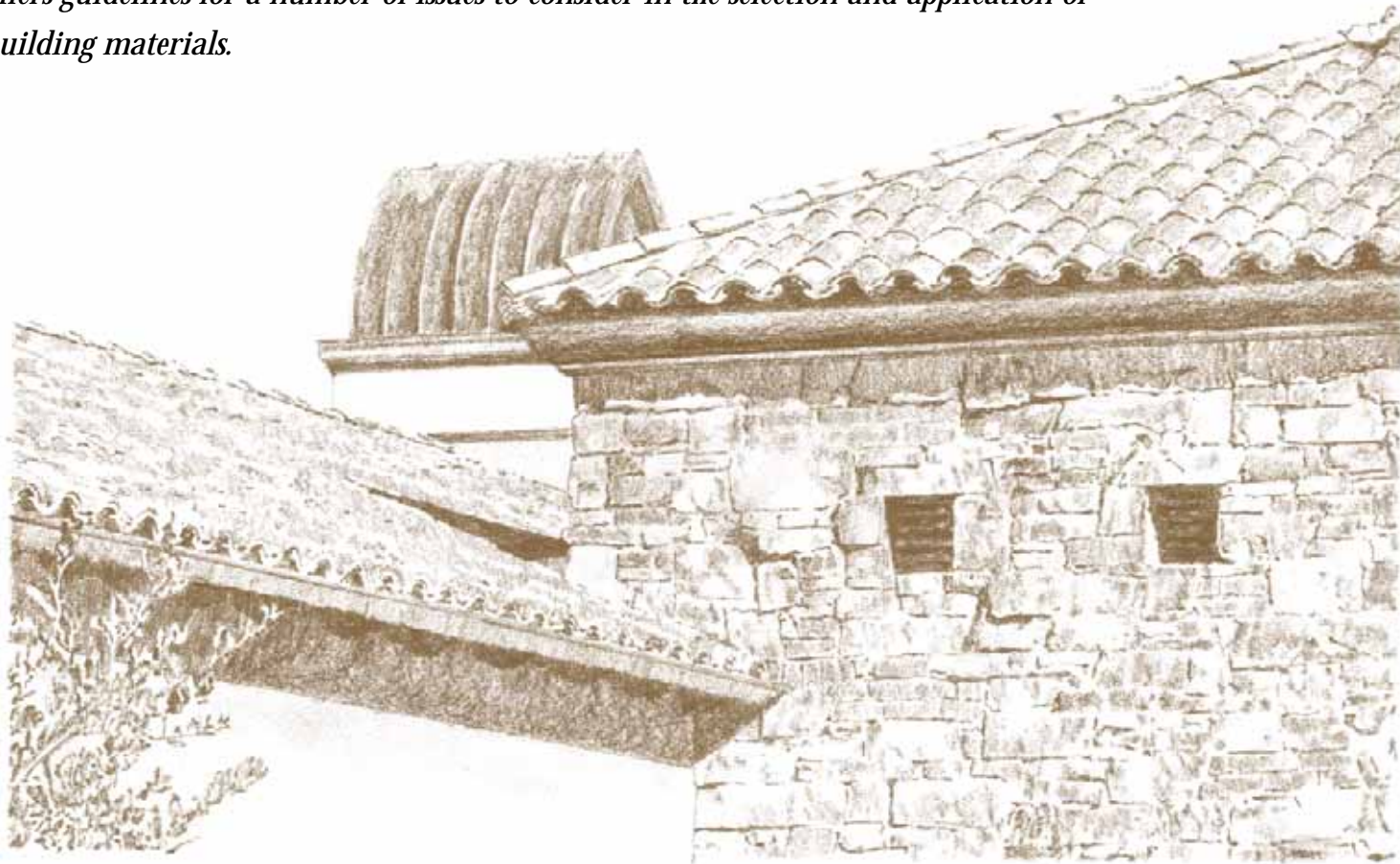


Building materials and the embodiment of their physical properties and characteristics are important components in the delineation of an architectural style. This chapter offers guidelines for a number of issues to consider in the selection and application of building materials.





A. Residential Character

Building materials should be consistent with the architectural design style of the residence.



B. Appropriate Detailing

The choice of materials should be properly scaled to the residence.

Overly large areas of glass should be avoided unless appropriate to the architectural style.

C. Appropriate Palette

Building materials should not be individual components of a building but should instead fit into the larger design palette consistent with the style. Physical properties of the materials, such as texture, color and weight, should maintain an aesthetic and stylistic relationship to each other and the architectural design style of the building.



D. Quality of Materials

Building materials and architectural finishes should possess physical properties and allow for appropriate maintenance procedures that ensure a long lifespan for the selected material.

The specified building materials or architectural finishes should be appropriate to the architectural style of the residence.





1. Exterior Plaster

Exterior plaster stucco is an appropriate material for many architectural styles. The application of plaster stucco should be carefully specified to be consistent with both the architectural style and the neighborhood context.

Many techniques for the application of plaster stucco can be observed in Hillsborough. Where its use has proven most successful is on those homes for which designers have utilized techniques such as modulation of the surface texture, integral color and specific attention to the design and arrangement of control joints to maintain a consistency with a particular architectural style.



2. Stone

The use of stone should be in keeping with its inherent physical properties of weight and compressive strength. When using stone as a veneer, it should be considered carefully and the design should be detailed in a way that avoids a non-authentic appearance. The veneer should represent as much as possible the inherent materiality of stone as a heavy, weight-bearing material.

3. Wood Siding

Wood is an appropriate primary or secondary façade material for a number of architectural styles. The Bay Region Style in particular, which has many examples on the San Francisco Peninsula, makes use of various species of wood as a façade material in applications that include shingles, board and batten, or horizontal siding, as well as decorative applications.



E. Detailing

Building material details such as special trim or molding, wall sconces, inlaid tile or wall niches should be consistent with the scale of the residence and the architectural style.

The use of large material components on small architectural elements should be avoided.

The fastening of façade components and the connections of adjacent materials should be appropriately scaled and of a proportionate strength to the materials being attached.



To avoid the use of materials as simple veneers, changes in building materials should not occur at the corners of walls or at changes in a façade plane.

Materials that express a significant component of the building, or otherwise add richness, such as the base or primary façade material, should be consistently applied to all sides of a building. Emphasis on the principal façade with lesser treatment on other façades is discouraged.

“The style of the house is determined in no small degree by the material of which it is constructed, and this in turn is to a large measure regulated by cost or availability.”

The Simple Home

F. Color

The appropriate use of color can make a strong contribution to the quality and richness of a building.

1. Building Color

The use of primary colors should be avoided.

The selected colors should be authentic and representative of the architectural style of the building.

Changes in building colors should not occur at the corners of walls or at changes in a façade plane.

Architectural details, such as eaves, window and door trim and the building base, are appropriate features for the use of accent colors. Accent colors should be harmonious with the primary color(s) and part of an appropriate palette.

Generally, flat sheen paint is preferred for wall surfaces while higher sheen or glossy paint can be appropriate for trim features.

2. Landscape Color

Landscape features should exhibit a range of colors that is complimentary to both the building and the setting.