

PART VI DESIGN CRITERIA CHECKLIST

The Regional Centre Land Use Bylaw requires an application for Level II and Level III site plan approval, or an application for Level I site plan approval that includes a registered heritage property or a building located in a heritage conservation district include a design rationale that **identifies how** each specific design requirement contained in Part VI is:

- (a) either applicable or not applicable in the specific context of the application; and
- (b) if applicable, the manner in which it has been addressed by the design.

Please complete this checklist to satisfy this application requirement.

This checklist is intended to be used as a guide to Part VI of the Regional Centre Land Use Bylaw. Additional requirements and definitions can be found within the full document. The Regional Centre Land Use Bylaw can be found here:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/community-plan-areas/regional-centre-plan-area>

*Please note that all diagrams referenced in this form can be found in Part VI of the Regional Centre Land Use Bylaw	
Part VI, Chapter 2: At-Grade Private Open Space Design Requirements	
Design Requirement: Contribution to Open Space Network	
<p>Section 113 Where one or more at-grade private open space(s) are proposed, at least one shall contribute to the Regional Centre’s network of open spaces by: (a) abutting an existing public open space that is not a public sidewalk; (b) abutting an existing public sidewalk; (c) abutting an existing mid-block at-grade private open space; or (d) establishing a new mid-block at-grade private open space.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: At-Grade Private Open Spaces Abutting a Public Sidewalk	
<p>Section 114 At-grade private open spaces that abut public sidewalks shall provide pedestrian access by having at least one contiguous connection of not less than 2.0 metres wide, from the at-grade private open space to the public sidewalk.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: At-Grade Private Open Spaces – Medium Scale	
<p>Section 115 At-grade private open spaces with a contiguous area of 15 square metres or greater, and dimensions of not less than 3.0 metres by 5.0 metres shall: (a) provide (i) barrier-free access, and (ii) permanent seating; and (b) provide one or more of the following materials for groundcover (i) vegetation, (ii) brick pavers, stone pavers, or concrete pavers, or (iii) wood, excluding composites.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Weather Protection for At-Grade Private Open Spaces – Medium Scale	
<p>Section 116 At-grade private open spaces with a contiguous area of 15 square metres or greater, and dimensions of not less than 3.0 metres by 5.0 metres shall offer weather protection to its users through at least one of the following (Diagram 7): (a) a new deciduous tree that is not a shrub or the retention of an existing tree that is not a shrub with a minimum base caliper of 100 millimetres; (b) canopies or awnings on abutting façades; (c) recessed entrances of abutting façades; (d) cantilever(s) of a building on the same lot; or (e) structures such as gazebos, pergolas, or covered site furnishings</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: At-Grade Private Open Spaces – Large Scale	
<p>Section 117 In addition to meeting the requirements of Sections 115 and 116, at-grade private open spaces with a contiguous area exceeding 400 square metres and with an average depth exceeding 2.5 metres, shall provide at least three of the following: (a) an additional deciduous tree that is not a shrub or the retention of an existing tree that is not a shrub with a minimum base caliper of 100 millimetres; (b) a permanent table and chair(s); (c) a public art piece, a cultural artifact, or a commemorative monument; (d) a structure such as a gazebo or pergola; or (e) a planter or planting bed.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Existing Access to Public Open Spaces	
<p>Section 118 At-grade private open spaces shall maintain existing accesses to abutting public open spaces.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Privacy for Grade-Related Units	
<p>Section 119 At-grade private open spaces which are 2.5 metres deep or greater, as measured perpendicularly from the streetline, and which are located between the streetline and a grade-related unit, shall provide privacy for the residential units by using a minimum of one of the following elements per grade-related unit (Diagram 8): (a) a deciduous tree that is not a shrub with a minimum base caliper of 50 millimetres; (b) a minimum of two shrubs, each no less than 1.0 metre in height; (c) planters ranging in height from 0.25 to 1.0 metres; or (d) masonry walls ranging in height from 0.25 to 1.0 metres.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Walkways to be Hard-Surfaced	
<p>Section 120 Walkways within at-grade private open spaces shall be hard-surfaced, excluding asphalt</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Part VI, Chapter 3: Building Design Requirements	
Design Requirement: Streetwall Articulation	
<p>Section 121 Streetwalls shall be divided into distinct sections no less than 0.3 metres in width and not exceeding 8 metres in width, from the ground floor to the top of the streetwall, with each section differentiated by using at least two of the following (Diagram 9): (a) colour(s); (b) material(s); or (c) projections and recesses not less than 0.15 metres in depth.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Articulation of Non-Streetwalls Fronting an At-Grade Private Open Space	
<p>Section 122 Any exterior wall within the podium that is not a streetwall, and fronts an at-grade private open space abutting a public right-of-way, shall meet the requirements of Section 121 as if it was a streetwall.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Side Façade Articulation	
<p>Section 123 Where a side yard is proposed or required, the side yard façade shall continue the streetwall articulation for a depth greater than or equal to the width of the side yard, as measured at the streetline, using the same options chosen to achieve the design requirement in Section 121 (Diagram 10).</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Pedestrian Entrances Along Streetwalls	
<p>Section 124 (1) Subject to Subsection 124(2), pedestrian entrances in the streetwall shall be distinguished from the remainder of the streetwall by using at least two of the following: (a) changes in colour; (b) changes in materials; or (c) projections and recesses not less than 0.15 metres in depth</p> <p>(2) Canopies or awnings shall not be used to meet the requirements of Subsection 124(1).</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Pedestrian Entrances Along Non-Streetwalls Fronting an At-Grade Private Open Space

<p>Section 125 Any exterior wall within the podium that is not a streetwall, and fronts an at-grade private open space, shall meet the requirements of Section 124 as if it was a streetwall.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
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Design Requirement: Number of Pedestrian Entrances Along Streetwalls

<p>Section 126 Streetwalls shall provide: (a) a minimum of one pedestrian entrance per storefront; or (b) a minimum of 2 pedestrian entrances where the storefront is greater than 24 metres wide</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
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Design Requirement: Ground Floor Transparency – Commercial Uses

<p>Section 127 For at-grade commercial uses in the streetwall, between 50% and 80% of the building's ground floor façade dedicated to commercial uses shall consist of clear glass glazing.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
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Design Requirement: Ground Floor Transparency – Grade-Related Unit Uses	
<p>Section 128 For grade-related unit uses in the streetwall, between 25% and 80% of the building's ground floor façade dedicated to grade-related unit uses shall consist of clear glass glazing.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Access Ramps Along Streetwalls	
<p>Section 129 Where a ramp for barrier-free access is provided between a streetwall and a sidewalk, no portion of the access ramp shall exceed a width of 2.0 metres and depth of 2.0 metres.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Weather Protection	
<p>Section 130 (1) Subject to Subsection 130(2), where entrances for commercial uses or multi-unit dwelling uses are proposed in the streetwall, weather protection for pedestrians shall be provided above the entrances and shall consist of at least one of the following (Diagram 11): (a) canopies; (b) awnings; (c) recessed entrances; or (d) cantilevers.</p> <p>(2) Subsection 131(1) shall not apply to the entrances of grade-related units</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Exposed Foundations and Underground Parking Structures	
<p>Section 131 Exterior foundation walls and underground parking structures the height of which exceeds 0.6 metres above grade shall be clad in a material consistent with the overall design of the same exterior façade.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Building Top Distinction	
<p>Section 132 (1) Subject to Subsection 132(2), a portion of the top third of a building shall be differentiated from lower portions of the same building, by using two or more of the following (Diagram 12): (a) colour(s); (b) material(s); and (c) projections and recesses not less than 0.15 metres in depth.</p> <p>(2) The minimum height of the differentiated portion shall be no less than: (a) 0.5 metres in height for a low-rise building or mid-rise building; (b) 1.0 metres in height for a tall mid-rise building; and (c) 3.0 metres in height for a high-rise building.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Penthouses	
<p>Section 133 Penthouses shall be visually integrated into the overall design of the building</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Rooftop Mechanical Features	
<p>Section 134 Rooftop mechanical features shall be visually integrated into the design of the building and concealed from the public view at the streetline.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Part VI, Chapter 4: Parking, Access, and Utilities Design Requirements	
Design Requirement: Pedestrian Connections	
<p>Section 135 Where pedestrian connections are proposed on the site, at least one shall connect (Diagram 13): (a) one public street to another public street; (b) one public street to a public open space; (c) one sidewalk to another sidewalk; or (d) one public street or a sidewalk to an at-grade private open space that is located on the site.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Pedestrian Connections Through Accessory Surface Parking Lots	
<p>Section 136 (1) Pedestrian connections within accessory surface parking lots shall be no less than 2.0 metres wide.</p> <p>(2) Pedestrian connections within accessory surface parking lots shall be delineated by raised walkways, no less than 0.15 metres high, and consisting of: (a) poured concrete; (b) brick pavers; (c) stone pavers; or (d) concrete pavers.</p> <p>(3) Where a pedestrian connection crosses a driving aisle, the surface of the aisle shall be raised to meet the elevation of the abutting pedestrian connection and delineated with a change of colour or material from the driving aisle.</p> <p>(4) A pedestrian connection shall provide a direct route between parking areas, building entrances, and the nearest sidewalk.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Motor Vehicle and Service Accesses	
<p>Section 137 (1) Motor vehicle and service accesses in the streetwall shall be minimized by using the same colours or materials chosen for the streetwall.</p> <p>(2) All motor vehicle and service accesses shall: (a) not exceed the height of the ground floor or 4.5 metres, whichever is less; and (b) be completely enclosed with a door(s)</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Parking Internal to a Building or Within a Parking Structure	
<p>Section 138 Where parking internal to a building is located within the streetwall, it shall be screened from public view from any public right-of-way or park.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Visual Impact Mitigation for Utility and Mechanical Features	
<p>Section 139 The visual impact of utility features and mechanical features, including vents and meters, shall be minimized by concealing them from public view at the streetline by: (a) using opaque screening; or (b) enclosing them within a projection or recess in the building.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Heat Pumps and Other Heating and Ventilation Equipment for Individual Units

Section 140 Heat pumps and other heating and ventilation equipment for individual units are permitted on balconies, unenclosed porches, and verandas if they are concealed from public view at the streetline by: (a) using opaque screening; or (b) enclosing them within a projection or recess in the building.

Rationale:

Part VI, Chapter 5: Heritage Conservation Design Requirements

Design Requirement: Conservation of Character-Defining Elements

Section 141 Character-defining elements of registered heritage buildings shall be conserved and remain unobstructed.

Rationale:

Design Requirement: New Windows and Doors

Section 142 New window and door openings on registered heritage buildings shall match established patterns (materials, design, detail, and dimensions).

Rationale:

Design Requirement: Preservation of Architectural Elements	
<p>Section 143 Architectural elements on registered heritage buildings shall be preserved, such as pilasters, columns, cornices, bays, and parapets.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Use of Archival Evidence	
<p>Section 144 Archival evidence shall be used to support the rehabilitation and restoration of character-defining elements on registered heritage buildings, or on registered heritage properties.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Historic Building Façades	
<p>Section 145 Historic building façades on registered heritage buildings shall be retained and rehabilitated, or restored using traditional materials.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Materials	
Section 146 Brick or masonry façades shall be maintained and restored on registered heritage buildings. The painting of brick or masonry façades is prohibited.	Rationale:
Design Requirement: Maintenance of Same or Similar Cornice Line Height for New Developments in a Heritage Context	
Section 147 The podiums or streetwalls of new developments in a heritage context shall maintain the same or similar cornice line height established by abutting registered heritage buildings, except where the maximum streetwall height permitted under the Land Use By-law is lower than the cornice of the registered heritage buildings.	Rationale:
Design Requirement: Streetwall Stepback for Taller Portions of New Developments in a Heritage Context	
Section 148 Subject to Subsection 93(4), any portions of new developments in a heritage context that are taller than the cornice line of an existing abutting registered heritage building shall be stepped back from the streetwall (Diagram 14).	Rationale:

Design Requirement: Side Wall Stepback for Taller Portions of New Detached Buildings in a Heritage Context

Section 149 Where a detached building constitutes a new development in a heritage context and where it abuts the same streetline as the registered heritage building, any portions of the new development that are taller than the cornice line of the registered heritage building shall be stepped back 3 metres on the side that abuts the heritage building (Diagram 15).

Rationale:

Design Requirement: Architectural Elements of Existing Heritage Buildings to be Used as a Reference in the Design of New Development in a Heritage Context

Section 150 Architectural elements of existing abutting registered heritage buildings shall be used as a reference in the design of new development in a heritage context, by: (a) Incorporating articulation established by vertical and horizontal architectural elements of the registered heritage buildings (i.e. columns, pilasters, cornice, architectural frieze, datum lines, etc.); (b) Incorporating proportions and vertical spacing of the registered heritage buildings' windows; and (c) Where new development in a heritage context is located at the ground level, maintaining the proportions and transparency of the registered heritage buildings' storefront and façade elements

Rationale:

Design Requirement: Awnings and Canopies	
<p>Section 151 (1) If proposed on a registered heritage building, awnings and canopies shall be:</p> <p>(a) Designed to fit within the dominant horizontal structural elements of the lower façade and not obscure significant architectural features; (b) Located between vertical columns or pilasters to accentuate and not to obscure these elements; (c) Designed to complement the fenestration pattern of the registered heritage building; and (d) Constructed using heavy canvas fabric or similar material in either a solid colour or striped. The use of retractable awnings is encouraged. Vinyl and high gloss fabrics and internally-illuminated awnings shall be prohibited.</p> <p>(2) Metal or glass awnings or canopies may be permitted on a registered heritage building, if designed to complement historic architectural elements.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Lighting Hardware	
<p>Section 152 Lighting hardware shall be located so that it does not disfigure or conceal any significant architectural feature of the registered heritage building. Where it is not possible to hide lighting hardware, it shall be compatible with the building's architecture and materials.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Directing Lighting to Accentuate or Emphasize Architectural Features or Signage	
<p>Section 153 Lighting shall be directed to accentuate or emphasize the architectural features of registered heritage buildings or their signage.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Part VI, Chapter 6: Other Design Requirements	
Design Requirement: General Lighting	
<p>Section 154 The following features shall be illuminated: (a) common building entrances; (b) walkways; (c) accessible at-grade private open space; (d) parking lots; and (e) off-street loading spaces.</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>
Design Requirement: Emphasis of View Terminus Sites	
<p>Section 155 View terminus sites, as shown on Schedule 5, shall be emphasized perpendicular to and visible from a view line, by at least one of the following approaches: (a) subject to Subsection 93(5), extending the height of a portion of the streetwall (Diagram 16); (b) locating a clock tower, bell tower, rooftop cupola, spire, steeple, or minaret on the top of the building (Diagram 16); (c) providing an at-grade private open space (Diagram 17); or (d) locating a public art installation, a landmark element, or a cultural artifact on a portion of the streetwall, or in an at-grade private open space (Diagram 17).</p>	<p>Rationale:</p>

Design Requirement: Parking Areas, Accessory Surface Parking Lots, Off-Street Loading Spaces, and Site Utilities on View Terminus Sites

Section 156 Parking areas, accessory surface parking lots, off-street loading spaces, or site utilities shall not be visible within a view terminus as shown on Schedule 5.

Rationale: