



BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE SCREENING OF PIAZZAS AND PORCHES

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By motion of the Board of Architectural Review at the August 24, 2005 meeting, the following guidelines were adopted concerning screening of piazzas and porches in the Old and Historic District and Old City District.

The piazza is a building feature unique to, and closely identified with, the architectural history and urban character of Charleston. This unique feature of the Charleston Single House should be preserved in order to retain the prevailing character of our vernacular architecture. Likewise, porches are character-defining features of historic buildings and should be preserved.

1. Screening for a piazza or porch should be installed in a manner that is completely reversible, resulting in as little damage to the fabric of the building as possible.
2. The framework of the screening should be as minimal as possible.
3. The framework should be constructed interior of the columns, porch beam, and balustrade so that these elements remain in the forefront.
4. The color of the framework should generally be flat black so it recedes into the background or painted to match the columns and balustrade. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
5. Aluminum screening will not be allowed.

The above criteria are intended as general guidelines. Applications for screening piazzas and porches shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This policy statement was approved by resolution by the Board of Architectural Review on August 24, 2005.