



RENO-TAHOE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Exterior Improvements Concepts and Guidelines





CANNON TERMINAL

HOWARD W. CANNON TERMINAL

STOP



Rock Climbing Over Donner Lake (alpenglowlxpedititions.com)



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INTRODUCTION

Intent

The Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA) intends this document to guide and inspire future vertical construction. The document is not meant to be prescriptive or to constrain the design process of a project. The hope is that the Guidelines provide conversation starters and discussion points to insure all projects reflect the local context to the greatest degree possible.

The Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) Exterior Improvements Concepts and Guidelines (Guidelines) is a part of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport "Airport Improvement Guidelines" (AIG). The AIG defines the desired design aesthetic for the airport. The aesthetic is "Modern Mountain," which is as follows:

"The design aesthetic in the terminal at The Reno-Tahoe International Airport is what we refer to as "Modern Mountain". This look combines the natural, rustic feel of a mountain cabin with uncluttered modernism. It is rustic, yet refined with warm, natural, raw materials complemented by cooler contemporary touches, like metal, glass, and concrete. Creating warm, inviting spaces with a modern edge is the goal."

Working off of the Modern Mountain design vision described in the Airport Improvement Guidelines, the intent of these Guidelines is to present:

Iconic landmarks, landscapes, and associations to be used as inspiration. The wide variety and large quantity of inspirations speaks to the diversity of the area. The intent is to combine Inspirations that relate to the specific project to create a holistic design reflecting the uniqueness of Reno-Tahoe.

Preferred materials and textures.

Preferred color palettes.

Building form examples.

Organization

The Guidelines are organized into 4 sections. The first section is Inspirations. Inspirations are natural, human-made and human elements that are what help define our region. The second section presents materials and textures. The third section contains guidance on color. The final section discusses building form that will reinforce the Modern Mountain design aesthetic at RNO.

Process

The process of creating the Guidelines included input from design professionals, RTAA staff, and the general public. There were two design charrette workshops where each of the components were discussed and ideas exchanged. The initial design charrette included broad discussions of material and typological themes. The charrette brainstormed the design direction and allowed idea sharing among RNO stakeholders. The charrette considered inspirations, materials and colors. The final design charrette refined the content developed in the first charrette. The charrettes were an opportunity for input from RNO leadership to insure the document content aligns with the vision at RNO. In addition to the charrettes RTAA sent out a survey to two groups. A broader group included travelers, community members and others with an interest in RNO. A second group included RTAA employees and airport tenant employees. The community group received 164 responses and the employee group received 99 responses. The survey included questions related to natural features, materials, seasons, associations, color and building form. The survey results are included where applicable in the document.

What Defines Our Region

The region served by Reno-Tahoe International Airport is a large geographical area that is unique in many ways. It is a place with varied landscapes of forested mountains, hillsides with expanses of high desert vegetation, and valleys with minimal plant life. These extremes in landscape character can occur relatively short distances from one another. There are numerous notable landmarks. With RNO sited at an elevation of 4500' above sea level, the surrounding towering mountains provide definition and orientation throughout the region. Lake Tahoe is another landmark that is world-renowned.

Associations can be drawn to the place and the people. The area has connections to art & culture, history, events and activities. There is a long history of agriculture and industry that has shaped the region. In more recent times, it has been recognized as an outstanding place for outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, and exploring.

The region also has four distinct seasons. Summer, autumn, winter, and spring each bring different temperature, precipitation and color. A constant throughout the year is the high percentage of sunshine throughout the area, typically over 250 sunny days per year.



"Believe" Sculpture, Downtown Reno (unr.edu)



INSPIRATIONS

Landscapes

The impressive variety of geography, topography and vegetation throughout the region make landscapes a notable part of the Reno-Tahoe region. Landscapes provide structure and are points of orientation. Several landscapes have been identified as most relevant to development at RNO.

Landmarks

While the Landscapes relate to overall forms in the region, Landmarks are introduced as more specific places or pieces of the Reno-Tahoe environment. Landmarks are less about the macro scale of the overall landscape and more about easily identifiable parts of the whole. Landmarks may be natural or human-made components. They vary in scale and character.

Associations

Associations are inspirations that reflect the region's culture, history, and activities. They are what make the Reno-Tahoe region special. Associations are intended to be thought starters and are not meant to be prescriptive. It is hoped the early stages of design will identify those associations which most relate to the project. Design teams are encouraged to use the Guidelines as a starting point and find additional associations that are applicable to the specific project.



Hiker Above Lake Tahoe (southlaketahoe.com)

MATERIALS AND TEXTURES

Finish materials will be related to the region. Buildings have historically had wood and stone as primary materials. While other materials have been used, the desire at RNO is to have a small set of materials with a local focus. There will be an emphasis on wood and stone. It is acknowledged that steel and concrete will likely be a part of many projects. The intention is not to eliminate materials needed for structural requirements. The intention is to use finish materials that represent the region.

Textures are strongly tied to the region's natural and built environments. Wood and stone represent materials that have their aesthetic character strongly tied to texture. The expression of texture is important. As opposed to more processed surface textures, such as gypsum board, the desire is to have textures of wood, stone and the like integrated into the design. Again, it is understood that these natural textures will not be used throughout, but the priority is to have natural materials and textures comprise the largest possible portion of the design.

COLOR

The region has many varieties of natural color. The preference is to have the projects reflect the colors of the region. Emphasis is on a fairly small color palette that concentrates on regional influences. Colors that appear in the local natural context, as opposed to random color selections, will be preferred.



Cut Log End

BUILDING FORM

Inclusion of the Modern Mountain aesthetic will continue the development of a contemporary architectural vocabulary at RNO. The region's contemporary mountain architecture will be the basis for design. The desire is for an uncluttered modernism. It will be up to each project team to define how the Guidelines are integrated.

Given the variety of building types that are anticipated (Ticketing Hall Expansion, Consolidated Rental Car Facility, Concourse Expansion and projects to be determined), the intention is to have building forms that are expressive of the functions and grounded in the region. It is not the intention of these Guidelines to limit creativity by being prescriptive, or to force projects into a single aesthetic. The intention is to have projects that complement each other. Differing building forms are expected and encouraged providing they respond to the Guidelines.

Due to the scale of the proposed projects, RTAA feels there is a unique opportunity to build with elements with local inspiration and response. The project scales are small enough to be manageable and can include finer detailing that responds to the Guidelines. Terminal projects of much larger scale at bigger airports aren't as likely to be able to include regionalism at this scale.

Landscapes, landmarks, associations, materials & textures, and colors will all inform the design of each project. The integration of the Modern Mountain aesthetic with these inspirations will lead to buildings that are of the region and contemporary.



Wildcat Ridge Residence (Vorsanger Architects, Colorado)

INSPIRATIONS

Landscapes

Geography and Topography

The Sierra Nevada geography is a unique land form that is world-renowned. Reno, Lake Tahoe, and nearby communities all are located within the eastern portion of the Sierra Nevada range. The Sierra Nevada’s are a dominant visual and environmental part of the region. The variety of topography and vegetation within the mountains is something that is special. The strong vertical appearance of the mountains and relatively steep transition from valley floors to summits is a prevalent landscape feature. There can be a variety of surface textures with rocks, trees, snow, shrubs and water elements all contributing to the landscapes.

Survey results showed Mountain landscapes were the most prominent natural feature to 90% of respondents.

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe is a prominent and recognized landscape. It is known throughout the world for its beauty and water clarity. The Lake Tahoe landscape is comprised of the strong horizontal plane of the Lake offset against the vertical slopes of the surrounding mountains. The Lake Tahoe landscape is not limited to the water. The Lake Tahoe landscape is complimented by mountains, vegetation, weather and the built environment.



Lake Tahoe View (pixabay.com)

Wilderness/Open Space

Wilderness areas and rural open spaces are easily accessible and widespread. Many wilderness areas are relatively close to urban centers. Wilderness areas are important as places that provide a distinctly non-urban experience contrasted to the more developed cities. Long-range views, sometimes for many miles, are common. In many cases, these wilderness areas contain a wide variety of landforms and many types of vegetation & animal life. They also reflect varying climate conditions.

Urban Landscape of Reno/Sparks

The cities of Reno and Sparks are a dramatically different landscape than the mountains and Lake Tahoe. Reno and Sparks are located in the Truckee Meadows. The cities landscapes are more urban. Reno has several parks in the downtown area that focus on the Truckee River. These parks are a variety of hardscape and landscape spaces. The downtown core in Sparks is a combination of entertainment, housing and commercial elements. Victorian Avenue, the main street through downtown Sparks is often closed for special events, which creates a very pedestrian-oriented place.



Reno View (exploringnevada.com)

Movement

The mountains and Lake Tahoe are large, relatively static landscapes. Within this context are a series of landscape elements that are always in motion. The naturally occurring movements of wind, clouds and water are a part of the environment.

Wind and breezes are a part of many days. The winds are very seldom of significant speed to cause damage. They are more likely to influence water conditions on lakes, move the clouds and sway the trees.

The large percentage of sunny days means the region does not often experience days with heavy cloud cover blanketing the skies. The clouds in the Reno-Tahoe area are often in motion. Cloud formations are varied and active. Cloud formations predominately arrive from the west over the Sierra Nevada. Cloud movements can signal changes in precipitation, especially during the winter.

While Lake Tahoe is the predominant water landscape, the natural movement of water is also important. The Truckee River is the major waterway. The 121-mile long river flows from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. The Carson River flows from the eastern side of the Sierras through Carson City and eastward. In addition to the two major rivers, there are countless streams and creeks fed from snow runoff and springs. The movement of water on large and small scale is a distinct and pronounced part of the landscape.



Lenticular Clouds, Northern Nevada (pixbay.com)





Lake Tahoe Nevada (Scott Sonner/AP)



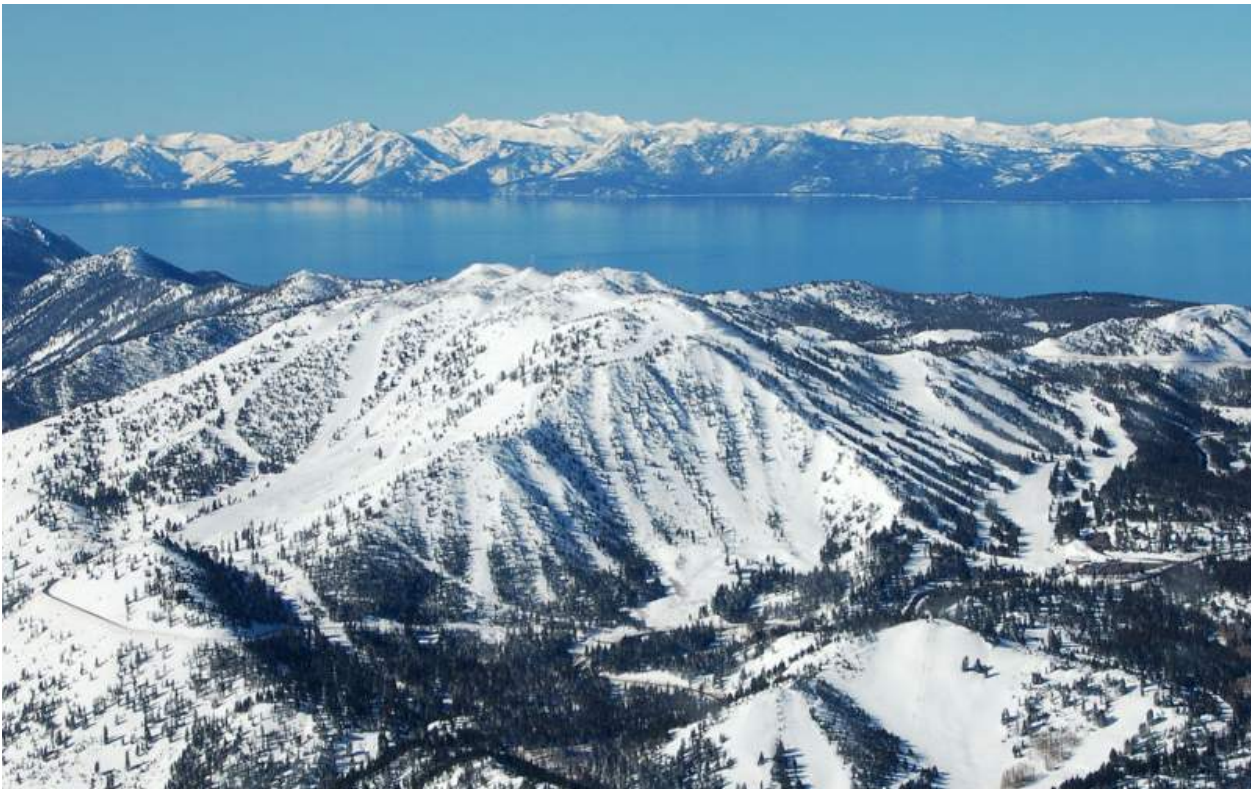
Mount Rose, Reno NV (outdoorproject.com photo by Shaun Hunter)



Spooner Lake, Sierra Nevada's (tahoetrailguide.com)



Truckee River (tmparksfoundation.org)



Mount Rose Ski Tahoe, Reno NV (skilaketahoe.com)

INSPIRATIONS

Landscapes



Wheeler Peak, Great Basin National Park (myusa.it)



Washoe Valley (scenicusa.net)



River Fork Ranch, East Fork of the Carson River (nature.org)



Victorian Square, Downtown Sparks (thechambernv.org)



City Plaza, Downtown Reno (Reno.gov)





Black Rock Desert, Nevada (blackrockdesert.org)



Riverwalk District, Reno (renoriverwalk.org)



Mount Rose Summit ([flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mountrose/))

INSPIRATIONS

Landmarks

Mountains

The mountains in the Reno-Tahoe region are important visual markers. The proximity to communities make them useful for orientation and place definition. They also provide strong edges to the lower valleys. Within the mountain ranges there are a number of prominent peaks. From Reno, Slide Mountain (9,698') and Mount Rose (10,776') are peaks that are well known. Mount Tallac (9,798') is a prominent landmark on Lake Tahoe's south shore. Monument Peak (10,067') at Lake Tahoe's south shore is the home of Heavenly ski resort. Jobs Peak (10,638') is the most prominent peak from Carson Valley.

Peavine Peak (8,269') may not have the elevation height of the other major peaks, but it is a locally known landmark visible throughout the Truckee Meadows. The final disappearance of snow on Peavine is local legend that one can start planting their summer garden.

The Virginia Range is a moderate-elevation mountain range. The range is located to the east of Reno and north of Carson City. The proximity of the range to communities make them well known as landmarks and borders.

The Pine Nut range is a mountain range of similar moderate height that starts in the Virginia Range and continues to the south where they join the Sierra Nevada near Topaz Lake. It marks the eastern border to Carson City, Carson Valley, and Minden/Gardnerville.



Jobs Peak, Gardnerville NV (mapio.net)

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe as a unique place – not only in the area, but in the world. It is a specific, special place within the region. Lake Tahoe's notoriety and the distinctive mountain aesthetic combine to create a landmark element.

The proximity of Lake Tahoe to the airport is important. RNO is strongly identified as the gateway to Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe is often one of the first (or final) impressions on flights departing and arriving at RNO. The Lake's recognizable shoreline shape is an especially strong landmark when viewed from the air.

Lake Tahoe is a major center for recreation in the Reno-Tahoe region and is accessed from multiple points from Nevada and California. Lake Tahoe is known for hiking, skiing, beaches and boating piers. Many winter and summer activities are tied to Lake Tahoe, further establishing it as a regional landmark.

Lake Tahoe is also a landmark in its sense of place. There is a mountain feel to the buildings and places that are unique in the Reno-Tahoe region. Much of the Modern Mountain aesthetic is informed by historic and contemporary buildings in the Lake Tahoe basin.

Survey results showed Lake Tahoe as the most recognized body of water in the region to 80% of respondents.



Lake Tahoe Aerial, Lake Tahoe NV (pixabay.com)

Truckee Meadows

The Truckee Meadows is home to RNO. The Truckee Meadows valley is the first impression for passengers leaving the airport on ground. The cities of Reno and Sparks form the region's largest metropolitan area. The Reno skyline is very distinctive when viewed against the backdrop of the mountains. The downtown skyline is a especially unique landmark at night.

The Sparks Marina is a place of activity and community gathering. The urban park supports a variety of water and exercise activities. The low surrounding context allows views to mountains in all directions.

The Truckee River runs through the Truckee Meadows. The river helps organize the valley and is an orienting element. The river generally runs in an west-to-east direction. The Truckee River is home to events, recreation, and socializing.

Ski Resorts

Ski resorts are identifiable by the outlines of the ski runs on the various mountain landscapes. They are recognized for winter sports and local history. Squaw Valley was the site of the VIII Winter Olympic Games in 1960. The publicity from the Olympics established the region as one of the premier winter sports areas in the world. In addition to Squaw Valley, ski resorts such as Heavenly, Mt. Rose, Alpine Meadows, and others attract skiers and snowboarders from around the world.



Aerial Tram, Squaw Valley (squawalpine.com)





Downtown Reno (RTAA)



Sparks Marina (foxtravel.com)



Sparks Marina, Sparks NV (foxreno.com)



Emerald Bay Lake Tahoe (facebook - Emerald Bay State Park)

INSPIRATIONS

Landmarks



Lake Tahoe Shoreline (Scott Sonner/AP)



Nevada State Capitol, Carson City (flickr, teofilo CC BY 2.0)



Reno Skyline at Dusk (golftips.com)



Greater Nevada Field, Reno (renoriverwalk.org)





Rancho San Raphael Park, Reno (greatruns.com)



Reno Arch, Downtown Reno (maps.roadtrippers.com)



Downtown Reno Mural (renomidtown.com)



University of Nevada, Reno (unr.edu)



Virginia Street Bridge, Reno (renoriverwalk.org)



Truckee River in Autumn, Reno (visitrenotahoe.com)

INSPIRATIONS

Art & Culture Associations

Sculpture

The region has many public sculpture installations. Sculpture pieces are at the Nevada Museum of Art, City Plaza, Bicentennial Park, public parks, buildings, and street infrastructure. Installations include a wide range of media from bronze to wood, ceramic to steel.

Murals

Painted wall murals are a fairly recent addition to the public art space. Downtown Reno and the Midtown District are home to more than 100 larger-than-life murals, painted by local, national and international artists. In addition to captivating the eye, these murals add color and creativity to Reno’s urban landscapes. The interest in wall murals has led to an annual 24-hour Mural Marathon competition during which artists compete for the best mural on the side of Circus Circus, along Virginia Street.

Museums

Local museums highlight a wide range of subjects from transportation to history to contemporary art. History is told at Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum and Fourth Ward School Museum. Transportation is highlighted in the Nevada State Railroad Museum and National Automobile Museum. The Nevada Museum of Art features exhibitions by national and international artists.



Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, Carson City (vancefox.com)

Literature

Local authors have long written of local context and events, while attaining national prominence. Mark Twain lived in Nevada from 1861-1864. He was the city editor for the Virginia City Daily Territorial Enterprise. It was in Nevada that he first used the pen name, Mark Twain. Robert Laxalt continued his writing career throughout his life, publishing a total of 18 books, literary and historical, based on his knowledge and experience of Nevada and the Basque Country. Walter Van Tilburg Clark is considered one of the most distinguished Nevada writers of the twentieth century. An author, poet, lecturer, and teacher, Clark’s interpretations of the American West are his greatest legacy.

Pioneer Center

The Pioneer Center for Performing Arts is one of Reno’s central venues for theater and orchestral performances. The 1,500-seat theater is in downtown Reno. The center offers musical performances, plays, and a variety of other shows throughout the year. The largest performing arts facility in northern Nevada, the Pioneer Center features a distinctive gold-anodized geodesic dome and is an excellent example of mid-century Populuxe architecture. The Pioneer Center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nevada State Historic Register, and the City of Reno Historic Register.



Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno (pioneercenter.com)

Stage

The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival has been a summer series since 1972. The Shakespeare Festival is held every year at the lakeside venue at Sand Harbor State Park. Brūka Theater has been entertaining its audiences since 1992 with classic, contemporary, musical, and original stage performances. With its first performance dating back to 1935, Reno Little Theater is Reno’s oldest community theater. It offers several genres of plays, including comedy, mystery, and drama.

Music

The Reno Philharmonic was founded in 1969. Many of the early musicians in the Reno Phil were the musicians playing in the world-class casino showroom orchestras. The Reno Philharmonic performs Pops on The River, a popular event along the Truckee River each summer. The Reno Chamber Orchestra presents regular-season performances, in addition to the annual Nevada Chamber Music Festival, featuring some of the finest musicians in the world. Since 1962, the Reno Jazz Festival has hosted jazz students, instructors, performers and fans to the University of Nevada, Reno to play, listen, and learn. The three-day festival provides a forum for students to perform for judges and peers and to learn from jazz masters in clinics, workshops and concerts.



Reno Jazz Festival, Reno (unr.edu)



INSPIRATIONS
Art & Culture Associations



24-Hour Mural Marathon, Reno (Mari Ellen Roth)



Bicentennial Sculpture Park, Reno (renoriverwalk.org)



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Sand Harbor (laketahoeshakespeare.org)



Downtown Reno (doublescoup.art)



Mark Twain (photo Elmira College)



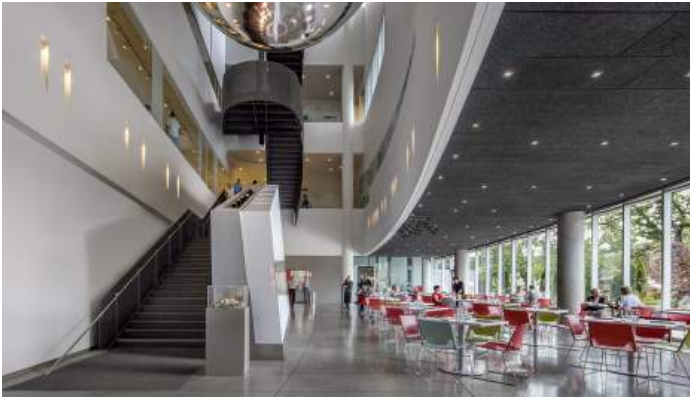
Sierra Hall Mural, UNR (renocontemporaries.com)



Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (nevadaart.org)



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Sand Harbor (laketahoeshakespeare.org)



Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (nevadaart.org)



Reno Philharmonic (renophil.org)



University Arts Building, UNR (architectmagazine.com)



Mural, Midtown, Reno, (travelnevada.com)



INSPIRATIONS

History Associations

Native American History

Native Americans have been in the geographic region called the Great Basin for at least 10,000 years. Early inhabitants included four contemporary tribes – Washo, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone. The Washo people have lived in the Great Basin and the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains for at least the last 9,000 years. Tribal crafts, such as basketry, beadwork and other clothing, continue to be a distinctive part of the history.

Basque History

The Basque people initially came to Northern Nevada during the gold rush era. Initially involved in raising sheep, with an estimated two million sheep grazing the Sierras during the peak of Basque sheepherding. The Basque heritage and culture exist today in restaurants, festivals, and monuments.

Petroglyphs

Nevada is home to approximately 1,200 identified prehistoric rock art sites, spanning a period of 10,000 years. Petroglyphs have been found in areas near Reno Tahoe, including Grimes Point and Lagomarsino Canyon. The region is home to some of the oldest known petroglyphs on the continent.



Basque Tree Carving, Tahoe National Forest (photo T. Rickman)

Mining

The 19th-century mining bonanza that turned Virginia City into the most important industrial city between Denver and San Francisco, was the result of the Comstock Lode. Virginia City was a place where miners pulled millions of dollars worth of silver from 3,000 feet under the city. At its peak, Virginia City was a thriving, vibrant metropolis of 25,000 residents.

Ranching

Ranching was the major industry in the Truckee Meadows from shortly after gold was discovered on the Comstock until the middle of the twentieth century. At the turn-of-the-century, agriculture was the largest industry in Washoe County. Ranching has also figured prominently in Sparks, Carson City, and the Carson Valley.

Geography and Geology

Located in the desert north of Reno, Pyramid Lake is the largest remnant of the ancient Lake Lahontan, a warm ocean that once covered most of Nevada. Lake Lahontan was home to Ichthyosaurs, which are large extinct marine reptiles. Berlin, Nevada is home to the most abundant concentration, and largest known remains, of Ichthyosaurs. Lake Lahontan’s peak was approximately 12,700 years ago.



Berlin, Central Nevada (pixbay.com)

Reno

Reno had its start as a connection between the Comstock Lode and the California Emigrant Trail. There was a bridge crossing over the Truckee River which allowed passage of people and goods. The railroad soon followed, as Reno was a stop on the First Transcontinental Railroad. Legalized gaming came in the 1930’s and Reno grew into an internationally-known place for gambling and entertainment. Today Reno is a diversified place, housing major education, technology, industrial and hospitality sectors. It is also a center for outdoor recreation, and activities that take advantage of its natural setting.

Gaming

Gaming became legalized throughout Nevada in the early 1900’s. In those early years, Reno was the gambling capital of the state. Gaming continued to grow in Reno and Lake Tahoe through the 20th century. The region was known nationwide for its hotel-casinos and 24-hour lifestyle. In addition to gambling, Reno-Tahoe was known for world-class entertainment. Performers such as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Debbie Reynolds played to dinner show audiences for years. Although the region has diversified in recent years, gaming was a significant part of Reno’s history and growth.



Old Reno Arch, Reno (wnhpc.com)





Ranch Land (unr.edu)



Old Barn (Tom Kelly)



Tule Duck Decoys (Ernest Amoroso)



Mine Headframe (Nevada Magazine)



Beadwork Panel (Artist: Burton Pete)



Native American Rock Art (Alanah Woody)



Basque Sheep Herder (UNR Special Collections)

INSPIRATIONS

Events & Activities Associations

Great Reno Balloon Races

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the largest free hot-air balloon event in the world. The event is held every September and features up to 100 balloons each year. The Balloon Races fill the early morning sky with colorful balloons and distinctive character balloons.

Artown

Artown is a month-long summer arts festival, featuring about 500 events produced by more than 100 organizations and businesses in nearly 100 locations citywide. Artown’s primary goal is to encourage local artist participation and highlight the best performers in northern Nevada. The anchor events continue to be a mix of regional and national excellence. Most events are free or low cost.

National Championship Air Races

The National Championship Air Races feature air racing at speeds that can exceed 500 mph. The event has been held for over 50 years at Reno-Stead Airport. The Air Races are the fastest motorsport in the world. Aircraft in the Unlimited class, which consists almost entirely of both modified and stock World War II fighters, routinely reach speeds in excess of 400 miles per hour.



Great Reno Balloon Race, Reno (renoballoon.com)

Burning Man

Each year, tens of thousands of people gather in the Black Rock Desert to create Black Rock City, a temporary cityscape dedicated to community, art, self-reliance, self-expression and self-discovery. Black Rock City is approximately 120 miles north of Reno. Burning Man is a practice in community – where “Burners” create art, exchange ideas, practice inclusiveness, and participate in the longtime tradition of the burning of the Man, a symbol whose meaning is as varied as the attendees themselves. Every year the Burning Man community decides on a different theme. Art, attire, gifts, and The Man, follow suit. The whole Burning Man festival is designed and celebrated around the chosen theme of that year.

Reno River Festival

The Reno River Festival is a free event featuring freestyle and competitive whitewater kayaking. The Festival celebrates the versatility and beauty of downtown Reno and the Truckee River. More than 40,000 outdoor enthusiasts attend and compete in downtown Reno’s Wingfield Park and the Reno Riverwalk. It is a unique two-day event, including live music, food, libations, craft beer village and interactive summer and outdoor experiences.



Reno River Festival (visitrenotahoe.com)

Hot August Nights

Hot August Nights is a celebration of classic cars, vintage rock ‘n roll, and the American era of the 50s and 60s when cruising, sock hops, and high school proms were all the rage. Classic cars fill the streets in Virginia City, Reno, and Sparks. What began as a local party at the Reno Sparks Convention Center in 1986 now draws over 800,000 people during its run.

Concours d’Elegance

The Lake Tahoe Concours d’Elegance is the most acclaimed and prestigious wooden boat show in North America. Each year the show features more than 70 of the world’s finest boats set against the backdrop of the deep clear blue waters of Lake Tahoe. The event was started by a handful of wooden boat owners gathered to share their passion. The Lake Tahoe Concours d’Elegance is a benchmark of the wooden boat community, renowned all over the world for its quality of boat exhibits and high judging standards and practices.



Lake Tahoe Concours d’Elegance (tahoetrailguide.com)



INSPIRATIONS

Events & Activities Associations



Burning Man, Black Rock Desert (pixbay.com)



Nugget Event Center, Sparks (facebook)



Hot August Nights, Reno (classicarnews.com)



Tahoe Meadows Trail, Lake Tahoe (tahoetrailguide.com)



Great Reno Balloon Races (visitrenotahoe.com)



Street Vibrations, Reno (visitrenotahoe.org)



Nugget Rib Cook Off, Sparks (photo Andrew Reel)



National Championship Air Races, Reno (renoairrace.org)



INSPIRATIONS

Events & Activities Associations



Snowshoeing, Donner Lake CA (martiscamp.com)



Back Country Hike (visitrenotahoe.com)



Stand Up Paddle Boarding Lake Tahoe (tahoesouth.com)



Reno River Festival (renotahoecarson.com)



Sailing, Lake Tahoe (tripadvisor.com)



Truckee River Fishing (Matt Heron)



INSPIRATIONS

Events & Activities Associations



Rubicon Trail, D.L. Bliss State Park
(celebratebig.com)



Tahoe-Pyramid Trail (tahoepyrmidtrail.org)



Snowboarding (TenSafeFrogs - flickr)



Lake Tahoe Mountain Biking (visittahoetruckee.com)



Tahoe-Pyramid Trail Suspension Bridge (tahoepyrmidtrail.org)



Lake Tahoe Skiing (dothebay.com)



INSPIRATIONS

Seasons & Climate Associations

Seasons

There are 4 distinct seasons. Spring, summer, winter, and autumn have varying weather patterns, precipitation, and temperatures throughout the region. There can be considerable differences in the region within the same season. High mountain areas can see hundreds of inches of snow in the winter, while valley areas get much smaller amounts of precipitation.

Outdoor Activities

There are many urban, suburban and rural opportunities. The region is increasingly becoming known for outdoor activities. Activities change by the season depending upon weather and temperature. Reno-Tahoe offers world-class skiing and snowboarding at a number of area resorts. Hiking, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling are done on established trails or open spaces. The warmer weather brings opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, boating, water activities and camping. Lakes and rivers are great places for power boating, sailing, and kayaking.

Over 70% of survey respondents felt outdoor activities most define our region.

Seasonal Color

Colors change with the seasons and each season has a distinct set of colors. Natural colors vary from greens of summer to yellows of autumn to whites of winter. Color contrasts are especially noticeable in the autumn as deciduous trees, such as aspens, show fall color against a backdrop of green coniferous vegetation on mountainsides and hillsides.

The strongest seasonal color associations from the survey were the colors of autumn (40%) and summer (30%).

Snow

The Reno-Tahoe region is defined by snow in the winter. The entire area sees some amount of snow every winter. The upper elevations of the mountains can receive hundreds of inches of snow annually, which can accumulate through the whole winter. Snow is less prevalent on the valley floors where it does snow regularly, but the snow melts within a short time. Snow changes the look of the landscape, especially in the mountains. The contrast of the white snow and the green trees creates a texture that is unique to winter. Snow also can intensify the topography differences, as shade and shadow are more pronounced on the white surfaces.

Sunshine

The entire area has a majority of the days with sunshine. Reno and Incline Village both average over 250 sunny days in a year. The sunny conditions exist throughout the year and there isn't typically a "cloudy" season. This abundance of sunshine is certainly perceived as a positive for residents and visitors. The abundance of sunshine creates conditions that encourage being outdoors throughout the year.

From a building perspective, the certainty of sunny days allow natural daylighting and solar energy to be considerations for every project.

Wind and The Sierra Wave

Wind is a given in the region. While winds rarely cause damage, they are a constant. Wind patterns are generally from the west or southwest.

The Sierra Wave is a lenticular cloud formation found only on the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The Sierra Wave is a type of air current created by winds that lift off the Sierra Nevada. Known as lee waves, Sierra Waves form as winds hit the Sierra Nevada and are forced to rise, causing water vapor to condense as it cools and forming lenticular clouds on the leeward side of the mountain range.



Red Hawk Course, Sparks (golfpass.com)



Fall Leaves (pixabay.com)



Lenticular Clouds, Sierra Nevada (pixabay.com)





Downtown Reno in Winter (photo Steve Ellison)



Downtown Reno in Autumn (visitrenotahoe.com)



Lamoille Lake, Elko (RAD Strategies)



Nevada Desert (pixabay.com)



Tahoe Snow (pixabay.com)

MATERIALS AND TEXTURE

Overview

Wood

Wood has long been a primary building material in the region. This is especially true in the mountain areas. It is anticipated wood will be a primary material at RNO. The type and texture of the wood components will be more contemporary than rustic. A more modern, refined use of wood is desired, as opposed to the heavy-timber “lodge-style” appearance. A weathered wood used in a contemporary manner is an aesthetic that can be considered. Emphasis will be on wood species that one encounters in the region, as opposed to species that are not local.

Consideration should be given to the durability and maintenance of natural wood. The region has a relatively arid climate that can require considerable maintenance of wood. RTAA will give consideration to composite materials with the appearance of wood, that may be more durable and lower maintenance.

Stone

Stone has been an important material historically. It will be the primary masonry material at RNO. The predominant local stone type is granite. As with wood, stone will be used in a contemporary manner. Stones will be larger size with precise coursing. Flat stone face texture, as opposed to more rounded faces, are preferred. Stone such as river rock, and stone that is not tied to the region will be discouraged.



Wood and Curtain Wall,Sidwell Friends School, Washington, DC (KiernanTimberlake)

Metal

Metal has historical precedence in the region. Exterior metal siding, roofing or interior metal are anticipated to be primary materials. A metal finish that is matte or weathered is preferred to a higher gloss surface. Metal with a factory finish will be strongly encouraged. A varied panel surface is preferred over a flush panel to provide texture. Perforated or patterned metal will also be considered.

Glass and Framing

Large areas of glazing will be encouraged. Access to views and natural daylight are both very desirable. Aluminum curtain wall and storefront systems are expected to be the glazing systems, although consideration will be given to other types of glazing framing. Finishes such as clear anodized aluminum are preferred for glazing systems and entrances for durability and as a color-neutral complement glass. Glass with a clear appearance will be used, as opposed to mirrored or dark shaded glass.

The intensity of the sun will require considerations of glass components. The use of high-performance glass will minimize heat gain into the building. Glazing that minimizes glare to the greatest extent possible is also desired. Smart-glass technologies may also be considered. Vertical and horizontal sun shading components can greatly reduce heat gain and glare.



Baskets (UNR Special Collections)

Texture

Given the variety of natural and human-made textures in the region, texture will be an important consideration in building surfaces. The emphasis on natural materials will allow material textures to be expressed in the materials themselves. Texture can also come from objects, such as the details of a Native American basket or the weathered siding surface of an historic barn.

Secondary Materials

While masonry construction occurs throughout the Reno-Tahoe region, brick and concrete masonry (CMU) are not primary materials at RNO. Brick may be considered under certain conditions. Concrete masonry units (CMU) are not a primary material within the Terminal area. CMU may have applications outside the Terminal area.

The airport has an abundance of concrete (roads, ramps and parking structure). As such, large areas of concrete as building finishes are not desired. If concrete is considered it should have a texture to provide a depth of surface, such as board forming. Integral coloring such as color admixture needs to be considered. Painted concrete will be discouraged.

Exterior Insulation Finish Surface (EIFS) and other similar synthetic systems are not desired within the Terminal area. EIFS is not in keeping with the emphasis on natural materials. EIFS may have applications outside the Terminal area.



Corten Panels (corten.com)



MATERIALS AND TEXTURE

Wood, Stone and Metal



Corrugated Metal Siding (bridgersteel.com)



Corten Panel Surface



Rustic Wood, Steel and Stone (buechelstone.com)



Wood Siding and Curtain Wall, Kenmore Library (BuildingWork LLC)



Wood Siding, Chapel Tavern, Midtown Reno (Digiman Studio)



Wood Rainscreen (prodema.com)



Wood Panels and Curtain Wall (Pence Union Building, Perkins + Will)



Stone, Wood Siding and Steel, Truckee, CA (Kelly & Stone Architects)

MATERIALS & TEXTURE

Wood, Stone and Metal



Resawn Rustic Wood



Corten Metal Panels



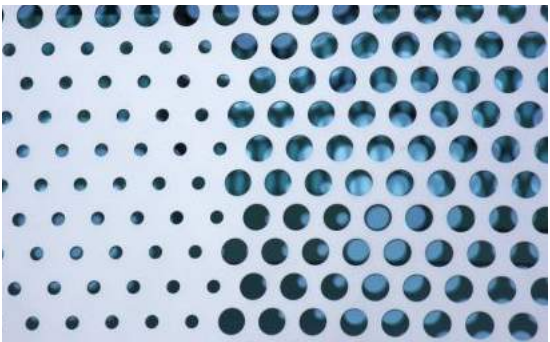
Corten Metal Panels



Horizontal Lap Wood Siding



Vertical Lap Siding



Perforated Metal Panels



Perforated Metal Panels (hendrickcorp.com)



Perforated Metal Panels, Wood and Glass (formasinc.com)



Horizontal Siding with Metal Panels Above





Glass Curtain Wall (pinterest.com)



Aluminum Curtain Wall Sunshade (kawneer.com)



Aluminum Curtain Wall with Photovoltaic (onyxsolar.com)



Curved Glass Wall, Lens, France (SANAA)



Aluminum Glazing with Motorized Shades (mechoshade.com)



Jewish History Museum, Warsaw (pinterest)



Curtain Wall and Sunshades, Sacramento Airport (Rich Pedroncelli/AP)



Curtain Wall and Wood Shutters (Payette)

COLOR

Colors. Palette and Coatings

Natural Materials

To the greatest extent possible, color will be derived from the inherent material color. The colors of wood and stone will be expressed in their natural state without extensive staining or treatments. The emphasis on wood, stone and glass as the primary finish materials is intended to prioritize natural colors of the region and minimize relying on colors that are not grounded in this place. The materials themselves will provide the color found in the Reno-Tahoe area without embellishment.

Seasonal Color of the Region

The seasons bring changing color. The region has 4 distinct seasons each of which has a distinct color palettes. Colors appear cooler in the winter and warmer in the summer and autumn. Projects may have colors from several seasons, as opposed to just one season.

Dynamic colors that might change with the seasons can be a possible consideration. This could be done with permanent artwork, digital media or elements that change through the seasons.

Focused Color Palette

There is not a desire for unnecessarily broad color palettes. The focus should be on a set of material colors that respond to the project requirements. A color palette that is too extensive has the potential to reduce the impact of the natural materials and create color uses that are not related to the region. The desire is for a coordinated and cohesive set of colors that work for the project at hand and also integrate with the immediate context of existing buildings.

Inspirations and Color

The hope is that the Inspirations provide much of what is needed for color. Landscapes and landmarks can provide material insights. Art, culture, history, events and activities can all be sources of primary color. Colors can come from local climate, plants and wildlife sources, as opposed to random color selections that do not relate to the local environment.

Paints, Coatings and Manufactured Materials

Paint colors will be required on materials such as gypsum board. There will also be color selections for manufactured materials such as carpeting and tiling.

It is anticipated main field colors will be off-whites or light earth tones. There will be a secondary set of colors that will be accent colors. Paints and coatings will be held to a limited number of field and accent colors.

Color, Sheens and Tones Not Preferred

Colors that are appropriate to a locally grounded Modern Mountain aesthetic are favored over those that do not support that aesthetic.

Specific colors have not been presented as what must be used, as the desire is for each design team to work with RTAA on color selections based on project requirements. The colors will be discussed in the context of each project.

While design flexibility will be considered, it is not RTAA's desire to have large expanses of finishes that are highly reflective, bright or shiny. Emphasis will be placed on low-gloss sheens. Warm color tones, as opposed to cooler tones are desired.



Cut Log (pixbay.com)



Riverwalk, Reno (pixbay.com)



Nevada State Bird, Mountain Bluebird (Alexandra MacKenzie)



Natural and Manufactured Material Color Examples



Natural Material Textures



Natural Color (thetahoejournal.com)



Natural Color



Patterns in Nature



Natural Colors of Wood and Steel (Coates Design Architects)



Vibrant Mix of Colors and Textures (travelnevada.com)



Pattern of Materials



Colors and Textures from Nature (nature.org)



Natural Colors and Textures of Wood, Stone, Steel and Glass (dwell.com)

COLOR
Colors in Local Natural Settings



Tree Bark (Brown)



Dark Leaves (Dark Green)



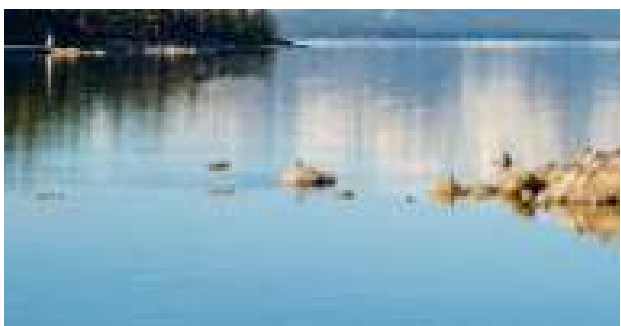
Bright Leaves (Light Green)



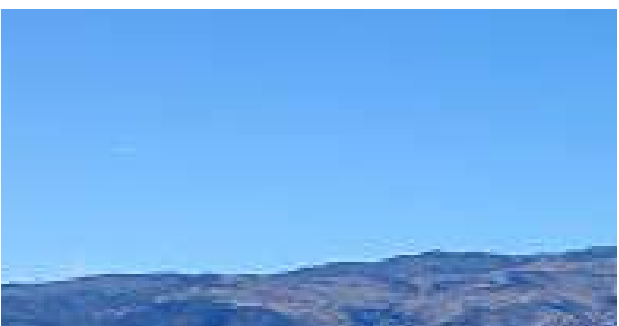
Desert Brushes (Matte Green)



Rainbow Trout (Red)



Lake Tahoe (Dark Blue)



Sky (Light Blue)



Stone (Gray)



Autumn Hills (Beige)



Aspens in Autumn (Yellow)



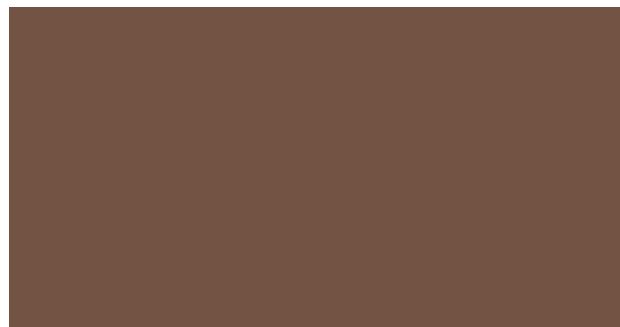
Snow & Clouds (White)



Wildflowers (Purple or other Flower Colors)



Coating Colors Responding to Local Colors



Tree Bark (Brown)
SW 6068 Brevity Brown
(All colors are Sherwin-Williams)



Dark Leaves (Dark Green)
SW 6439 Greenfield



Bright Leaves (Light Green)
SW 6709 Gleeful



Desert Brushes (Matte Green)
SW 7748 Green Earth



Rainbow Trout (Red)
SW 6320 Bravado Red



Lake Tahoe (Dark Blue)
SW 6796 Blue Plate



Sky (Light Blue)
SW 6506 Vast Sky



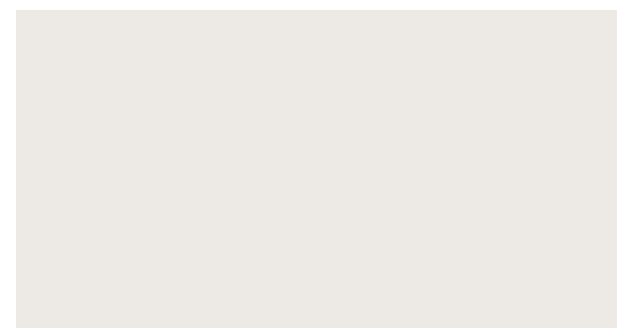
Stone (Gray)
SW 7065 Argos



Autumn Hills (Beige)
SW 6087 Trusty Tan



Aspens in Autumn (Yellow)
SW 6668 Sunrise



Snow & Clouds (White)
SW 7004 Snowbound



Wildflowers (Purple or other Flower Colors)
SW 6825 Izmir Purple

BUILDING FORM

Components

Exterior Walls

Exterior wall forms will be determined by project requirements and program. The influences from the region are varied and the building form will respond to the selected inspirations. Surface articulation within a contemporary aesthetic will be of primary importance.

Regardless of program, the desire is to have an openness to exterior walls. The site offers expansive views to Reno, mountains and the surrounding airfield. A more transparent wall system lets the pleasant Northern Nevada climate into the building. It also maximizes the connection between indoors and outdoors. Lastly, it allows building users to experience the movement and activities of a modern airport more fully.

Sunny days are prevalent in the region and can provide an abundant source of natural daylighting. Daylighting can reduce energy use with glazed areas that are adequately shaded and have high performance glazing.

Ongoing maintenance of glazing is an important consideration for RTAA. Glass that is mounted significantly above the floor or ground is difficult to keep clean and repair. It is not anticipated RTAA will have means beyond lifts to maintain the glass. The Facilities staff has stated the height of the glass on the Concourse Connector is the maximum height that can be safely serviced with the equipment used by RTAA.



Glass House, Telluride CO (architecturaldigest.com)

Roofs

RNO is a place of dynamic travel and movement. Expressive roof forms should be considered as a response to the airport environment. That is not to say the roofs have to be overly complicated. The existing Terminal has largely parapet-dominant roofs. The very rectangular forms of the older building and the newer concourse connector are not desired. Sloped roof forms have a history in the region on agricultural, residential, recreational and indigenous structures. Sloped roofs provide additional volume and accent key parts of the building. They can also provide shading to glazed areas.

Exterior Spaces for Relaxation and Socialization

The Guidelines encourage creation of exterior areas. These spaces can exist pre- and post-security. Exterior spaces provide access to views and allow an exterior experience for travelers, visitors and RTAA staff. Pre-security spaces can give passengers and companions who might not be going through security somewhere to relax before going through the security checkpoint. Post-security spaces can be an enjoyable way to engage with airside activities. Either location can also give RTAA staff places for breaks, lunch and socializing. The exterior spaces can have food and beverage opportunities and could be an income source. Spaces could be on rooftops, mezzanines, or at ground level. The local precedents are ski lodge decks, lakeside patios & piers, resort decks and beaches.



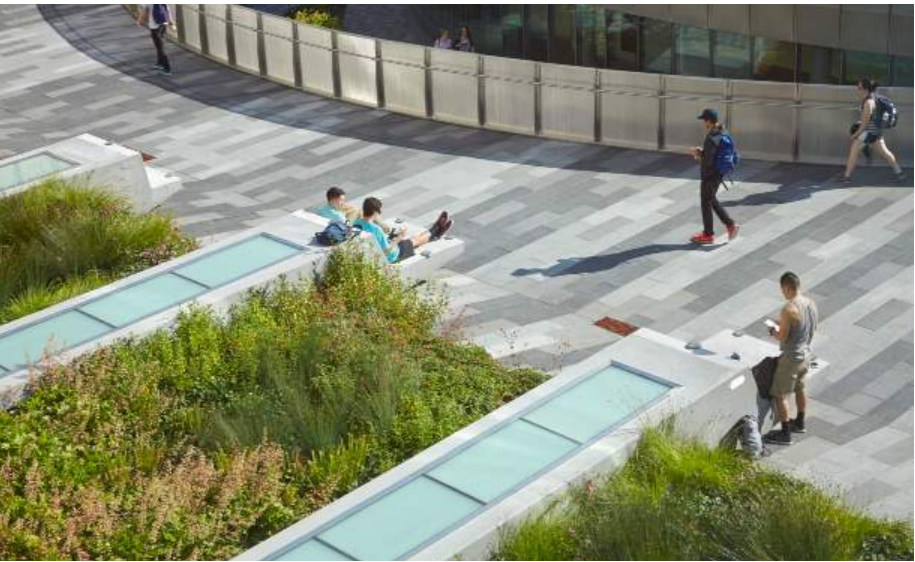
Resort at Squaw Creek (destinationhotels.com)

Building Entrances and Plazas

The area between roadways and the buildings should be as generous as possible. The existing setback of the parking structure and the approach roadway is an example of a transition area that is too narrow. Understanding that space in front of buildings is at a premium, the intention is not for excessively grand spaces. An inviting entrance area can be effective for wayfinding, circulation and orientation before entering the building. Furniture, lighting, signage and art can enliven the approach.

Art

Public art should be an integral part of the design. Artwork can be placed at the exterior and interior of the buildings. The exterior walls, glazed areas and exterior plazas are possibilities for art installations. Many of the landscapes, landmarks, and associations are perfect for consideration as subjects. Artwork can also reflect the desired color palette.



USF Center for Science and Innovation and Harney Plaza (Interstice Architects)





Tamarack Lodge, Heavenly Ski Resort Lake Tahoe CA (photo Heavenly)



Inchyra House (Robert M. Cain, Architect)



Joplin Public Library, Joplin Missouri (designworkshop.com)



Ritz Carlton Lake Club, Lake Tahoe (ritzcarlton.com)

BUILDING FORM

Modern Mountain and Modern Forms



Big Alpine, Treeline Homes, Inc. (houzz.com)



Private Residence, Steamboat Springs, CO (greenbuilder.com)



Mary Potter Apartments (Warren and Mahoney, archdaily.com)



Sun Valley House , Studio Joy Works (dowbuilt.com)



Hamad International Airport Terminal Complex (Tim Griffith, HOK)



Klaussen Cabin, Squaw Valley (tahoequarterly.com)



Z House, Geza Design (dzeen.com)



Tahoe Transit Center, Tahoe City (wrnsstudio.com)



BUILDING FORM

Exterior Spaces and Plazas



Outdoor Observation Terrace, San Francisco Int'l Airport (iflysfo.com)



Lone Eagle Grille, Hyatt Lake Tahoe (renotahoe.com)



Legends at Sparks Marina, Sparks (downtownmakeover.com)



The Eddy, Reno (theeddyreno.com)



Cultural Gardens, Honolulu Int'l Airport (airports.hawaii.gov)



Backyard Bar & BBQ, Ritz Carlton Lake Tahoe (ritzcarlton.com)



Star Alliance Lounge at CDG, Paris (thepointsguy.com)



SAN Smart Curb Pavilion (URS Corporation)



Big Horn Tavern, Reno (bighorntavernreno.com)

