



# Clemson Downs Property Owners Association Architectural Guidelines

## Architectural Guidelines for Homeowners Relating to New Homes, Additions, and Modifications to Existing Homes Revised December 2024

### Introduction

Article V of the 2007 Restrictive Covenants for Clemson Downs Property Owners Association (CDPOA) establishes the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The ARC is charged with regulating external design appearance for new construction as well as improvements to and maintenance of existing structures, as described in these Architectural Guidelines.

Article V, Section 3 of the Restrictive Covenants specifies that before any new construction or external modifications to existing structures is started, the owner is to submit written details of any proposed project to the ARC for recommendation and written approval of the CDPOA Board of Directors as described in these Guidelines.

Article IV, A, Section 2 of the Bylaws of CDPOA establishes the procedure for the approval process. The CDPOA Board of Directors is authorized to approve or reject the recommendations of the ARC. Applications are submitted to the ARC for review prior to making a recommendation to the CDPOA Board.

**Applications are site specific.** Similar modifications to structures at other addresses cannot be used as precedent for recommendation. Guidelines are reviewed at least every two years to reflect current needs. Applications received before the first Tuesday of the month will be reviewed by the ARC at their regularly scheduled meeting at 10:00 am in the small conference room upstairs at the Corley Center. All residents are welcome to attend. The ARC will present its decision(s) in response to all written formal applications to the CDPOA Board of Directors for final action at their regularly scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. **Homeowner applicants should not purchase materials, engage contractors, or initiate work before a positive CDPOA Board of Directors determination is made.** Applicant participation in the decision-making process must be through the ARC.

These Architectural Guidelines are not intended to constrain the ARC in exercising its responsibility to fulfill the intent of the Restrictive Covenants and the Bylaws. If there is any question about the need to obtain approval, a completed application should be submitted to the ARC in a timely manner. Applications in response to emergencies can be submitted at any time for prompt resolution. Questions regarding the completion of the Application can be answered by the chair of the ARC or any ARC committee member. This process ensures the continuity of architectural standards that give strong support to maintaining property values and facilitating property transfers. Cooperation of all homeowners is appreciated.

### Item 1 – Roof System

- Hip or gable roofs are permitted (but not in the same elevation).
- 6 vertical by 12 horizontal pitch preferred. 5 x 12 permitted.
- Overhangs of 24” required. This measurement is from the outside face of the wall to the outside edge of the roof.
- Gable or rake overhangs to be 12” minimum.
- Shingles are to be in dark tones of brown or gray, according to the siding color.
- Townhouse shingles should be within the same color family within the same block of units.
- All roof-mounted appliances or yard mounted equipment must be located so as to be as unobtrusive as possible, consistent with operational requirements.
- Requests for solar panel installation will be considered on a case-by-case basis but will not be permitted in any case on the street side of the roof or in the yard nor will leased panels be allowed.

### Item 2 – Exterior Finishes

- Exterior walls to be clad with rough sawn boards of wood or Hardie Board type material with 8” exposure with overlap.
- Soffits to be 3/8” rough sawn plywood with 2” or 3” continuous vent or vented Hardie board painted the **same color as the house trim**.
- Fascia to be 1”x 8” one piece, in the same color as the siding.
- Exterior walls shall be at least 60% brick in each elevation (excluding windows and doors).
- Exterior brick veneer for modifications to be compatible with existing style and color.
- Exterior brick cannot be painted.
- Selection of materials for new construction shall conform to existing overall POA colors.

### Item 3 – Windows, Doors, and Garages

- Windows to be traditional double-hung (preferred) or casements.
- Painted wood, fiberglass and metal-clad windows are permitted in darker shades of tan, brown or gray.
- Vinyl windows are permitted in bronze, tan, and white. Window frames and trim are to be the same color as the siding.
- Garages to have flush or raised panel finish (rough sawn or other surface textures), fiberglass or metal overhead doors. ARC must approve the inclusion of windows in garage doors. **Residents are reminded of the following:** Garage doors are to be kept closed at all times except when in actual use by the individual property owner. However, leaving the garage door open at a maximum of fifteen (15) inches for cooling or other purposes is permissible (Restrictive Covenants, Article VIII, Section 11).

### Item 4 – Gutters

- If installed, gutters shall be seamless aluminum preferably with 3”x 4” downspouts and match exterior trim color.

## **Item 5 – Exterior Painting**

- Clemson Downs is a unique community in which homeowners take pride and great care in the maintenance of their homes. Houses were designed to blend with the environment. Colors that complement the earthly surroundings and the brick are desirable.
- The 2019 ARC Color Committee introduced Light Reflective Value (LRV). LRV is an industry standard to indicate the amount of light that is reflected off paint. An LRV of 0 is the blackest color and an LRV of 100 is the whitest color. This is important as paint colors look shades lighter/brighter in direct light in contrast to the same color in indirect light. If a homeowner can't determine a color's LRV, the ARC will provide it for that homeowner based on the paint manufacturer and color information.
- All trim and siding colors, including gutters and downspouts, secondary entrance doors, and garage doors, must be one color and must have a Light Reflective Value (LRV) of 6-60 in an aesthetically pleasing earth tone color that compliments Clemson Down's overall environment. All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. All trim and siding must be one color.
- Mailbox posts should be painted with the house trim/siding color at the same time as the house. Newspaper receptacles are to be painted either the trim color or black.
- Window shutters to be painted the same color as the trim and siding or must complement the trim and siding so as to be aesthetically pleasing. Shutter colors must be LRV 60 or less and be approved by the ARC.
- Front doors to be a solid color of the owner's choice with an LRV range of 0-70. All other doors are to be the same color as the trim/siding.
- Townhomes in the same group must have trim/siding painted in the same color family as the neighboring units.
- All current colors are grandfathered into the neighborhood until painting is needed in the future.

## **Item 6 – Driveways**

- Driveways and walkways to be concrete for all new houses.
- Replacement of, or additions to, existing driveways or parking areas to be concrete.
- Concrete staining of driveways, patios, and sidewalks (concrete color **only**) to be submitted as maintenance item.
- An asphalt driveway may NOT be "patched." If the base is sound, the driveway may be entirely surfaced with at least 2" of asphalt. However, if part of the base material must be replaced, the entire driveway must be replaced with concrete. For either situation, an Application to ARC is required. ARC may also request a Contractor's Signed Statement as to the work proposed.

## **Item 7 – Exterior Construction and Maintenance**

- Patios, decks, retaining walls, parking pads, walkways or other external revisions are included in the scope of these guidelines.



## Item 9 -- Fencing Guidelines

1. Fencing: Black aluminum fencing or authentic wrought iron fencing will be permitted that meets the following criteria.
  - a. Height must be between 36-54 inches.
  - b. Fencing must be a flat-top design. See pictures below.
  - c. Picket thickness must be a minimum of 0.625 inches in thickness.
  - d. Picket placement must be  $\leq 5$  inches apart.
2. Placement: Location on the property must adhere to the following criteria.
  - a. No fencing should be visible from the front street (no side-yard or front yard fencing).
3. Gates and Posts:
  - a. All gates must be matching to the fencing material and be the same height as the fencing. 36-54 inches.
  - b. Posts must be a minimum of 2" thick.
  - c. Brick posts are encouraged, however, matching wrought iron or black aluminum posts of matching materials and size are allowed.
  - d. All posts must be installed at a depth of  $\geq 18$ " below ground surface.
  - e. All posts must be anchored in concrete.



## Item 10 – Items Not Permitted

- Frieze larger than 2" wide
- Glass brick or block
- Large bay windows in front or side elevations
- Picture windows in front or side elevations
- Non-brick masonry products
- Shed roofs
- Hip roof and gable roof elements in same elevations
- Columns supporting overhanging roof in front or side elevations
- Storage space with exterior door(s) on front or side elevations
- Storage units not attached to the main structure
- Free standing buildings other than main structure
- Unfinished metal on roof surfaces
- Vinyl soffits
- Decals or ornamentation other than numerical address on mailboxes or mailbox posts
- Under no circumstances are solar panels permitted on the front of the roof or in the yard. Requests for mounting solar panels elsewhere must be recommended by the ARC and approved by the CDPOA Board.
- Playground equipment

### **Item 11 – Townhouse Heat Pumps-Front Locations (Birch Place Only)**

- There is a specific design criteria for the three townhouses with developer-located front heat pump installations. These units have rough sawn cedar horizontal screens or Hardie type materials and are grandfathered as to their present designs. These unit screens are to be maintained as designed. If they are changed, they must be replaced with brick walls, or the heat pump to be moved to the rear of the structure and existing screening removed.

### **Item 12 – Application Amendments**

- Changes to ARC approved plans for all new construction, additions to existing structures, or modifications subsequent to ARC approval are to be resubmitted to the ARC for approval.

### **Item 13 – Submission of Application**

- Applications are to be made in the name of the homeowner. If a legal representative of the owner is the contact point, the application is still made in the owner's name.
- If the application is made in anticipation of sale, any broker or sales agent involved should receive copies of these guidelines.
- Completed applications should be submitted to a member of the ARC before the first Tuesday of the month. This will permit action by the CDPOA Board at their next monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.
- Emergency applications will be considered on an as-needed basis. **Note:** If emergency repairs are needed, please contact any member of the ARC (see [www.cdpoa.com](http://www.cdpoa.com) under heading *About CDPOA—Architectural Review—Architectural Review Guidelines* for a current list of members; their contact information is in your POA phone directory) to receive recommendation prior to regularly scheduled meetings.
- Work on approved applications can only begin after CDPOA Board approval.
- Purchasing materials, engaging contractors, or any initiation of work should be withheld until acceptance by the CDPOA Board is complete.
- Applications not recommended by ARC can be appealed to the CDPOA Board via written request within 60 days of ARC rejection.
- Reasons for applications held for further review will be documented and reviewed with the homeowner by the ARC.
- The Chair of the ARC will maintain a log of all written applications, with disposition results and references to submitted samples.
- Where applicable, City of Clemson codes are to be followed. Application to the CDPOA does not relieve the owner's responsibility for code conformance. Application for a building permit with the City of Clemson will clarify when code provisions are applicable.
- Samples to be included with application as appropriate:
  - ✓ Brick selection from distributor's sample board
  - ✓ Painted sample board and paint chips for house and trim colors including manufacturer's color code and, if available, the Light Reflective Value (LRV).
  - ✓ Window and door frame manufacturer's identification, or paint chip

- ✓ Roof shingles including manufacturer's reference
- ✓ Concrete finishes if modification to standard poured mix is proposed
- ✓ Concrete stain color chip with manufacturer's name and color number
- The ARC Request form is the approved format for submitted applications and is incorporated into these guidelines. It is available on the CDPOA website for filling out and downloading to be submitted to any ARC member.

### **Remedy**

In the event a property owner violates the Architectural Guidelines, Restrictive Covenants, and/or Bylaws and refuses to comply with remedies as stated by the ARC and CDPOA Board of Directors, the Board may submit the matter to arbitration and/or take legal action.

**Architectural Review Committee  
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