-off situations. Fences in these examples shall be built of materials and finishes that are an integral part of the overall architectural design concept.
- M. Temporary and Shade/Weather Protection Structures Temporary and permanent shade/weather protection structures are allowed but must be used for outdoor seating and be uniform in design.

# 4.0 Landscaping and/or Public Areas

Landscaping and public areas are important elements contributing to the identity and unity of the area. As such, landscaping and public areas need to promote a pleasant, distinctive, creative, high-quality, and entertaining environment.

- **A. General Landscaping Design** The following requirements present parameters for general landscape design, streetscapes, and on-site landscaping.
  - i. All landscaping zones and areas not covered by structures or paving must be planted with trees, shrubs, and/or groundcovers in a fully integrated landscaping design.
  - ii. All trees shall be a minimum size of twenty-four twenty-four-inch (24") box or the equivalent of two-inch (2") diameter, and six feet (6') tall for evergreens and eight feet (8') tall for all others when installed.
  - iii. All vegetated landscaped areas are to be provided with a complete and automatic irrigation system. This system must conform to all requirements of the Town of Gypsum. It must be designed to minimize irrigation run-off onto streets or adjacent properties. All landscaping to be maintained and replaced if vegetation ever dies, is replaced with different species approved by DRB, or site is redesigned.
- **B.** Public Areas Public areas such as general seating, music/games areas, art displays, fountains, etc... can be exchanged for up to 50% of the required landscaped area. Areas limited to specific business uses, such as outdoor seating for a restaurant, may count for no more than 50% of public areas.

# 5.0 Lighting

# A. Objectives

Exterior lighting will be provided to enhance the safety and security of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. Lighting is intended to create a nighttime character that reinforces the images as a quality business location.

As with landscaping and signs, lighting is also an important element contributing to the identity and unity. All exterior lighting is to be generally consistent in height, spacing, color, and type of fixture throughout the area. All lighting must conform to the Code.

**B.** Street Lighting – Public Street lighting is being coordinated by the Town. .

# C. General On-Site Lighting Parameters

To ensure consistency, on-site lighting must conform to the overall lighting parameters, including the following:

- i. On-site lighting includes lighting for parking areas, vehicular, and pedestrian circulation, building exteriors, service areas, landscaping, security and special effects.
- ii. All lighting must conform to the Code.
- iii. All exterior on-site lighting must be shielded, down directional, and confined within site boundaries. No direct rays or glare are permitted to shine onto public streets or adjacent lots.
- iv. Lighting fixtures are to be of rustic ranching or industrial design.
- v. The location and design of all lighting must be approved by the DRB.
- vi. Dark Sky compliant/inspired lighting plans are encouraged by not required.

# D. Vehicular Circulation and Parking Area Lighting

All vehicular circulation and parking lot lighting shall have full cutoff fixtures. Pole height shall be as follows:

- i. Vehicular Circulation 25' Maximum
- ii. Parking Area 20' Maximum

# **E.** Pedestrian Circulation Lighting

Pedestrian walkways and building entries will be illuminated to provide walkway lighting. They must have full cut-off fixtures mounted at a uniform height for pedestrian orientation and to clearly identify a secure route between parking areas and points of entry to the building. Lighting shall be no more than eight feet (8') above the walkway. Building entries may be lit with soffit, bollard, step, or comparable lighting.

Pedestrian lighting shall be subdued or as approved by the DRB.

# F. Architectural Lighting

Architectural lighting effects are encouraged to promote nighttime identity and character. Acceptable lighting includes wall washing, overhead down lighting, and interior lighting that spills outside. Entry areas should be lit so as to provide an inviting glow from the interior.

# **G.** Service Area Lighting

Service area and security lighting must be visible only within the limits of the service area.

Wall-mounted, security-type, service area lighting fixtures may be used only in screened service areas and only if direct light and glare are kept within these areas. In all other areas, wall-mounted service lighting must consist of cut-off type fixtures.

Service area security lighting may not be substituted for pedestrian, architectural, or parking area lighting.

Freestanding fixtures shall be the same color as parking area fixtures. Any wall-mounted fixtures should be compatible with the wall.

# H. Accent Lighting

Unique lighting may be used to feature architectural elements, landscaping, entries, and pedestrian areas, provided it is compatible with all other lighting. Accent lighting, such as hanging or string lights, may be used as long as bulbs produce a subdued lighting atmosphere.

# I. Sign Program

All exterior signage, including monument or building-mounted tenant identification signs, directional signs, address numerals, informational or regulatory signs, and temporary marketing signs, must be located and designed according to the Code.

# 6.0 Design Review Board and Review Procedure

#### A. Design Review Board ("DRB")

Town of Gypsum Design Review Board consists of members appointed by the Town Council of the Town of Gypsum. Gypsum contracts with an architect to review applications for compliance with these design regulations. The contract architect and staff will inform the DRB regarding compliance of the application with the Design Guidelines and relevant sections of the Town Code, make recommendations for the DRB to consider during project reviews, and perform site inspections.

# **B.** Design Review Procedure

A design review process has been established by the Town of Gypsum to ensure that all development designated on the Town of Gypsum Official Zone Map as requiring Master Plan Design Requirements, meet the requirements set forth in this document. This review covers site planning, architecture, landscaping, public spaces, exterior lighting, exterior signage, tenant improvements and renovations if any changes are made to the exterior of the buildings.

The Town DRB is responsible for the Airport Gateway Design and Sign Guidelines, however, those regulations are in separate documents.

The design review procedure is divided into three steps: Design Development Review, Construction Document Review, and Compliance Verification. Each step is subject to the following:

Step 1: Design Development Review: All new building(s), land improvement(s), new installation(s) or replacement(s) of signs must be made prior to the finalization of construction drawings for the project. Once the Design Development Review is approved, the applicant can move forward with Construction Document Review.

Step 2: Construction Document Review: All new building(s) or land improvement(s) must be made prior to the submittal for a building permit. Once Construction Document Review is approved, the applicant can move forward with submittal of a building permit.

(Note: Minor site or building revisions may be allowed to occur together with approval of the Town of Gypsum Community Development Director)

Step 3: Compliance Verification on all projects must be completed prior to the Town of Gypsum Building Department issuing a permanent certificate of occupancy.

Formal submittals for design review must be made to the Town of Gypsum, at each of the design review steps above. Official approval must be obtained in writing at each design review step.

Although informal phone inquiries and meetings with the DRB and/or contracted staff are encouraged, all verbal comments and approvals are considered advisory and unofficial.

New building(s), building modification(s), and non-compliant sign(s) reviews shall be brought before the Design Review Board at a public meeting

Sign reviews, fences, temporary or permanent shade or weather protections, and/or landscaping associated with an outside storage conditional use permit, up to 3 minor building adjustments during Construction Document Review, and up to 3 minor landscape adjustments during Construction Document Review or post approval from Compliance Verification shall be determined by the Town of Gypsum Community Development Director or their designee.

Repair, maintenance, and replacement that matches existing landscaping or building materials exactly will not require a DRB application.

# C. Design Review Submittal Timeline

Submittals will be reviewed by the DRB at the scheduled first Wednesday of the month meeting date. Meetings are held as needed. Sign submittals will be expedited if possible.

# D. Submittal Requirements

# **Pre-Application (Optional)**

Prospective applicants shall have the option of a pre-application meeting with staff only and/or the Design Review Board. Pre-application meetings provide no approval or guarantee of approval. They are meant to clarify design criteria and requirements, brainstorm/problem-solve, and allow prospective applicants to assess the priorities of the Design Review Board. The prospective applicant will be required to provide hourly compensation for the architectural reviewer's time.

Submissions for pre-application must contain at a minimum:

- 1. Schematic Design Level Drawings
- 2. Any additional documentation the applicant has prepared is welcome.

#### **Step 1: Design Development Review**

This review covers specific designs for site planning, architecture, landscaping, exterior lighting, exterior signage, tenant improvements and renovations. For new developments at this stage, site planning is particularly important and should be well developed.

One complete project drawing set provided electronically through the Town's online submission portal.

Drawings must contain, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Site plans and related information, including parcel number, site area, building floor area, gross site area to gross floor area ratio (FAR), parking data, setback dimensions, an aerial map including subject property and surrounding uses, retaining walls, grading and drainage plans.
- 2. Architectural drawings that include architectural design elements, including but not limited to: floor plan(s), exterior elevations based on proposed and existing grade along with elevations of significant features indicated, section(s) with shading & shadowing, materials indicated and hatching for different materials, eaves, window trim(s), base trim(s) and any other relevant architectural feature.
- 3. Final floor plans
- 4. Sample board of materials, colors, and finishes to be delivered to the Town of Gypsum.
- 5. Landscaping design, including location, sizes, types of plant materials, and types of ground cover. A landscaping plan with grading and drainage plans combined on the same sheet.
- 6. Exterior lighting design, including location, pole heights, fixture type and color.
- 7. Exterior signage design, including location, dimensions, materials, colors, topography, and illumination.
- 8. 3D Drawings/ Renderings for new buildings, building modifications, or whenever required for adequate description of proposed designs. This is required for new buildings or building modifications.
- 9. Site Photos.
- 10. Any other pertinent information

Approval, approval with conditions, or denial, including reasons for denial, will be provided in writing within seven days of the DRB decision.

#### **Step 2: Construction Document Review**

This review covers all necessary construction documents. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the design approved in the design development review is carried into final construction documents, and that conditions placed on design development approval are resolved.

Construction Document Review will be completed through the submission of a building permit application to the Building Department. They must contain, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Final site plans and related data, including grading, drainage, plumbing, and electrical, and locations of any above-grade infrastructure equipment (including backflow preventers, transformers, and irrigation controllers).
- 2. Final architectural plans, elevations, & sections;
- 3. Final material, finish and color list or sample board;
- 4. Final landscaping and irrigation plans;
- 5. Final exterior lighting plans, including fixture illustrations colors and pole heights;

- 6. Final exterior signage plans, including locations and designs;
- 7. Pertinent details and specifications;
- 8. Construction schedule;
- 9. Any other relevant information.

All architectural, landscaping and engineering drawings and specifications are to be prepared and signed by a registered architect and professional engineer licensed to practice in Colorado unless waived by the Design Review Board.

Approval, approval with conditions, or denial, including reasons for denial, will be provided in writing with the decision of the building permit.

# **Step 3: Compliance Verification**

Construction will be monitored to verify compliance with design guidelines and approved construction documents. Compliance verification is required prior to final certificate of occupancy by the Town of Gypsum.

# E. Appeals

Appeals to modify the conditions of approved construction documents must be submitted to the Town of Gypsum in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 18.16 of the Gypsum Municipal Code.

- 1. Before approving a request for a variance to the structure or sign the Board of Adjustment shall determine that:
  - a. There are special circumstances or conditions such as the existence of buildings, topography, vegetation, sign structures, or other matters on adjacent lots or within the adjacent public right-of-way which would substantially restrict the effectiveness of the circumstances or conditions must be peculiar to the particular business or enterprise to which the applicant desires to draw attention and which do not apply generally to all businesses or enterprises.
  - b. The variance of the structure or sign, if authorized, will not weaken the general purpose of these guidelines.
  - c. The variance of the structure or sign, if authorized, will not alter the essential character of the zone district in which it is located.
  - d. The variance of the structure or sign, if authorized, will not cause a material adverse effect on the neighborhood involved or on the Town.

# F. Non-Compliance

- 1. Construction or alteration of buildings, signs, and/or landscaping subject to these Design Requirements without approval by the Design Review Board or their designee shall incur a fine of \$1,000 \$10,000 per day of violation.
- **7.0 Fees** All work completed on the exterior of existing structures, including but not limited to, walls, roofs, parking areas, landscaping, windows, and signage require approval from the DRB, except during maintenance and repair of exterior items that are being repaired with same materials, same color, and existed in the same location prior to repair.

- **A.** New construction application fees: For vacant lots being planned for development, an application to the Town of Gypsum is due prior to review by the DRB. This review includes up to two reviews and two meetings with the DRB and two site visits or inspections to determine compliance with DRB approvals. The aforementioned professional review services are paid for by Gypsum in cooperation with achieving the specified design visions. Costs for additional meetings, reviews, or inspections shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- **B.** Major modifications of existing buildings and/or sites: Changes being made to existing sites, such as building additions, major landscaping modifications, etc... require an application to the Town of Gypsum prior to review by the DRB. This review includes up to one review, one DRB meeting, and two site visits. The aforementioned mentioned professional review services are paid for by Gypsum in cooperation with achieving the specified design visions. Costs for additional meetings or inspections shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- C. Minor modifications of existing buildings and/or sites: Changes being made to revise portions of a building facade, minor landscaping, color changes, etc... require an application to the Town of Gypsum prior to review by the DRB. This review includes one review, one DRB meeting, and two site visits. The aforementioned professional review services are paid for by Gypsum in cooperation with achieving the specified design visions. Costs for additional meetings or inspections shall be the responsibility of the applicant.