



Creating Citywide Development Standards and Guidelines

Client: [City of San José](#)

Project Type: Residential and Commercial Design Guidelines

Completion: 2021

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Covering 180 square miles, San José is the largest city in the Bay Area, extending from the San Francisco Bay to the Santa Clara Valley foothills. San Jose is composed of diverse communities spread across a well-established mix of residential, commercial and industrial uses, public parks, cultural institutions, and employment centers.

Over the past 20 years, San José's population has grown by over 15 percent and transitioned to more urban development to accommodate this growth. These conditions are both an asset and a challenge in supporting cohesive development that reflects the individual needs and character of its neighborhoods. VMWP worked with the City of San Jose to create a set of design guidelines that work in conjunction with other City documents and regulations to ensure that buildings throughout San Jose have high-quality design and are appropriate for their site, function, and neighborhood.

The San Jose Citywide Design Guidelines and Standards apply overarching site and development criteria to areas that are not currently subject to any existing guidelines.

Scope of Design Standards and Guidelines

- Site context, access, and organization
- Building massing, access, entries, and design elements
- Pedestrian level treatments, open space design, and public art
- Specific development types: residential, commercial, and industrial

