

VII. FENCING AND RAILINGS (AND TEMPORARY BARRICADES)

A. Narrative

Fencing in urban contexts should work with the spatial definition of the street as well as complement the adjacent architecture. It can also be used to conceal service and loading areas as well as reduce the negative impact of noise and wind on an important open space. Fencing can also convey a sense of protection and privacy.

A railing should express the character of the architectural façade to which it is attached. Railings may be located at parapets, at balconies, or act as accents over fenestration. Metal railings should be appropriately protected from deterioration, with colors and finishes that complement the architectural façade. Railing design brings scale and detailing to the building's façade and establishes a finer visual amenity at the street.

In the Business District, fencing may be of metal, masonry, a combination of both non-plastic or composite materials, or any other approved materials. Metal fencing design is developed through a selection of picket styles and their repetition between posts, as well as through the detailing of the posts and various connection points. Its overall height, the thickness of the pickets, and their regular spacing will convey its particular sense of enclosure.

The design of a masonry screenwall, is articulated through the choice of its brick patterning and the coordination of its colors and textures. The location and emphasis of shadow lines can also be used as a design element when the placement of brick projections is considered.

Temporary barricades, on the other hand, are used at street entrances to allow only short-term alterations of its function as a vehicular passageway. They play no permanent role in the routine life of the street, but they are critical in allowing the community to periodically claim their public realm for certain special or festive occasions.





B. Guidelines

1. Railing design is typically the manipulation of metal bars into traditional forms that are then applied as features of the architectural façade. When placed in succession along a length of a façade, they create a pattern. In the Business District, those forms and patterns may be innovative or traditional, as well as referential to the area's historical importance.
2. Railing design may use metal bars that vary from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to 2 inches or greater. Bar thickness should be determined by the level of refinement desired in the design and the distance or height from which it will be viewed. For any continuous fencing, metal color finishes shall be coordinated and complementary to their architectural context.
3. Exposed metal should be treated to withstand oxidation, corrosion, and deterioration from airborne salts in coastal environments. Fencing may be of metal, stone, masonry, or an approved combination thereof. Metals should be bronze, brass, stainless steel, steel painted of a color or colors which are compatible with finishes of adjacent buildings, or other approved materials.
4. Metal fencing and gates typically are made up of horizontal rails that attach to thicker metal posts. This basic framework provides an adequate structure that can then easily support a variety of picket designs and panels.
5. Metal fence posts may be 1"-4" thick of square or round tubing that may be steel or aluminum. They are typically set in concrete footings. Metal fence rails may be $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1" thick of square or round tubing or solid bars that may be steel or aluminum.
6. Consider maintenance access when selecting the location or placement of fencing and railings. It should remain easy to reach all sides that require periodic paint or coating applications, mortar replacement, anchoring, inspection, and cleaning.
7. Drainage along the bases of metal fencing and screenwalls should be provided so that unintended surface water does not collect behind these elements.