

Session 3:

DESIGN OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Excelsior and Outer Mission Land Use and Housing Working Group

11/30/2017

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**EXCELSIOR
OUTER MISSION**

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY



City & County of
San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

CONTENTS & AGENDA

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Welcome and Introductions

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Presentation and Discussion

- Housing and Other Land Uses on the Corridor
- Neighborhood Character

5

Strategies to Promote Good Urban Form

6

Summary and Next Steps

Design Matters.

Why?

What is design?

ASPECTS OF DESIGN WE'LL COVER TODAY

1

Housing and Other Land Uses on the Corridor

- Unit density –How Many Housing Units?
- Height –How Tall?
- Function –How Does a Unit Function?

2

Neighborhood Character

- Promoting Great Streets
- Architecture and Urban Design Guidelines
- Historic Preservation

AN OVERVIEW ON DENSITY



**What does density
mean to you?**

BENEFITS OF DENSITY



**REDUCING
AUTOMOBILE
DEPENDENCE**



**SUPPORTING
DIVERSE TRANSIT
OPTIONS**



**INCREASING
AMENITIES +
SERVICES**

A wide, pedestrian-friendly city street lined with tall, leafy trees and historic buildings. People are walking, and there are outdoor cafe seating areas with umbrellas on the left. The scene is bright and lively, suggesting a walkable neighborhood.

WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

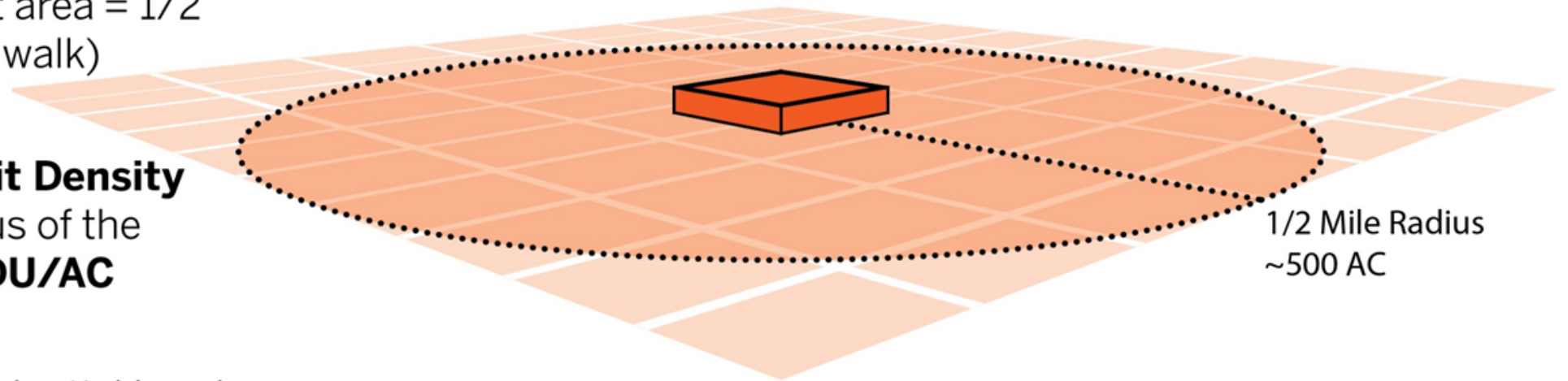
CRITICAL THRESHOLDS GROCERY

It takes ~10,000 households
to support a full-service
supermarket (50,000sf)¹

Walkable catchment area = 1/2
mile radius (10 min. walk)

Gross Dwelling Unit Density
within 1/2 mile radius of the
supermarket = **20 DU/AC**

Assuming 35% Residential Land,
Average Net Parcel Density =
57 DU/AC



¹: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. *Visualizing Density*. <http://www.lincolnst.edu/subcenters/visualizing-density/>



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Station Center Family Housing by David Baker Architects. Photo: Bruce Damonte.



GREAT PARKS

EFFECTIVE TRANSIT



A woman in a white polo shirt and blue skirt is riding a bicycle towards the camera on a wooden bridge. Behind her, a man in a light blue shirt and khaki shorts is riding away. The bridge has a dark metal railing. To the left, a canal with several boats is visible. In the background, there are modern multi-story buildings with large windows and balconies. The scene is bright and sunny.

SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY LIVING

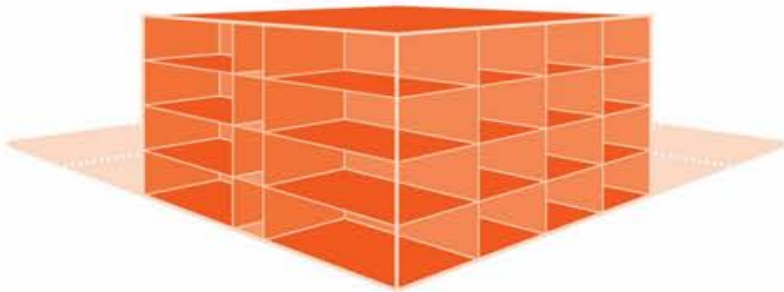
Why do you think some of these positive things are connected to

DENSITY?

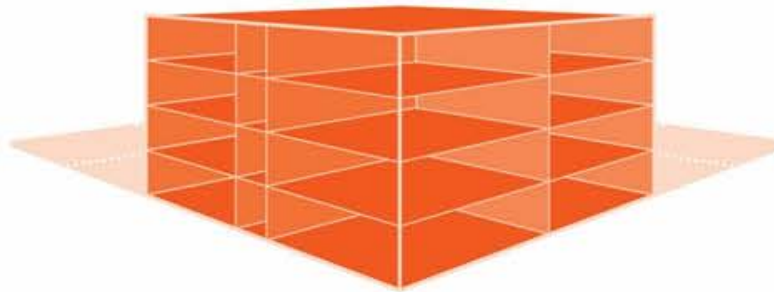


ONE WAY TO MEASURE DENSITY

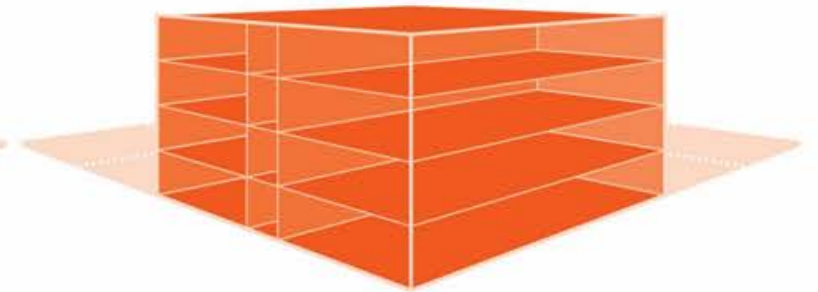
Equivalent Urban Form can result in a wide range of dwelling units!



32 UNITS

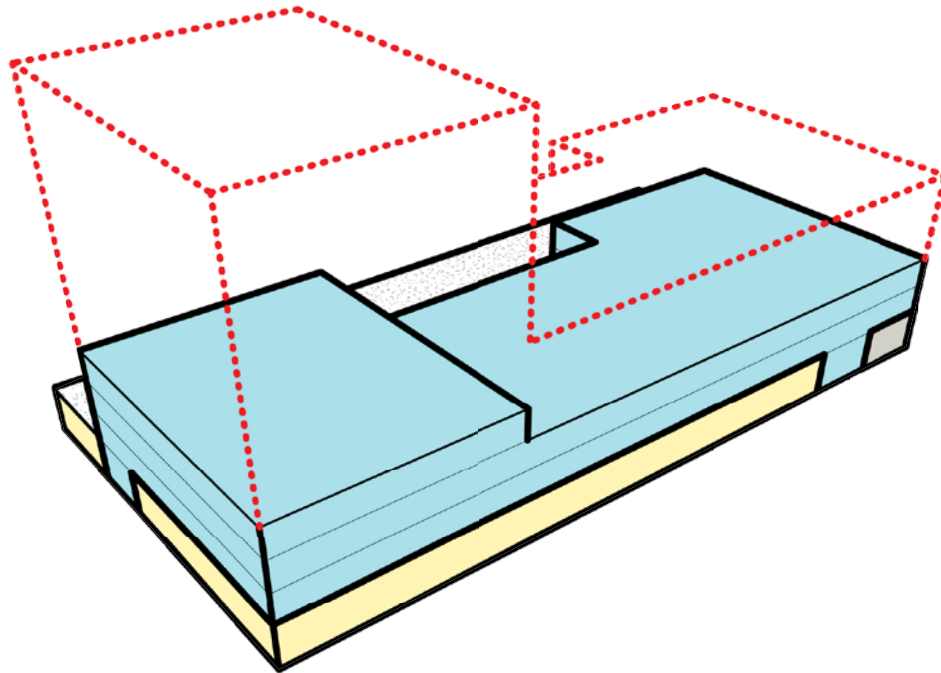


16 UNITS



8 UNITS

HOW WE DO DENSITY (UNITS/AREA) IN SAN FRANCISCO



BASE CASE

Building Envelope

- Existing Height Limit
- Commercial and Parking
- Residential, Under Existing Controls

NC-3

130-E

35,000 sf Lot Area

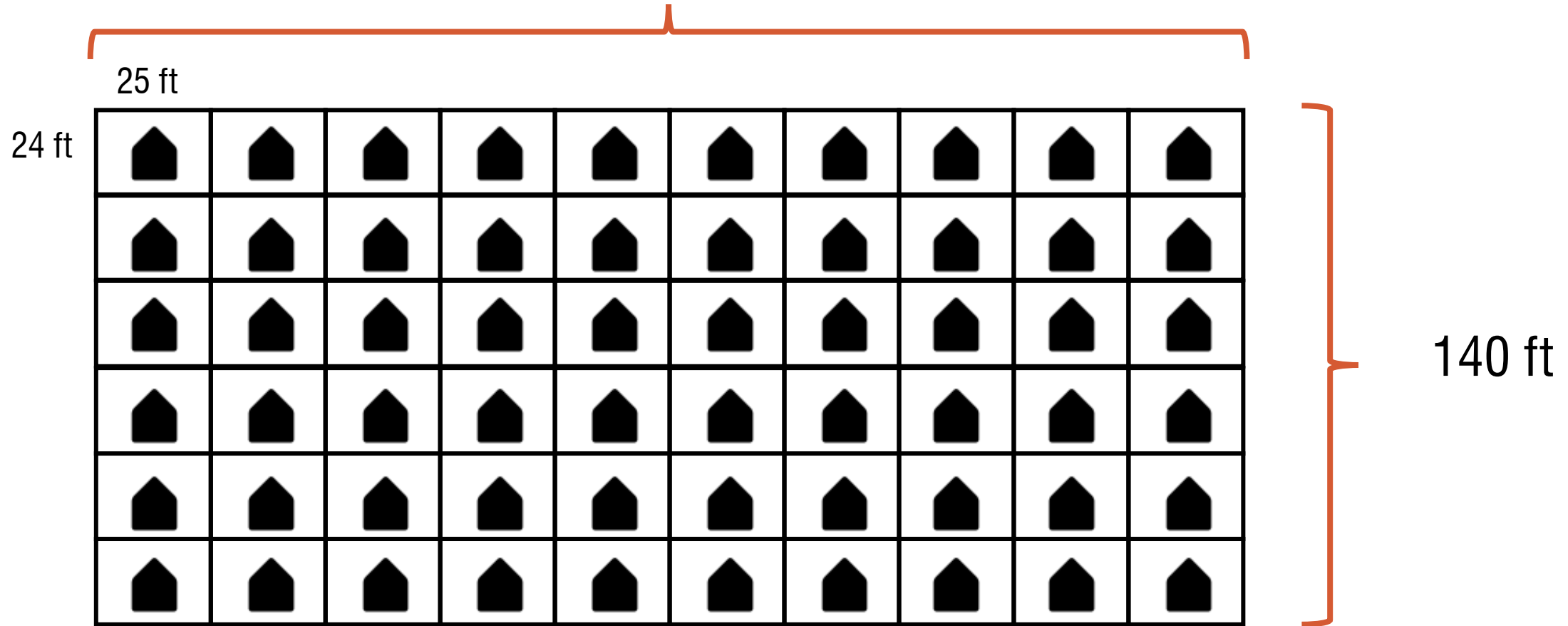
Density: 1/600 sf

60 Units Allowed

- Encouraging density allows more housing to be developed on a parcel of land.
- For example, building to the red dotted line instead of the yellow & blue boxes.

WHICH MEANS...

250 ft



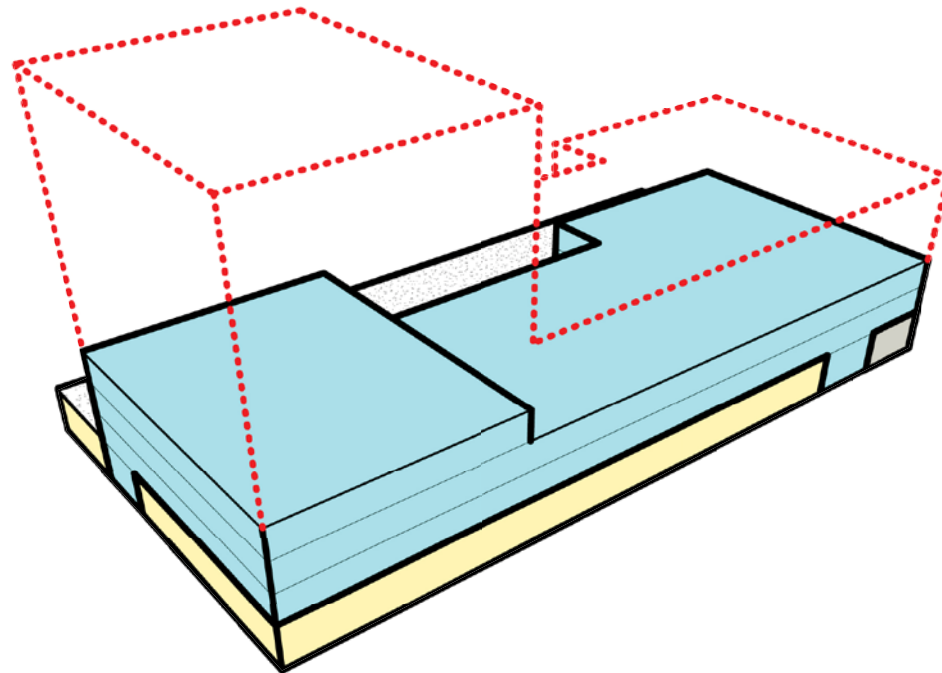
Site area:

Unit density:

$$35,000 \text{ sq ft} \div 600 \text{ sq ft} \approx 60 \text{ units}$$



HOW WE DO DENSITY (UNITS/AREA) IN SAN FRANCISCO



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35,000 sf Lot Area

Density: 1/600 sf

60 Units Allowed

- Current methods can make projects financially infeasible.
- For example, building to the red dotted line instead of the yellow & blue boxes.

IMPACT OF LOW-DENSITY REGULATIONS

1 Decreases population and limits the variety of amenities and services

2 Infrastructure costs more and serves fewer people

3 Higher per unit housing cost

4 Harder to build housing

5 Results in exclusionary neighborhoods

6 Less housing means fewer affordable units

NAME THAT DENSITY

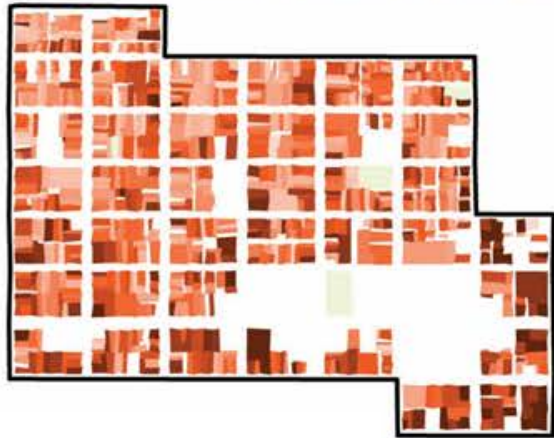


NAME THAT DENSITY

Corner of Steiner and Hayes
300 du/ac

Painted Ladies, San Francisco, CA
25 du/ac





NOB HILL, SAN FRANCISCO

Density Range: **5 du/ac - 766 DU/AC**

Average net residential parcel density: **121 du/ac**

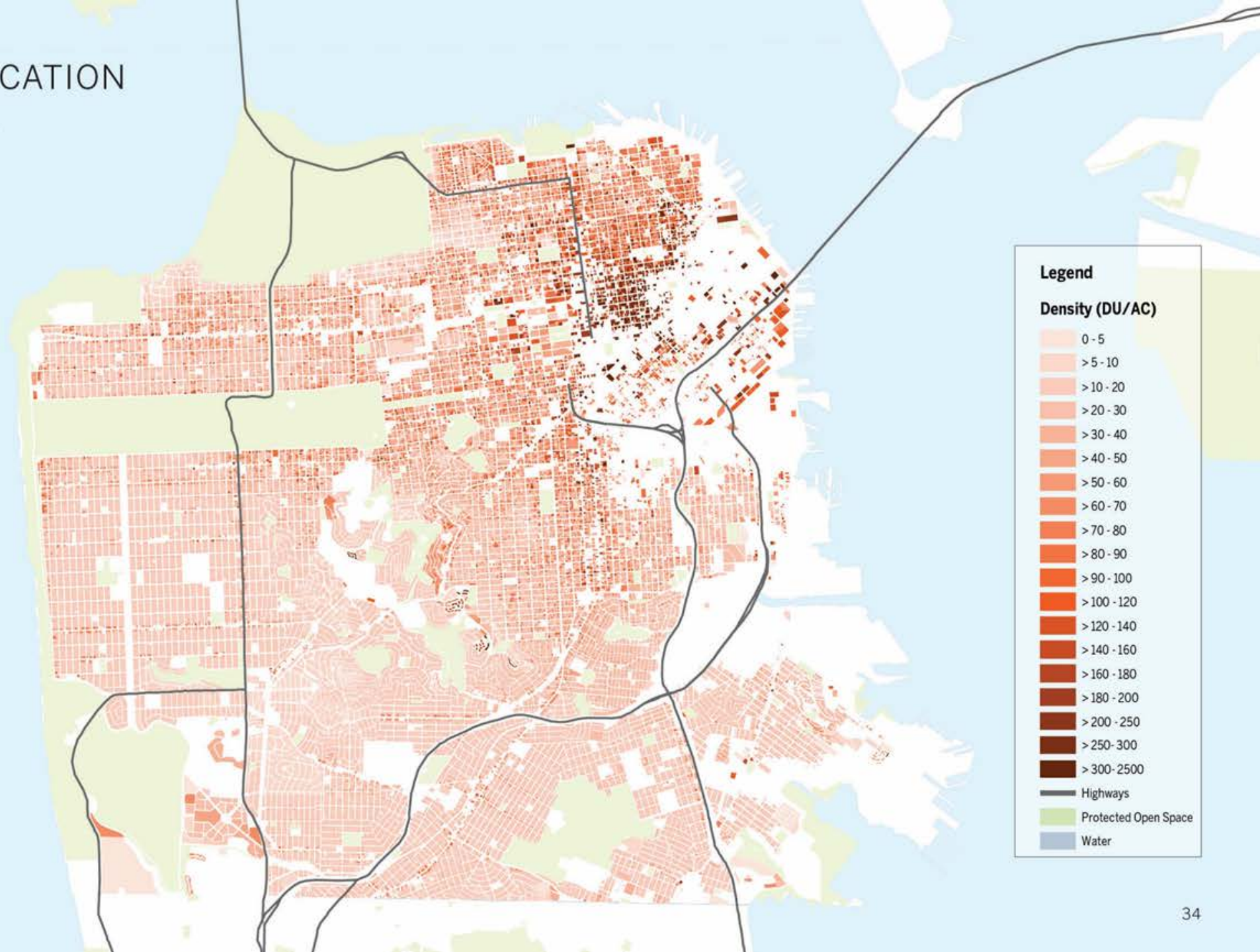
Neighborhood residential density: **94 du/ac**

Gross district density: **63.8 du/ac**

SCALES OF QUANTIFICATION INDIVIDUAL PARCELS

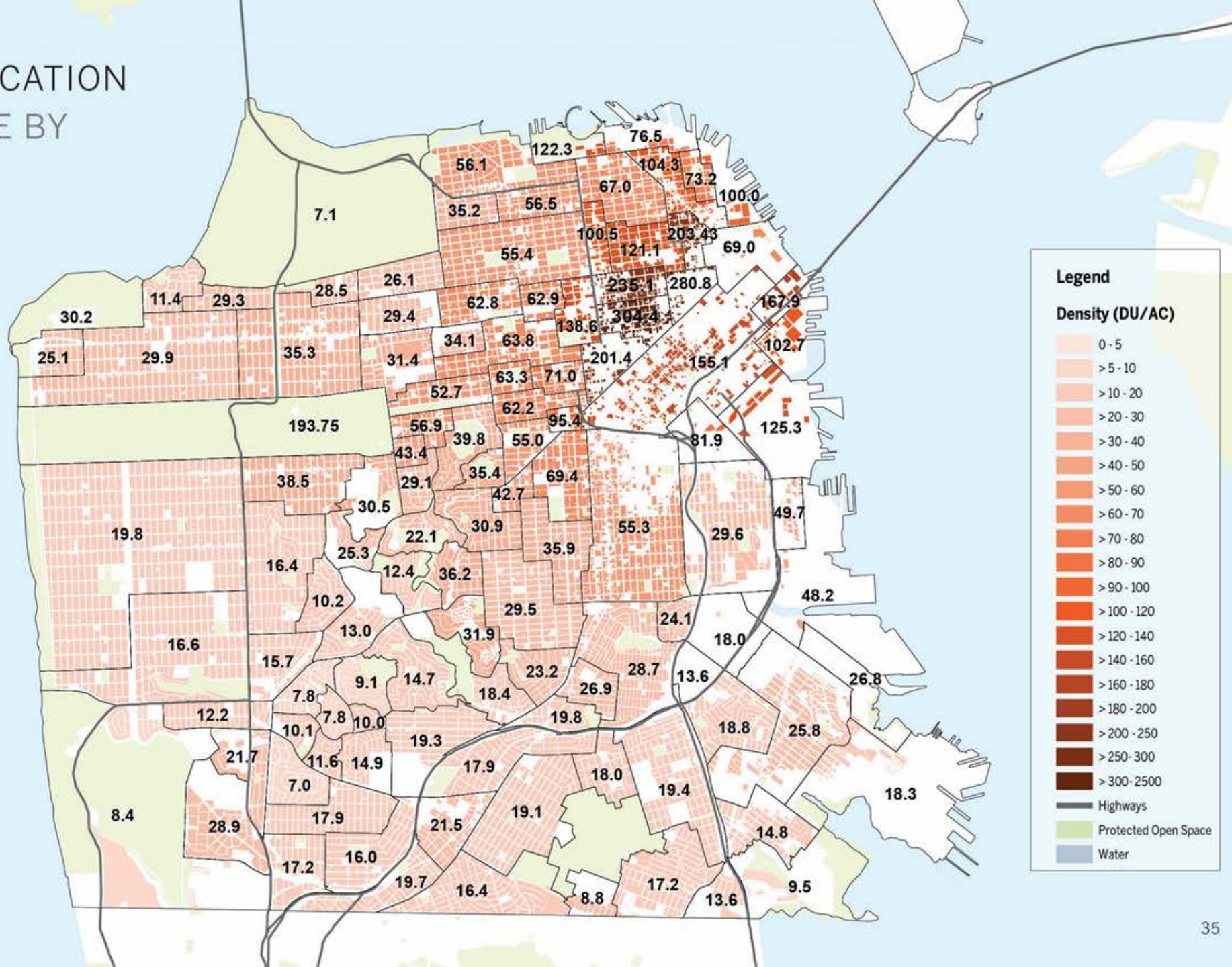
S.F. has **~364,500 DU**
on about 10,600 acres
of residential parcel
area

Individual parcel
density varies widely
from **< 1 DU/AC** to
2500 DU/AC



SCALES OF QUANTIFICATION NET PARCEL AVERAGE BY NEIGHBORHOOD

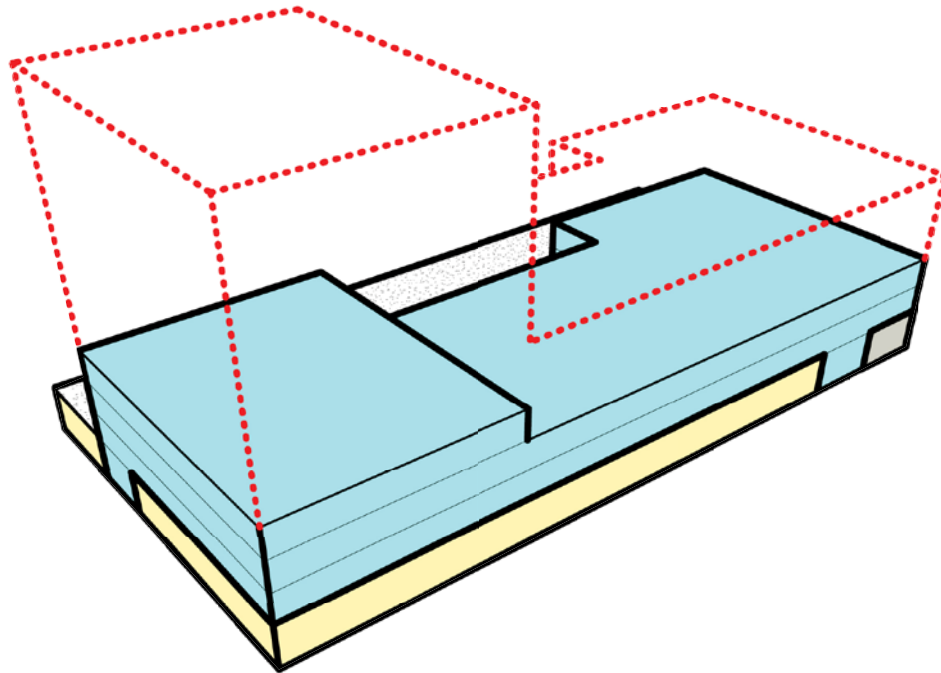
Citywide, the Average
Net Residential Parcel
Density **~34.4 DU/AC**



HOW WE COULD REGULATE DENSITY

Local zoning could allow property owners and developers to build up to the red line below, without changing the building height.

“Density De-Control” allows developers to maximize the existing buildable area.



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- Residential, Under Existing Controls

NC-3

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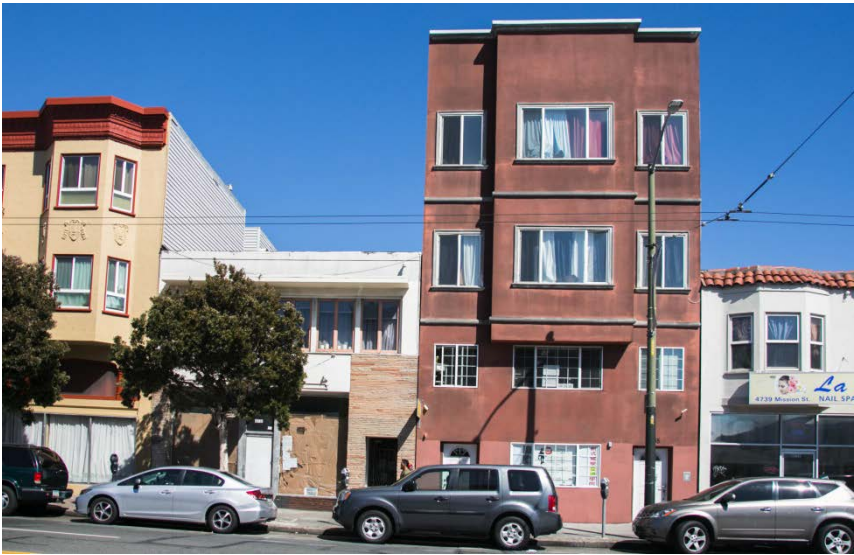
HOUSING AND OTHER LAND USES ON THE CORRIDOR



HEIGHTS IN THE EXCELSIOR & OUTER MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



HEIGHTS IN THE DISTRICT

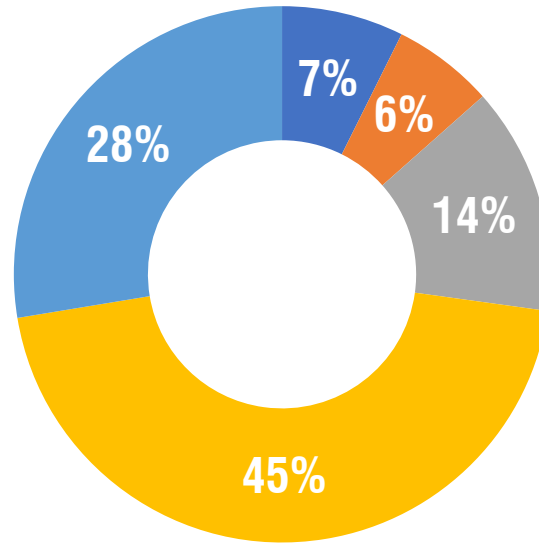


SURVEY RESPONDENTS REGARDING HEIGHT PREFERENCES

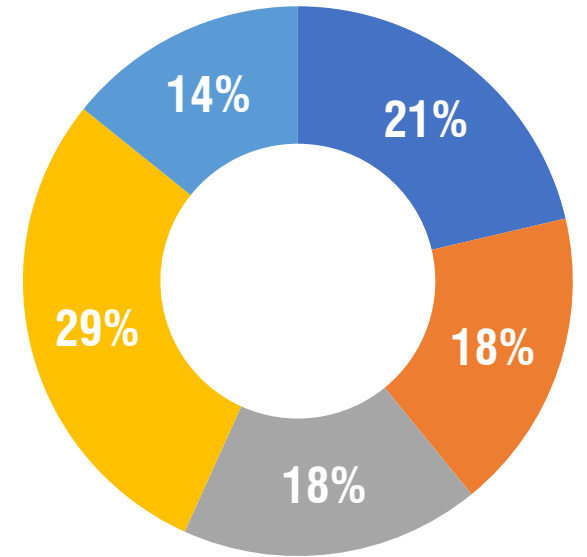
Key

-  Very undesirable and not appropriate
-  Not appropriate
-  Neutral
-  Appropriate
-  Highly desirable and appropriate

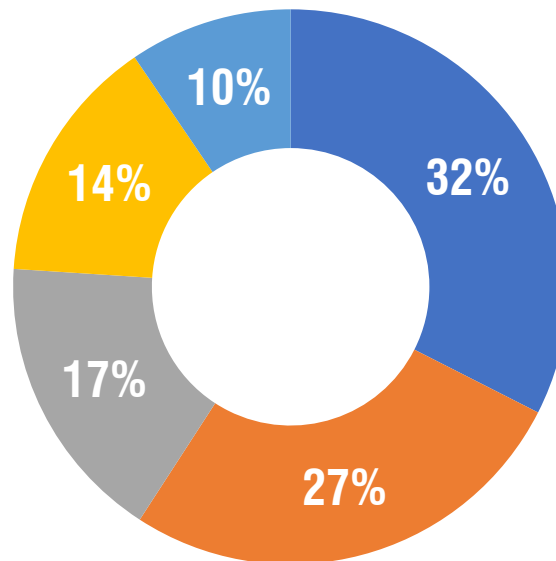
3-4 Story Buildings



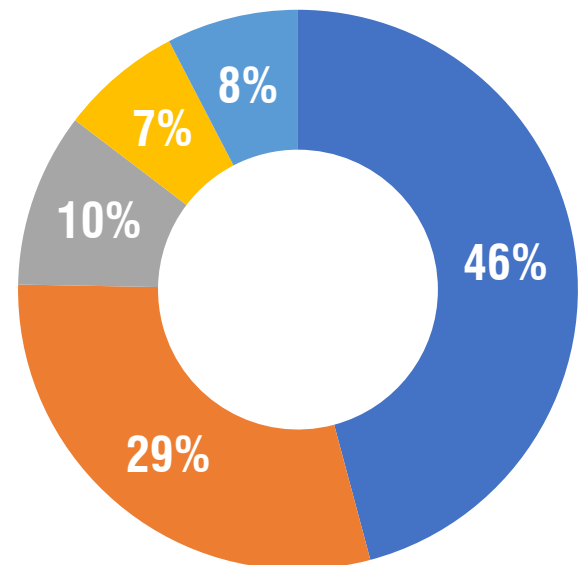
5-6 Story Buildings



6-8 Story Buildings



Taller than 8 stories



HEIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY



Source: Bay City Guide

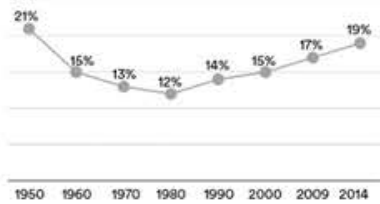
AN IMAGE OF DENSITY - 270 AND 248 OCEAN AVENUE



MULTI-GENERATIONAL LIVING / AGING IN PLACE

The Trend Toward Multigenerational Living

Nearly 1 in 5 Americans live in a multi-gen household:



60.6
MILLION

People in the U.S. are living in a multigenerational household under one roof

Growing Racial Diversity:

Asian and Hispanic populations are increasing more than Caucasians and are more likely to live in multigenerational households.

U.S. Population Increase [2000 - 2010]

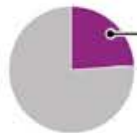
Hispanic/Latin:	43.0%
Asian:	43.3%
African American:	12.3%
Caucasian:	5.7%

25%	of Hispanics/Latinos live in multi-gen households
28%	of Asians live in multi-gen households
25%	of African Americans live in multi-gen households
15%	of Caucasians live in multi-gen households

Young adults replace older adults as most likely to live in a multi-gen household:



31% of 18-29 yr olds in multi-gen household



24% of 85+ yr olds in multi-gen household



2 GEN
Parents &
Adult Children



3 GEN
Parents, Adult Children,
& Grandchildren



SKIPPED
Grandparents &
Grandchildren w/o
Parents



**MORE THAN
3 GEN**



CREDIT: KTG ARCHITECTS

MISSING MIDDLE



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NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER



Neighborhood Character

Urban Form

Public: Streets

Private: Buildings

DESIGN PRINCIPLES



EXAMPLE: DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO STATION AREA



DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure refers to the **degree to which streets and other public spaces are visually defined by buildings, walls, trees, and other vertical elements.**

Spaces where the height of vertical elements is proportionally related to the width of the space between them have a **room-like quality.**

Source: Urban Land Institute

DESIGN PRINCIPLE 1:

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure refers to the **degree to which streets and other public spaces are visually defined by buildings, walls, trees, and other vertical elements.**

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Source: Urban Land Institute

ENCLOSURE



“...a room-like quality.”

Source: Urban Land Institute

DESIGN PRINCIPLE 2:

HUMAN SCALE

Human scale refers to a size, texture, and articulation of physical elements that match the size and proportions of **humans** and, equally important, correspond to the speed at which humans walk. Building details, **pavement texture, street trees, and street furniture** are all physical elements contributing to human scale. Source: Urban Land Institute



DESIGN PRINCIPLE 3:

LINKAGE

Linkage refers to **physical and visual connections**—from building to street, building to building, space to space, or one side of the street to the other—that **tend to unify disparate elements**. Tree lines, building projections, and marked crossings all create linkage. Linkage can occur longitudinally along a street or laterally across a street.

Source: Urban Land Institute



Source: Page Southerland Page, Inc

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE GOOD URBAN FORM



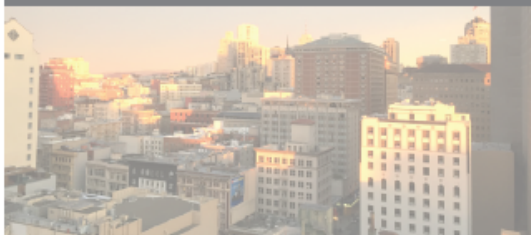
URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES - HOW WE PROMOTE GOOD DESIGN



FINAL DRAFT
11.22.2017

Urban Design Guidelines

SITE DESIGN



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ARCHITECTURE



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PUBLIC REALM



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BUILT ENVIRONMENT VALUES FOR THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Being a Good Neighbor

“The Urban Design Guidelines establish that new buildings have the responsibility to sensitively respond to their context and existing patterns of development while being of their moment.”

Designing Sustainably

“Concentrating people near shared infrastructure reduces environmental burdens and conserves natural areas...”

“Walkable and transit-friendly development reduces energy use, improves air quality, and enhances the health of individuals.”

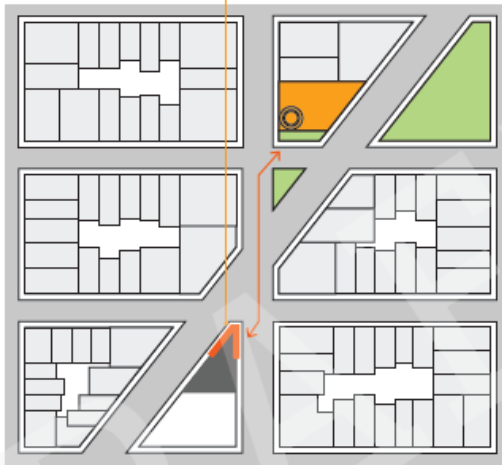
Supporting Human Needs

“Buildings and building features that are scaled for human interaction such as steps, doors, windows, and seating contribute to physical and psychological wellbeing.”

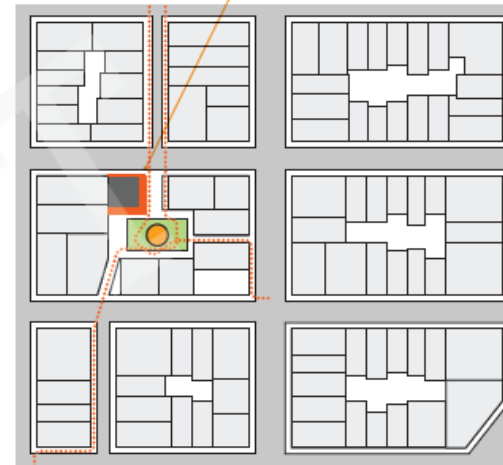
FACADE AS STREETWALL ELEMENT



NEW CORNER CIVIC PROMINENCE DUE TO LANDMARK PROXIMITY



INTERIOR BLOCK FACADES ARE PUBLIC-FACING



CITY EDGE

OPEN SPACE



Streetwalls may not only define the line of the block, but the edge of a boulevard, district, or neighborhood.

OPEN SPACE

LANDMARK



Civic buildings can act as markers of public space, gateways, or centerpieces in a neighborhood.

MID-BLOCK OPEN SPACE

STREET

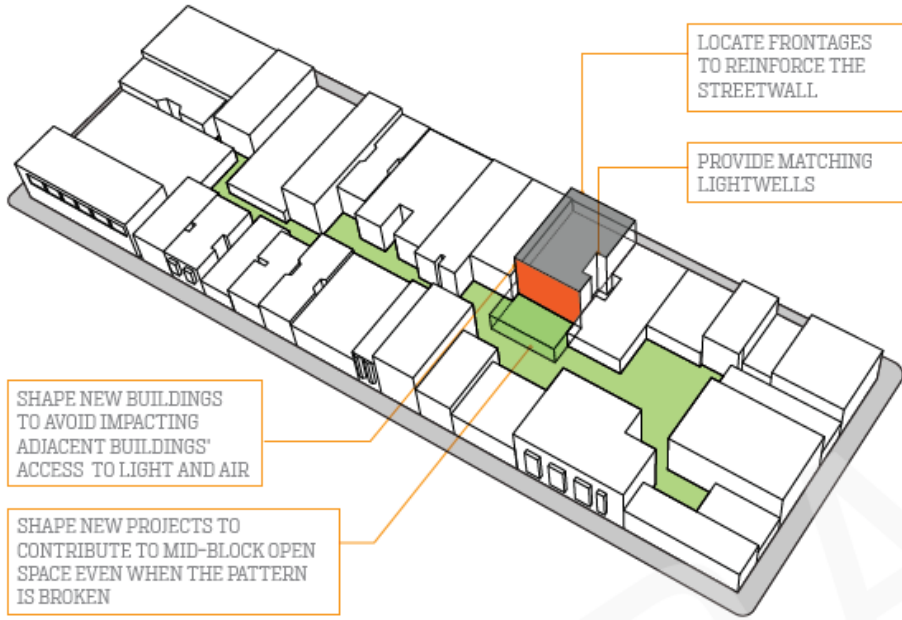


Design projects to orient to key neighborhood elements as well as the street environment.

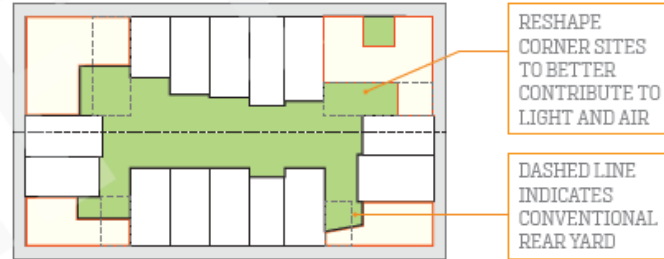
SITE DESIGN



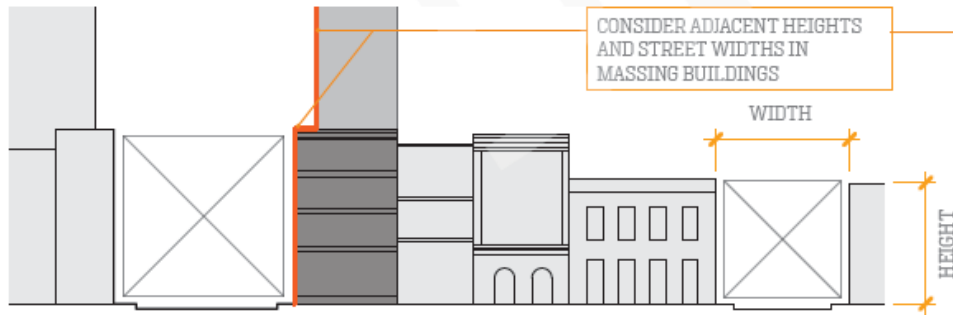
Recognize and Respond to Urban Patterns



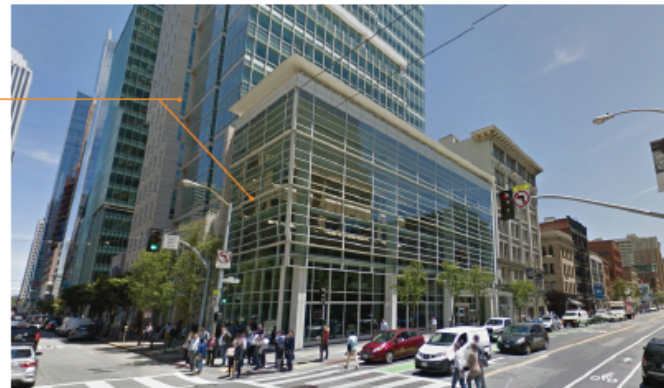
Place front and rear facades to support the overall urban design of the block.



By modifying conventional rear yards, corner sites can better support continuous streetwalls and mid-block open space.



Massing should reflect similar dimensions to street widths and surrounding buildings.



Individual buildings can sculpt massing to respond to both a taller streetwall and a lower one.



Harmonize Relationships Between Buildings, Streets, and Open Spaces



More utilitarian features, such as loading docks, can serve off-hour functions, such as lunchtime seating.



Organize internal uses and reconsider building openings in creative ways to connect to exterior spaces.



Locate ground floor uses in mixed-use projects to reflect and support existing uses on a block or street: retail with retail and residential with residential.



Organize Uses to Complement the Public Environment



Geometry relationships and use of similar materials can support compatibility in streetwalls.



Scale and texture similarities can allow differences in color or style.



Projects should both reflect context and be internally consistent.



Neighborhood commercial uses are often embedded within a residential context and should defer in character and scale.



Timeless, high-quality materials can both express different eras and harmonize a block streetwall.

SIMILAR AMOUNT OF GLASS TO SOLID WALL. (SOLID/VOID RATIO)

TEXTURE SCALE IS SIMILAR BUT USED IN DIFFERENT WAYS

WINDOWS ARE SIMILAR IN SIZE, PROPORTION, AND DEPTH

ARCHITECTURE



Harmonize Building Designs with Neighboring Scale and Materials



Fine-grained architectural detail help to enliven the streetwall.



Small-scales of ornament bring a human-scale to facades.



Depth and detail can be invitational.



Dimensional variation can create texture in facades.

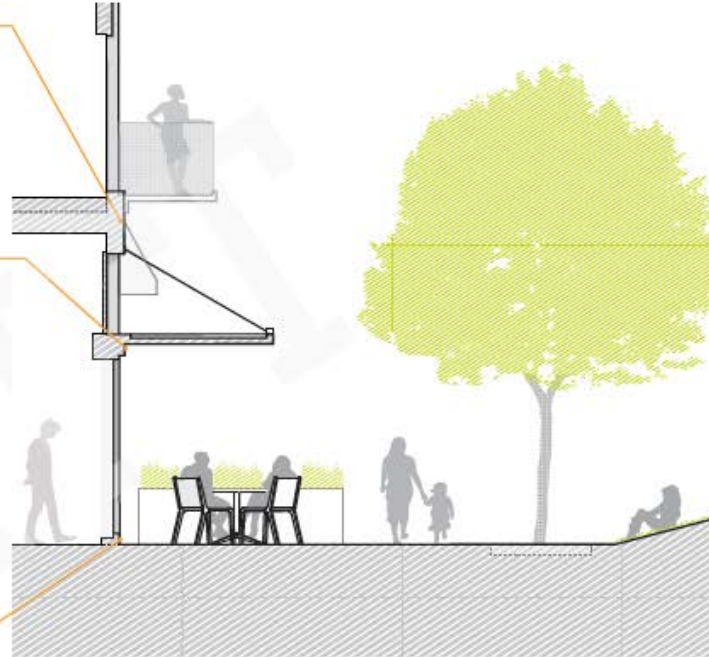
ARCHITECTURE



Render Building Facades with Texture and Depth



- BUILDING BASE TERMINATION
- FINE-GRAINED CLERESTORY GLAZING
- ARTICULATION JUST ABOVE EYE LINE
- HUMAN-SCALED GLAZING PROPORTIONS
- RECESSED ENTRY WITH LIGHTING
- FRAME DETAIL
- TEXTURED BULKHEAD



Balconies can help upper stories connect to the public realm.



Furnishings and openings can connect interior and exterior uses.



Building entrances can activate the public realm.

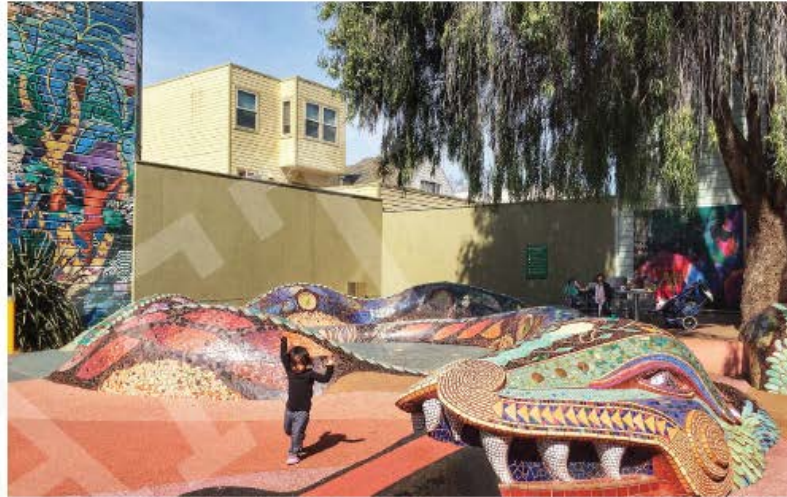
ARCHITECTURE



Design Active Building Fronts



Local initiatives create unique places and foster stewardship.



Materials and textures can both support expression and play.



Architectural elements in open space can help express neighborhood identity.



Express Neighborhood Character in Open Space Designs

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN SAN FRANCISCO





HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN SAN FRANCISCO

- What is defined as historic varies from city to city
- San Francisco defines every thing over 50 years old as potentially historic
- As development happens, potentially historic resources are evaluated and sometimes can be preserved even w/new development

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

