

## GLOSSARY

**Alignment:** To align a building to the street frontage is to locate the building façade on the front property line bordering the footpath.

**Articulation:** To divide into segments, showing joints. Anything articulated is distinctly jointed or marked, having the parts distinctly recognisable.

**Bays:** Within a structure, a regularly repeated spatial element defined by beams or ribs and their support. A space or a division of a wall, building etc., between two vertical architectural features or members.

**Built form:** The shape of the aggregate of all buildings, structures etc. which make up the city.

**Character:** All the built and natural elements which make up a place and contribute to its individuality. The aggregate of the distinctive features of anything; essential peculiarity, nature, style.

**Cohesive:** Harmonious grouping of complementary elements. A cohesive townscape contains objects and architectural elements which have a consistent overall effect.

**Composition:** The art of ordering the parts of a building to form a harmonious whole.

**Context:** The immediate surrounding environment which creates a structure or place within which a building is inserted. This environment has a bearing upon the building, as much of the building's significance is derived from its relationship with its environs.

**Embodied energy:** The embodied energy of materials is that consumed in their extraction, manufacture, transport and assembly on site.

**Façade:** The face or front of a building towards a street or other open place. Especially the principal front.

**Hue:** The attribute by which one colour is distinguished from another, measured by the dominant wavelength.

**Iconographic:** A building of exceptional quality that is clearly related to a particular city/location.

**Landmark:** A building or structure that stands out from its background by virtue of height, size or some other aspect of design.

**Legibility:** The degree to which a place can be easily understood by its users and the clarity of the image it presents to the wider world.

**Lightness (of colour):** The 'greyness' of a colour compared with black and white; the degree to which a surface reflects light.

**Marker building:** A building or structure that people use to orientate themselves by; of greater prominence in the townscape than the general foil of buildings, but of less prominence than a landmark building.

**Massing:** The combined effect of the arrangement, volume and shape of a building or group of buildings. This is also called 'bulk.'

**Modelled:** Executed or sculptured in relief.

**Neutral colours:** Those that fit well with most other colours such as white, black, grey and pastel or grey shades of other colours.

**Orientation:** The direction a building faces, particularly how the building is located on its site in relation to the street frontage.

**Palette:** A range (normally associated with materials).

**Permeability:** The degree to which a place has a variety of pleasant, convenient and safe routes through it.

**Podium:** A continuous projecting base to a building forming the front of the lower levels.

**Proportion:** A comparative relation or ration. Good proportion is gained by harmonious relations between the measurements of an object. A well proportioned building is where the relation of one part of the building to another results in an harmonious whole.

**Respect:** To treat with deference or consideration. To refrain from injuring or interfering with something.

**Rhythm:** A harmonious composition, often repetitive, which has a sense of movement. Generally, movement marked by the regulated succession of strong and weak elements.

**Saturation (of colour):** The intensity and purity of a colour.

**Scale:** Relative size. A large scale building is big in the comparison with its context or what is generally accepted. A small scale building is the opposite. A human scale building has a size or many architectural elements which we can identify with i.e. their size and proportion are related to our bodily dimensions.

**Setback:** The distance of a building alignment from the front property boundary or street frontage.

**Shape:** External form or contour.

**Silhouette:** A building's or townscape's outline. This is most easily seen at dawn or dusk as a dark profile thrown up against the lighter background of the sky.

**Siting:** The location, positioning and orientation of a building on its site and generally taking into account its proximity to adjoining property, buildings and street boundaries.

**Townscape:** The visual appearance of the City.

**Typology:** example of a kind or class of building form/s, all exhibiting the same or similar layouts (for example terraced, detached and flats are housing typologies).

**Urban grain:** The pattern of arrangement and size of buildings and their plots in a settlement and the degree to which an area's pattern of street-blocks and street junctions is respectively small and frequent, or large and infrequent.

**View:** The line of sight from a particular point to an important landmark or skyline.

**Vista:** An enclosed view, usually a long and narrow one.

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