



EXAMPLE DESIGN 1

# SIX TERRACE HOMES

16.5m wide site  
Mixed housing suburban zone

AUCKLAND  
DESIGN MANUAL

context  
Architects

Auckland  
Council

# Introduction

## **Your guide to designing good quality terrace housing on a 16.5m wide site.**

Designing terrace housing for Auckland's narrow suburban sites can be challenging. Achieving good design outcomes while also delivering a profitable development is not always easy.

This example design demonstrates how to create low cost, high yield development that supports a good quality of life for residents and contributes to creating safe, green neighbourhoods.

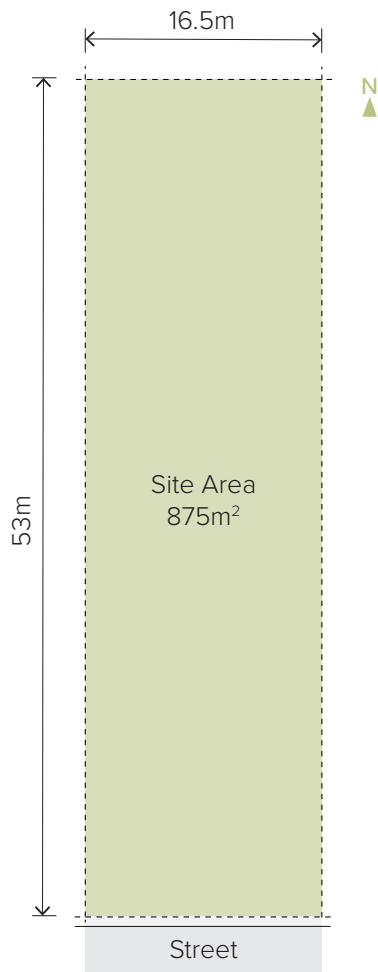
This design guide is one of a series developed in conjunction with Context Architects.

## **This example design features**

- ✓ **Design for the residential planning zones**  
Design reflects the standards & assessment criteria of the relevant residential zone.
- ✓ **Maximum development yield**  
Maximises the number of homes built on the site.
- ✓ **Good urban design outcomes**  
Delivers functional, liveable homes & supports safe & green neighbourhoods.
- ✓ **Simple building design**  
Helps keep building costs low while still delivering minimum standards of good design.

# **Development Brief & Site Layout**

# Development Brief



## Specifications

Unitary Plan Zone  
Mixed Housing Suburban

Development Yield  
Minimum of 6 terrace homes  
(5x 3 bedroom & 1x 2 bedroom)

Parking  
1 car park per dwelling

Topography  
Flat

Price Bracket  
Affordable homes

Additional Requirements  
Best practice urban design

## A Note on Context

This design is conceptual and has been created without regard to a context. Any real development will need to consider and respond to its surrounding context and any resource consenting requirements, including notification.

## Important Planning Standards

Maximum Building Coverage  
40%

Minimum Landscape Coverage  
40%

Yard Setbacks  
3m front + 1m side & rear boundary setbacks

Principal Outlook Space  
6m deep x 4m wide

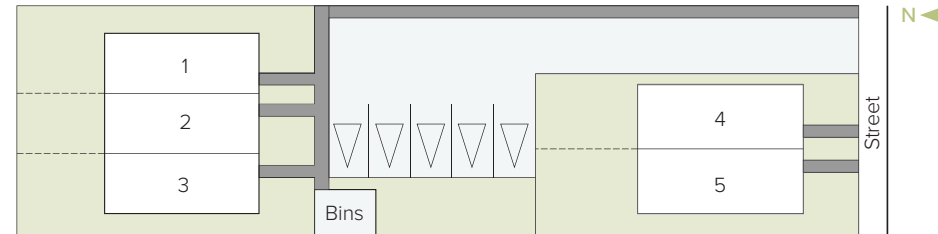
Outdoor Living Space  
20m<sup>2</sup> per dwelling

Alternative height in relation to boundary  
Please note that this control requires site specific resource consent approval

# Site Layout Options

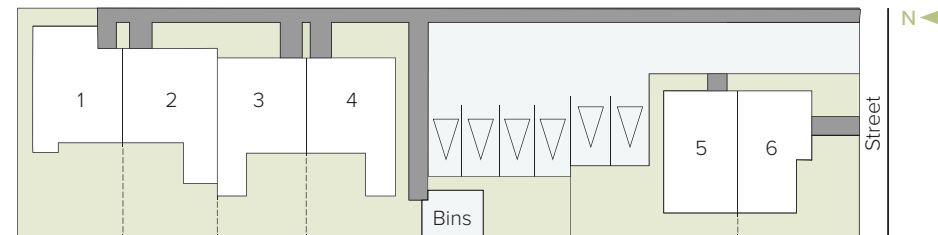
## Option 1

- ✓ Dwellings along the street frontage are directly accessible from the street
- ✓ Vehicle access & parking is space efficient and concealed from the street
- ✗ The narrow width of dwellings may create poor quality internal spaces
- ✗ Lower development yield than other options



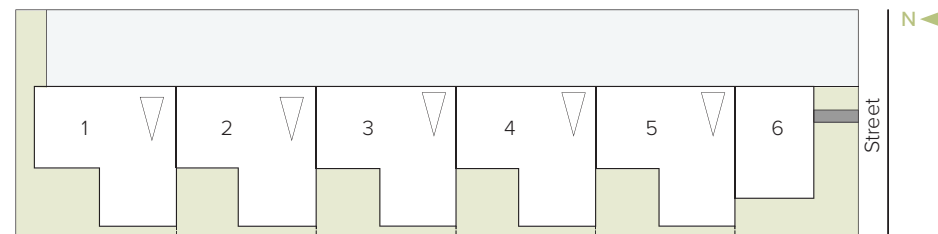
## Option 2

- ✓ Front dwelling faces out over the street
- ✓ Parking is space efficient and concealed from the street
- ✓ Homes have good dimensions and reasonably sized outdoor living areas
- ✓ Highest yield



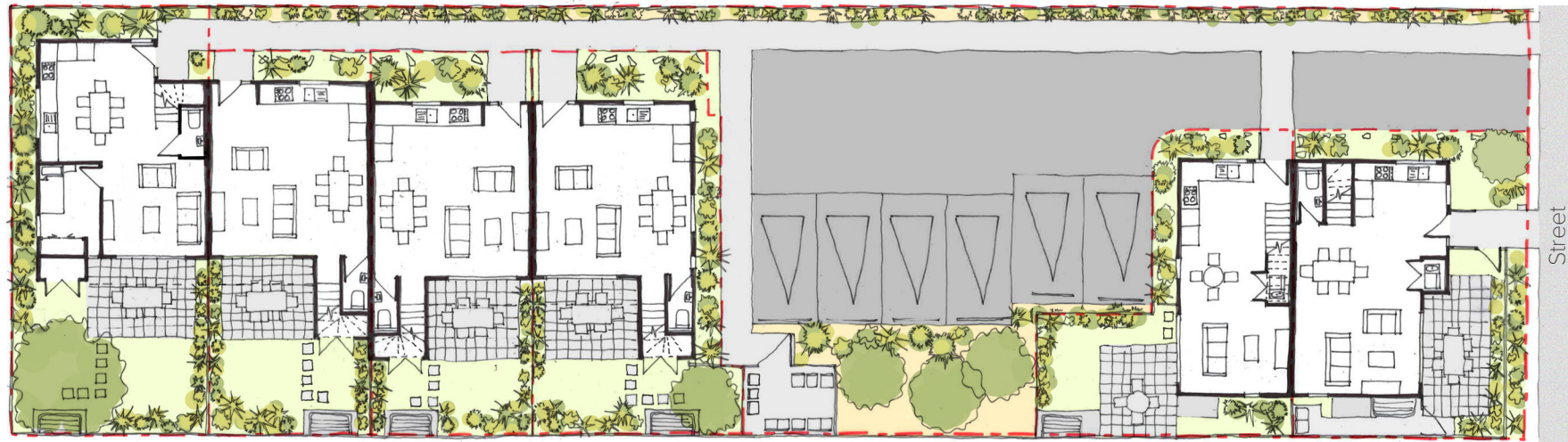
## Option 3

- ✓ Front dwelling faces out over the street
- ✓ Outdoor living spaces have good privacy
- ✗ Vehicle access & parking is not space efficient
- ✗ Outlook and landscape planning rules not met

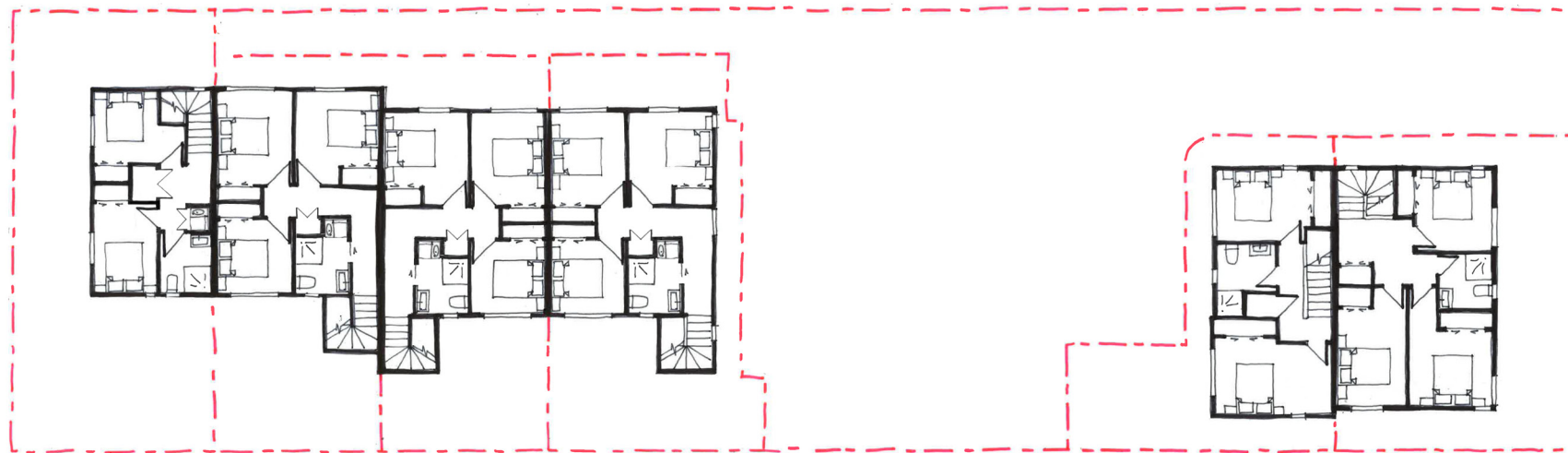




# Preferred Site Layout (Option 2)

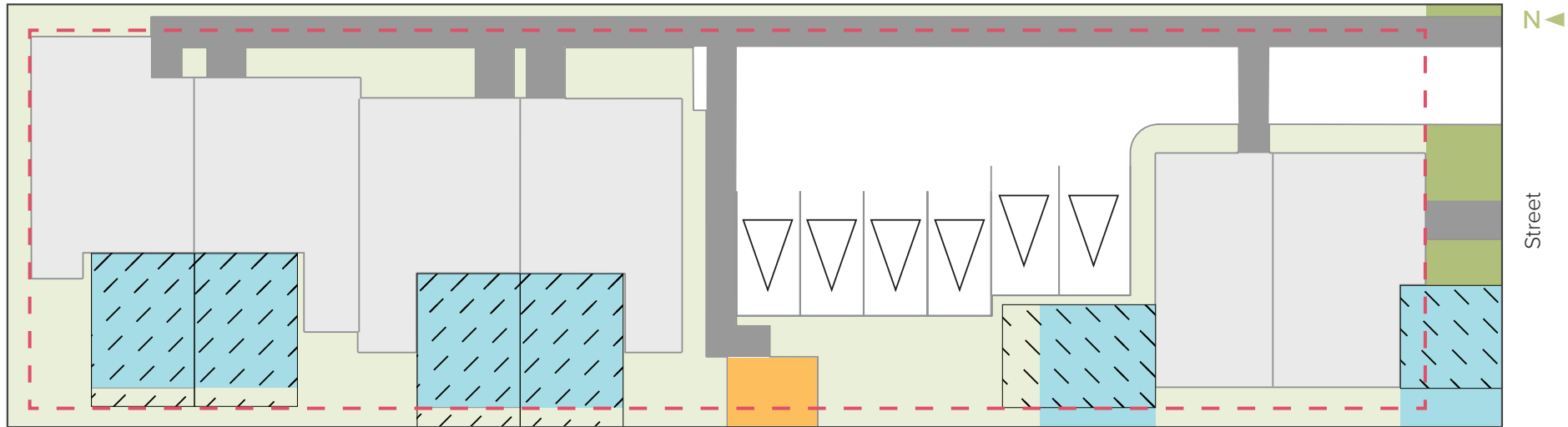


Ground Floor







First Floor




# Site Planning Compliance





## Coverages & Setbacks

-  Building setbacks - 1m side & rear boundary + 3m street boundary
-  33% building coverage (max 40%)
-  40% landscape coverage (min 40%)
-  75% front yard landscaping (min 50%)

## Functionality & Amenity

-  20m<sup>2</sup> private outdoor living area
-  4m wide x 6m principal outlook area
-  Waste bin storage area

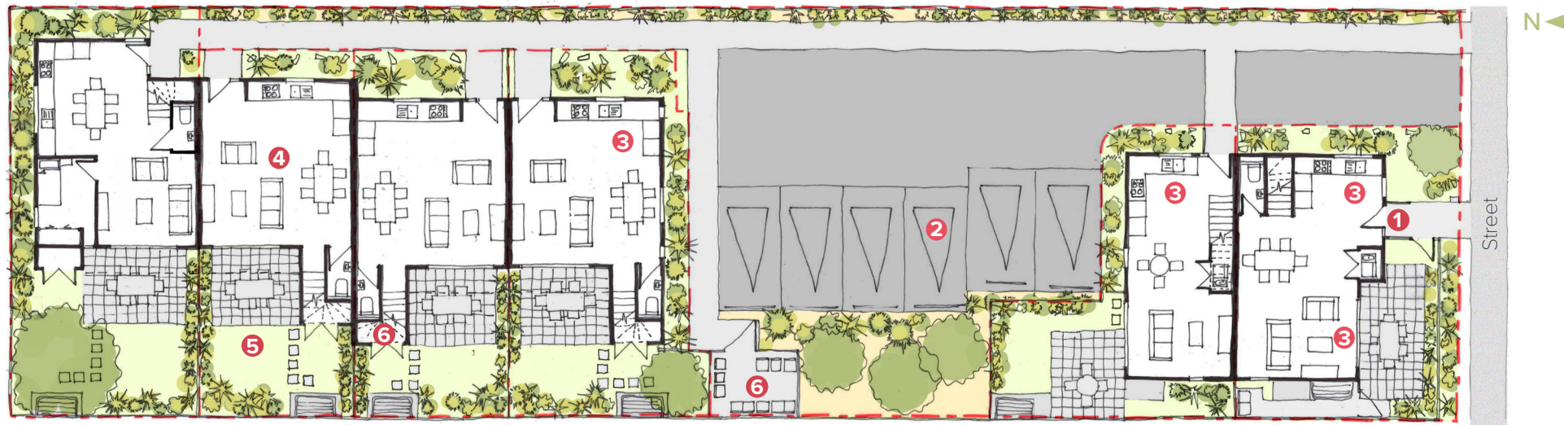
## Access

-  Clear & legible pedestrian access
-  Car park

**Design Details**



# Site Design



- 1** Homes are located at the front of the site and address the street.

These homes have windows and doors that face onto the street and an attractively landscaped front yard. This helps to create a safe and attractive neighbourhood.

- 2** Parking is concealed from the street & is space efficient.

Using buildings to screen parking helps to create a more attractive and well surveilled street. A shared parking pad & short driveway provides space efficient parking, creating more room for homes & high-quality outdoor areas.

- 3** Frequently used, less privacy sensitive rooms are located & designed to have views over communal & public areas.

Residents using these kitchen, dining & living rooms unconsciously keep “an eye out” every time they look out their window. This natural surveillance helps to create a safer neighbourhood.

- 4** Dwellings have well dimensioned rooms and provide for residents’ daily needs.

Rooms are compact, but still sized to create pleasant, functional spaces. Rooms have good levels of natural light and ventilation.

- 5** Homes have a sunny & easily accessible private outdoor area.

This area connects directly to a ground floor living room via large glazed doors, creating a sense of spaciousness and a strong indoor/outdoor flow. To help achieve this the outdoor living area should be collocated with the principal outlook planning control.

- 6** Everyday needs are designed into the development.

This includes storage spaces, waste bin storage & washing lines.

# Street to Front Door

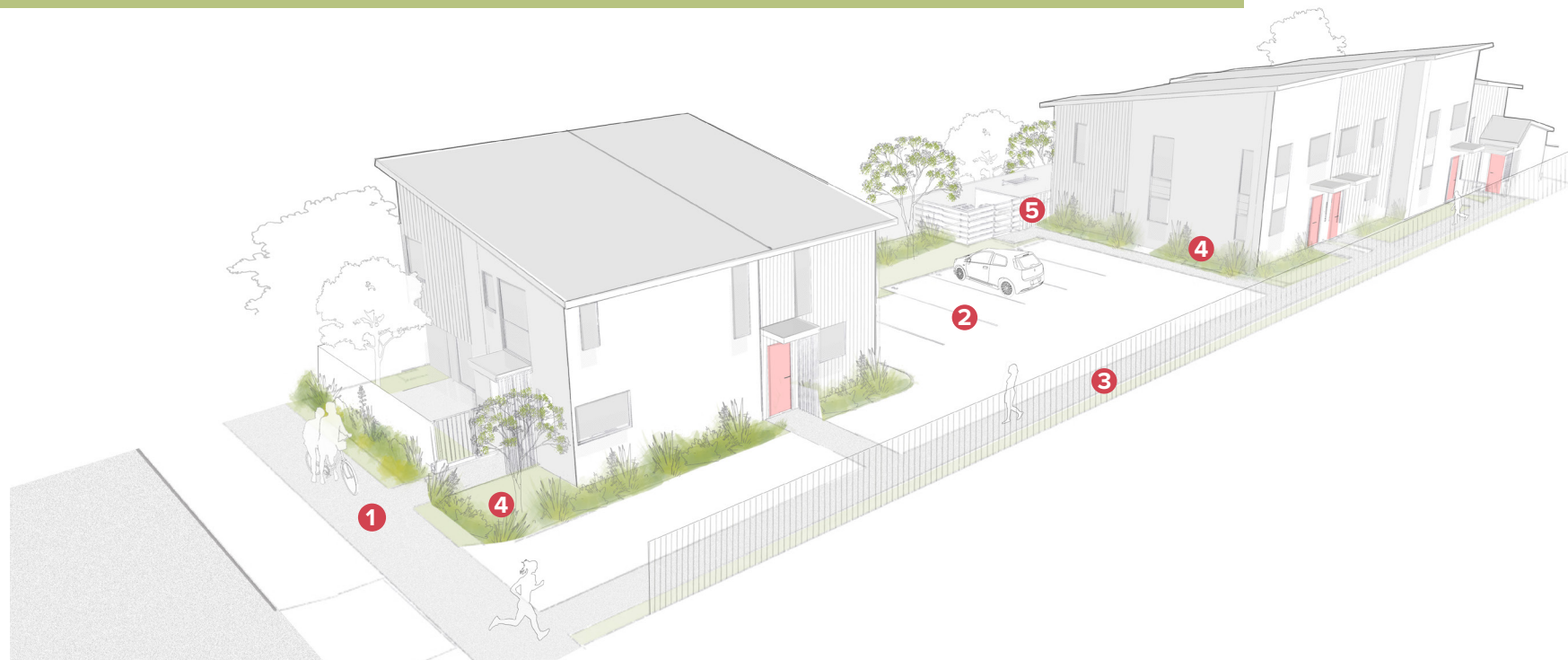


The design of the front yard and street facing elevation of buildings have an important impact on the attractiveness of a development and the safety of the surrounding neighbourhood.

These areas are the public face of the development and will contribute to the important first impressions formed by potential buyers and visitors.

- 1 Homes are designed to face the street.**  
Homes are located at the front of the site, with larger windows and a front door that faces onto the street. This creates a more attractive neighbourhood. Because residents “keep an eye” on the street every time they look out their window these homes also contribute towards creating a safer neighbourhood.
- 2 An attractively landscaped front yard.**  
Fencing is kept low and at least 50% of the front yard is soft landscaping - this means grass, shrubs and larger trees.
- 3 Frequently used kitchen & living rooms are located on the ground floor and have clear views of the street.**  
This helps to create safer streets and homes. Take care to ensure that planting and fencing do not block these important views to the street.
- 4 Safe driveways.**  
Keep fencing and planting low near driveway entrances. This makes it easier for vehicles leaving the site to see pedestrians on the footpath, reducing the risk of injury or death.

# Access, Parking & Communal Areas



On narrow sites driveways compete directly for space with homes and outdoor areas. Less space used by cars means more space for homes and outdoor areas - contributing to a higher development yield and better quality spaces for residents.

- 1 Parking is concealed from the street.** Locating car parking behind buildings helps create a more attractive and active street front and neighbourhood.

- 2 Space used for cars is minimised.**

Grouped car parking and shorter driveways allows more space for homes and outdoor spaces.

- 3 Safe and clear pedestrian paths.**

These connect homes to communal areas and the street. They should be clearly distinguished from driveways through differences in colour and/or materials. For safety and security they should have clear lines of sight and be highly visible from surrounding homes.

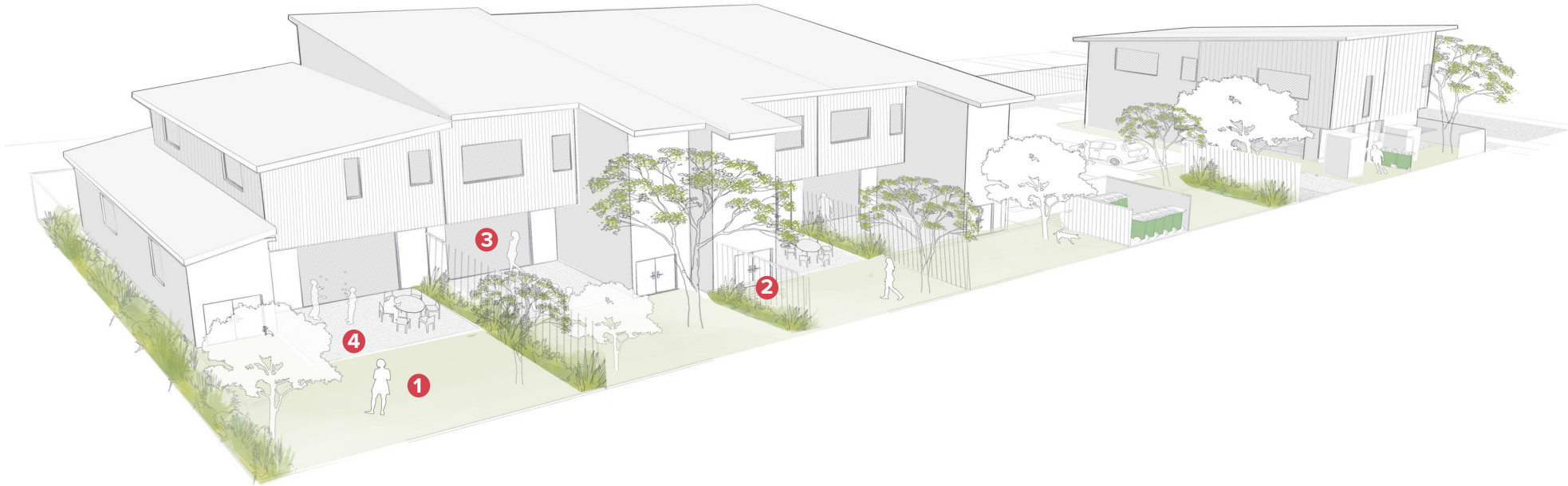
- 4 Attractive landscaping.**

Landscaping improves the attractiveness of the development and increases residents' privacy by physically separating homes from driveways and pedestrian paths. Where practical include larger trees, alongside shrubs and ground covers.

- 5 Waste storage & removal facilities.**

These should be considered early in the design process. Bins should be easily accessible, but screened from view using bin storage enclosures.

# Private Outdoor Spaces



Quality private outdoor spaces improve residents' quality of life and can increase the value of a development. The smaller an outdoor space, the more important it is that the space is well designed.

Don't forget to consider the functional needs of outdoor spaces i.e. do residents have an easily accessible storage space for gardening tools and a lawn mower?

**1** Private outdoor spaces receive good levels of direct sunlight.

Avoid locating these spaces in shaded areas.

**2** Ground floor outdoor spaces feel private and spacious.

A minimum depth of 6m normally helps to provide a reasonable sense of spaciousness. Neighbouring homes and fencing should be designed to provide good levels of privacy to these areas.

**3** Every private outdoor space connects directly to a dining or living room.

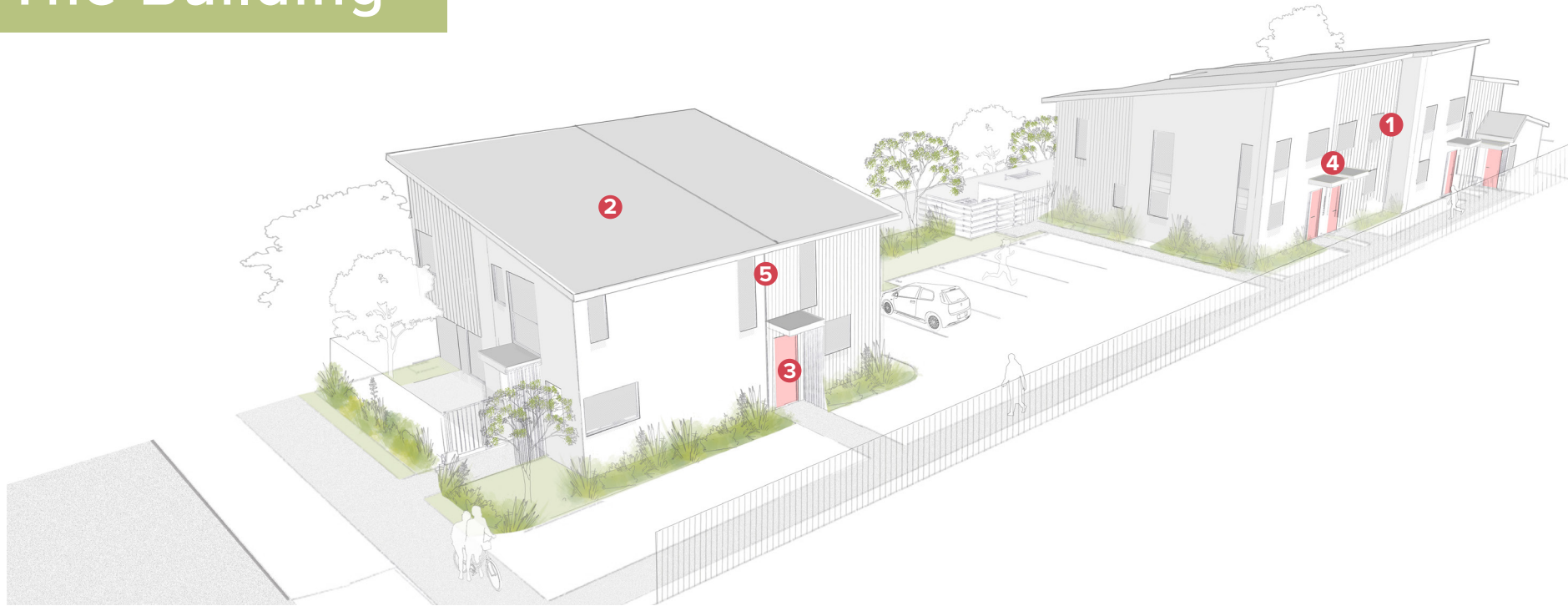
This ensures outdoor areas are easily accessible and maximises residents' use and enjoyment of these spaces.

**4** Private outdoor areas are designed to be attractive & functional spaces.

Landscaping should include patios, planting and trees. The location and design of garden sheds, rainwater tanks, bin storage areas and clotheslines should not undermine the attractiveness and usability of these areas.



# The Building



Good design strikes a balance between form, function and cost to create healthy, attractive and affordable homes.

Consistency in the spacing and design of building elements and materials can create a coherent, pleasing design.

Including elements of variation adds interest and avoids creating a bland, homogeneous building. This is particularly important for longer buildings.

- 1 A simple but varied building form.**  
Pushing in & pulling out elements of a building can help create visual interest. This variation should be a logical reflection of the building's internal layout.
- 2 A simple roof form often works best.**  
Consider the roof pitch, material and depth of overhangs.
- 3 Clearly identifiable home entrances.**  
Canopies can help emphasise entrances and provide shelter from bad weather.
- 4 A pattern of vertical & horizontal lines.**  
Semi-regular spacing of doors and windows helps create a rhythm of vertical and horizontal lines, which is pleasing to the eye. Horizontally align the top edge of doors and windows, and vertically aligning their outer edges.
- 5 Variation in cladding materials.**  
Variation in materials can help create a visually interesting building. Limiting variation to a maximum of 2-3 materials often works best.

# Building Function

Homes should be comfortable, have a reasonable sense of spaciousness and meet the long term needs of occupants.

**1 Well dimensioned, usable room sizes.**

Dining and living rooms are sized to comfortably accommodate all the residents of a home and have a minimum width of 3.8m. Bedrooms comfortably accommodate a queen bed and a wardrobe space.

**2 Good connection to outdoor spaces.**

The main private outdoor space connects directly to a communal living/dining room. This ensures all occupants can easily access this outdoor area and creates a strong visual connection between the home and the outdoors.

**3 Adequate storage spaces.**

Wardrobes are provided in all bedrooms. Kitchens have reasonable food storage space for the number of occupants. Additional indoor storage spaces and secure outdoor storage lockers or sheds provide storage for household essentials, gardening tools, recreational items etc.

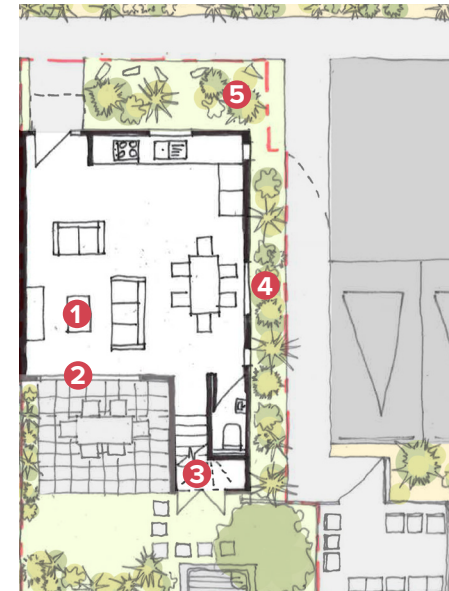
**4 Glazing.**

Views are provided from less privacy sensitive rooms over communal and public outdoor spaces, meaning residents keep an eye on these areas every time they look out their window. Rooms have good levels of natural light and openable windows to provide natural ventilation.

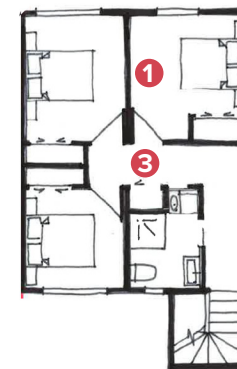
**5 Landscaping.**

Generous planting is included throughout, with larger trees planted where possible. Plants are selected based upon the growing conditions, final size of the plant at maturity and any plant maintenance requirements. Shading of neighbouring properties must also be considered.

Throughout the development landscaping acts as a buffer between communal spaces and homes, helping to provide a sense of privacy for residents.



Ground Floor



First Floor



**Related Design  
Resources**

# More Example Designs

## 10 Terrace Homes

Mixed Housing Suburban Zone  
20m Wide Site



## 16 Apartments

Mixed Housing Urban Zone  
18m Wide Site



## 38 Apartments

Terraced Housing & Apartment Buildings Zone  
35m Wide Site



## 14 Terrace Homes

Mixed Housing Urban Zone  
34.5m Wide Site



# Design Guides

## Unitary Plan Design Elements

R1: Front Yard

R2: Fencing & Walls

R3: Garages

R4: Passive Surveillance

R5: Visual Privacy

R6: Unit Layout & Room Size

R7: Waste Storage & Services

R8: Site Amenities

[www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/residential-design-elements.html](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/residential-design-elements.html)

## Building Design Guides

Stand-Alone and Duplex Homes

[www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/standalone-and-duplex-homes.html](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/standalone-and-duplex-homes.html)

Terraced Houses

[www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/terraced-homes.html](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/terraced-homes.html)

Apartment Buildings

[www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/apartments.html](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/apartments.html)

Mixed Use Buildings

[www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/mixed-use-developments.html](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/mixed-use-developments.html)

Universal Design

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