Contemporary appliances and home improvements, such as solar panels, large antennae and other exterior technological innovations are not generally found in the vocabulary of architectural styles. Installation of these devices impacts the site as well as the neighboring homes. Therefore, the placement of these accessory items needs to be carefully considered and regulated.
A. Antennae

Satellite antennae or dishes shall be installed in such a way as to not be visible from streets or neighboring properties. If the installation of the device is on the front façade, appropriate screening shall be installed.

“A satellite dish or other equipment mounted on a house should be screened from public view by trees or landscaping.”

“The appearance of buildings is obviously an important consideration for architects: the aim is to achieve not only beauty and grace but also propriety.”

The Most Beautiful House in the World
B. Solar Panels

The Town supports the use of solar and other alternative energy sources and provides these advisory guidelines to reduce potential visual impacts of solar energy systems.

If possible, solar collectors should not be installed on a roof surface that faces the street.

A solar energy system should not extend beyond the ridge or other edges of the roof.

Any tree trimming and/or removal that is performed to make the system more efficient should be kept to a minimum.

Unless a hardship exists, solar panels should comply with the setback requirements of the Hillsborough Municipal Code and the State Solar Shade Control Act.

Exposed pipes and other material for the system should be of an integral color that does not contrast with the color of the adjacent roof or wall surface. Should integral color not be feasible, it is recommended that the pipes are painted.

Before finalizing plans, applicants should consult with neighbor(s) regarding the planned location, size and appearance of the solar panels, especially if the panels will be visible.
C. Skylights

The installation of roof-mounted skylights should not create visual impacts for neighboring properties. Other solutions should be explored, such as chimney skylights and dormers.

Roof-mounted skylights should not be installed on a roof surface that faces a street.

The color of the glazing on roof-mounted skylights should be clear or tinted a color that does not contrast with the roof color. Mirrored glass shall not be used.

Roof-mounted skylights should not transmit excessive amounts of interior building light when dark.