

1030 Pleasantville Rd Justice Center Architectural Design



BFJ Planning



Introduction

This presentation aims to guide the Village's discussions on the design of the future Justice Center at 1030 Pleasantville Road. The building examples shown represent a range of architectural styles, scales, and uses—many (but not all) drawn from Westchester County.

The examples are not intended as models for direct replication, but as design precedents from which key design elements may be drawn to inform and inspire further discussion. Each example highlights a core design principle or takeaway for consideration.

As the Village reviews these images, the focus should remain on broader architectural ideas, such as scale, materiality, massing, and civic presence, rather than individual buildings. These principles will help shape design priorities that can be tailored appropriately to the site.

An additional goal of this board is to assist the Village in articulating architectural preferences (likes and dislikes) that will guide the developer's design team in responding to the Village's design vision and values.

1) Tudor Revival (Local Example)



Photo Credits: Lothrop Associates Architects

Location

Briarcliff Manor, NY

Function

Library

Style

Tudor Revival

The Briarcliff Public Library exemplifies Tudor Revival style, conveying tradition, charm, and warmth. Its red trim reflects Briarcliff Manor's identity using Village colors. The hallmarks of Tudor Revival are:

- Decorative half-timbering, often on upper floors, with stucco infill
- Vertically proportioned mullioned windows
- Varied massing with steeply pitched gable
- Heavier base materials, such as brick or stone

Key Points

Existing municipal buildings can inspire the future Justice Center's design, reinforcing village identity and a strong sense of place.

2) Colonial Revival (Example 1)



Photo Credits: Evan Kalish/Living New Deal

Location

West Hartford, CT

Function

Library

Style

Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style, popular from the 1880s to the mid-20th century, reflects a nostalgic return to earlier American colonial aesthetics, especially Georgian and Federal. Common features include:

- Symmetrical massing and facades with gabled or hipped roofs
- Triangular pediments with broad decorative cornices
- Prominent front entrances or porches featuring classical columns
- Vertically proportioned windows, often with shutters

Key Points

Simple massing, accented with decorative painted wood, a pronounced cornice, and a prominent entrance, can convey strong civic character.



3) Colonial Revival (Example 2)



Photo Credits: Peter Gisolfi Architects

Location

Bronxville, NY

Function

Library

Style

Colonial Revival

An adaptation of Colonial Revival architecture, this style is common for civic institutions in the Northeast. The curved painted bay on the side lends a residential-friendly character to an otherwise simple structure. It conveys historical continuity and civic pride through:

- Symmetrical design, evoking formality and balance
- Columned entry portico, referencing classical architecture and adding civic gravitas
- Multi-paned, double-hung windows, reflecting colonial precedents
- Red brick cladding, a signature feature of Colonial Revival style

Key Points

A unique feature can add a touch of distinction to an otherwise plain building.

4) Colonial Revival (Example 3)



Photo Credits: Michael P. McKinney/The Journal News

Location

North Castle, NY

Function

Town Hall

Style

Colonial Revival

Though not strictly Colonial Revival, this building incorporates elements of the style to enhance its aesthetic character and civic presence. In addition to the cupola, prominent entry pediment, and white-painted brick, key features include:

- A symmetrical, low-profile form with a central portico
- Gabled roof supported by white columns and a pediment
- Shuttered windows and painted brick that evoke a traditional, small-town charm

Key Points

Key architectural elements, such as a prominent entrance, can elevate a building's civic stature.

5) Tudor-Revival



Photo Credits: Peter F. Gaito & Associates

Location

Scarsdale, NY

Function

Police Station

Style

Neo-Tudor Revival

Tudor Revival emerged in the late 19th century as a simplified interpretation of English Tudor architecture. Popular in Westchester County, the style is valued for evoking tradition, order, and civic trust. This example is characterized by:

- Decorative half-timbering on upper stories
- Leaded-style windows and gabled roofs
- Brick at the base and second floor, providing durability and civic presence
- Varied building masses create a cohesive form and contribute to a human scale

Key Points

Adapting historic styles to modern buildings can enrich local identity and heritage.

6) Contemporary Tudor-Inspired



Photo Credits: Lothrop Associates Architects

Location

Goshen, NY

Function

Museum

Style

Modern

This rendering depicts a 21st-century reinterpretation of Tudor architecture, where extensive use of glass creates a distinctly modern aesthetic, thoughtfully integrated with traditional Tudor elements such as:

- Steeply pitched gable roofs with shingles
- Expansive glass walls framed by timber-style mullions in Tudor patterns
- A stone base to add solidity and historical texture
- Varied building masses create a unified whole and reinforce human scale

Key Points

Modern interpretation of traditional styles can honor local history and convey progress and sophistication

7) WPA Moderne



Photo Credits: <https://danzigerlegal.com/real-estate-attorney-in-scarsdale-ny/>

Location

Scarsdale, NY

Function

Post Office

Style

Classical Moderne

PWA Moderne (or Classical Moderne) architecture, widely used for civic buildings in the 1930s and 1940s, blends brick with simplified classical elements. It conveys authority, order, and dignity while emphasizing simplicity and cost-efficiency. Key features include:

- Symmetrical façade with a raised, centered entry
- Minimalist columns and plain entablature suggest classical tradition
- Brick cladding and flat roof convey durability and simplicity
- Tall multi-paned windows add rhythm, height, and light

Key Points

Simplified traditional and classical elements can effectively convey civic authority and a sense of tradition.

8) Simplified Civic (Example)



Photo Credits: KSQ Design

Location

New Canaan, CT

Function

Town Hall

Style

Simplified Neo-Georgian

This modern addition complements the historic main building through its use of brick, a raised entry, vertically proportioned windows, and a simplified cornice that aligns with the original structure. At the same time, transparency and a flat roof line reflect its contemporary character. Key features include:

- Flat roof, rectilinear massing, and expansive glass panels
- Vertically proportioned windows referencing classical civic form
- Minimalist entry canopy with refined metal detailing
- Brick cladding that ties the building to its surroundings

Key Points

New architecture can be contextually sensitive by using local materials and balanced proportions over direct imitation.

9) Simplified Civic (Example2)



Photo Credits: Lothrop Associates Architects

Location

Mount Kisco, NY

Function

Library

Style

Simplified Neo-Georgian

This example blends simplified civic architecture with elements of Neo-Georgian and Tudor Revival, using brick, pediments, columns, and varied massing alongside vertically proportioned modern windows and a prominent glazed entryway. Key features include:

- Combination of gabled, pitched, and flat roofs
- Central glass atrium entry framed by abstract columns
- Brick and stone base adding visual weight and civic presence
- Varied masses forming a cohesive overall composition

Key Points

Blending the traditional and modern can express civic purpose, while varied massing maintains human scale.

10) Simplified Civic (Example 3)



Photo Credits: Lothrop Associates Architects

Location

Hastings on Hudson, NY

Function

Community Center

Style

Simplified Neo-Georgian

This building uses familiar materials—brick, limestone, glass, and metal—elevated through creative form, massing, and site integration to enhance visual interest and civic presence. Key features include:

- Asymmetrical massing with brick and limestone detailing
- Curved roof lines paired with traditional pitched roofs
- Use of natural topography to create dynamic massing
- Large windows and a prominent entry expressing civic purpose.

Key Points

Visual interest paired with familiar forms and materials can be essential to successful civic architecture.

11) Simplified Civic (Example 4)



Photo Credits: BHC Architects

Location

Ossining, NY

Function

Library

Style

Simplified Neo-Georgian

This building combines traditional and contemporary materials with modern and Mid-Hudson rustic forms. Its most distinctive element is the covered walkway (cloister), which extends the entryway to the street, strengthening its connection to the public realm. Key features include:

- Direct engagement with the public realm
- Integration of traditional and modern materials
- Use of traditional elements to reflect local history
- Modern forms and massing for cost efficiency

Key Points

Buildings can enhance the public realm through thoughtful engagement with the street.



12) Modern Agrarian (Example 1)



Photo Credits: Christopher Pagliaro Architects

Location

Connecticut

Function

Housing

Style

Modern Farmhouse

This building reinterprets the traditional farmhouse, a vernacular form common across New York, with simple, utilitarian design and materials, updated through expansive glazing that provides natural light and a sense of openness. Key features include:

- Tall, steeply pitched gables
- Simple, compact forms and massing
- Regionally inspired materials, such as shingle or clapboard cladding
- Large grid-patterned windows with contrasting frames for a modern loft aesthetic

Key Points

Contextual design can draw on local vernacular forms and construction methods.

13) Modern Agrarian (Example 2)



Photo Credits: Swan Architecture

Location

Minnesota

Function

Housing

Style

Modern Farmhouse

This building reinterprets traditional American vernacular architecture with a modern aesthetic, while preserving simple forms, varied massing (evocative of farmhouses expanded over time), and traditional materials like natural stone and shiplap siding. Key features include:

- Natural stone, white siding, and black metal accents
- Clean, simplified gable roofs
- Large windows introduce a contemporary glazing element.
- Balanced design that blends rustic materials with contemporary lines

Key Points

Mixed materials and vernacular-inspired forms can interpret rural traditions within a modern aesthetic.

14) Modern Georgian



Photo Credits: Landmark Architects

Location

N/A (Rendering)

Function

Housing

Style

Modern Georgian

Neo-Georgian architecture draws from the classical symmetry and proportions of 18th-century Georgian style while incorporating modern materials and construction methods. This building reflects a modern take on that approach with a glass-dominated façade framed by brick and stone. Defining features include:

- Varied roof line with a mansard roof and dormers
- Elegant, layered façade using a mix of brick and light stone
- Expansive glass wall that updates the traditional massing

Key Points

Large windows can lend a modern character to a building while signaling openness and accessibility, key values in civic architecture.

15) Garrison Interpretation



Photo Credits: Curry Architects

Location

Owing Mills, MD

Function

School Dormitory

Style

Garrison

This example presents a contemporary take on Garrison-style architecture, a Colonial Revival sub-style popularized in New England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, defined by a second-story overhang. This building uses simple forms and massing, with a modest roof line and gable-ended pediments that emphasize the building's entry. Key Features include:

- Traditional materials such as wood clapboard and stone
- Vertically proportioned casement or double-hung windows
- Porch or arcade tucked beneath the second-story overhang

Key Points

Modest civic architecture can offer integrity and blend seamlessly with local character.