

Urban Nature

How to stay connected in a built environment

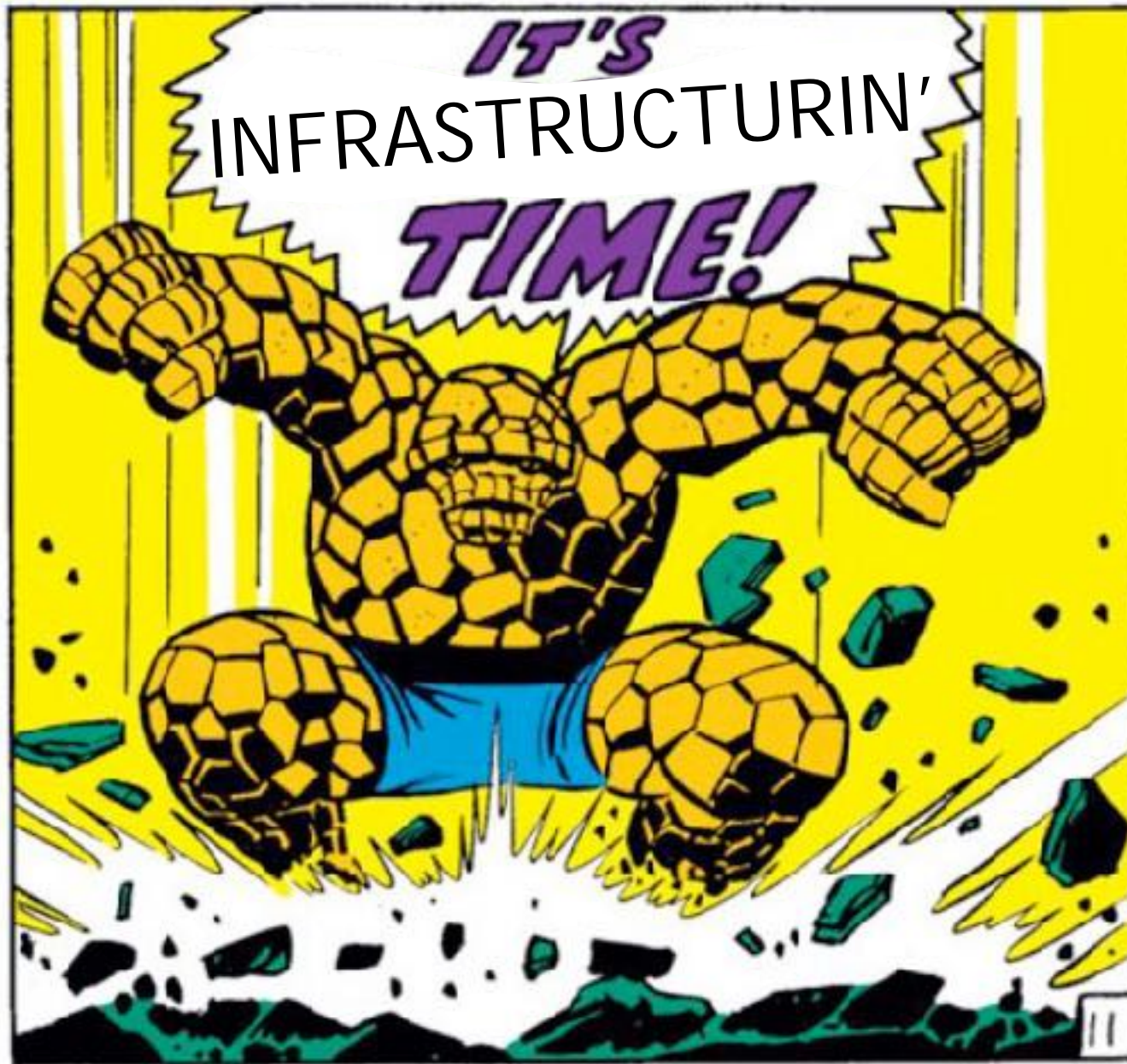
Hypothesis

Human beings evolved in unbuilt environments and as such our perceptions, reflexes, etc. evolved for unbuilt spaces. We unconsciously understand all the biological systems around us in unbuilt environments and have an innate connection with them. (see “forest bathing”)

Built environments, however, are relatively new. Our bodies have yet to adapt to them. As more people are living in urban environments, there are more people are feeling a disconnect from the world around them.

While there are many ways to build connections with the unbuilt world, one simple and powerful method to build a connection to place is through developing a conscious understanding of the patterns, symbols and meaning of the built environment.

It is aspiration of this presentation is to build those connections through consciously understanding the built systems in a city.



Outline

- ▶ Context
 - ▶ Natural
 - ▶ Cultural
 - ▶ Physical
- ▶ Typology of a Road
- ▶ Typology of a Building
- ▶ Urban Materials

Context

“First we shape our cities, then they shape us.” - Winston Churchill

Regional Entities

Patron Deities?

Typology of the Road

“The person attempting to take two roads at once will get nowhere.”

- Xun Kuang



Street Lights

Base. Pole. Luminaire.



Street Signals

Pole. Mast. Single vs Dual Indication. Pedestrian Signals.



Street Signals

Loops. Conduits.



Utility Poles

Order of priority. Materials.



Street Trees

Shade. Roots.



Asphalt

Subbase. Base. Binder. Top Course.



Catch Basins

Grate Configuration.



Manholes. Utility Valves

Access points to an underground world.



Curb and Gutter Line

Materials. Height. Delineation. Accessibility.



Sidewalk

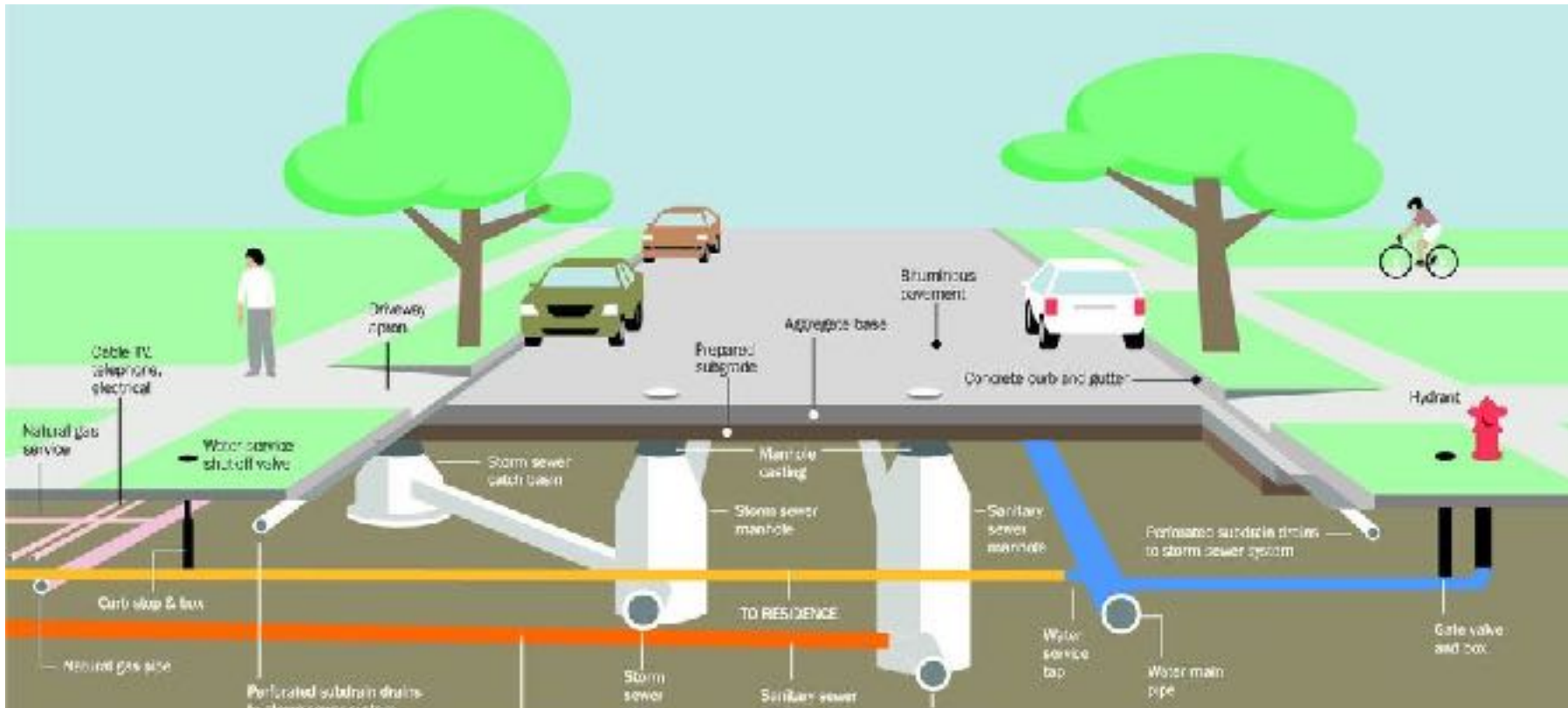
Zones: Frontage. Circulation. Amenity.

Materials.



Urban Soils

Artifacts. Infill. Uncertainty



Water Lines. Sewer Lines. Gas Lines.

Relative height. Location along roadway.

Invisible Boundaries

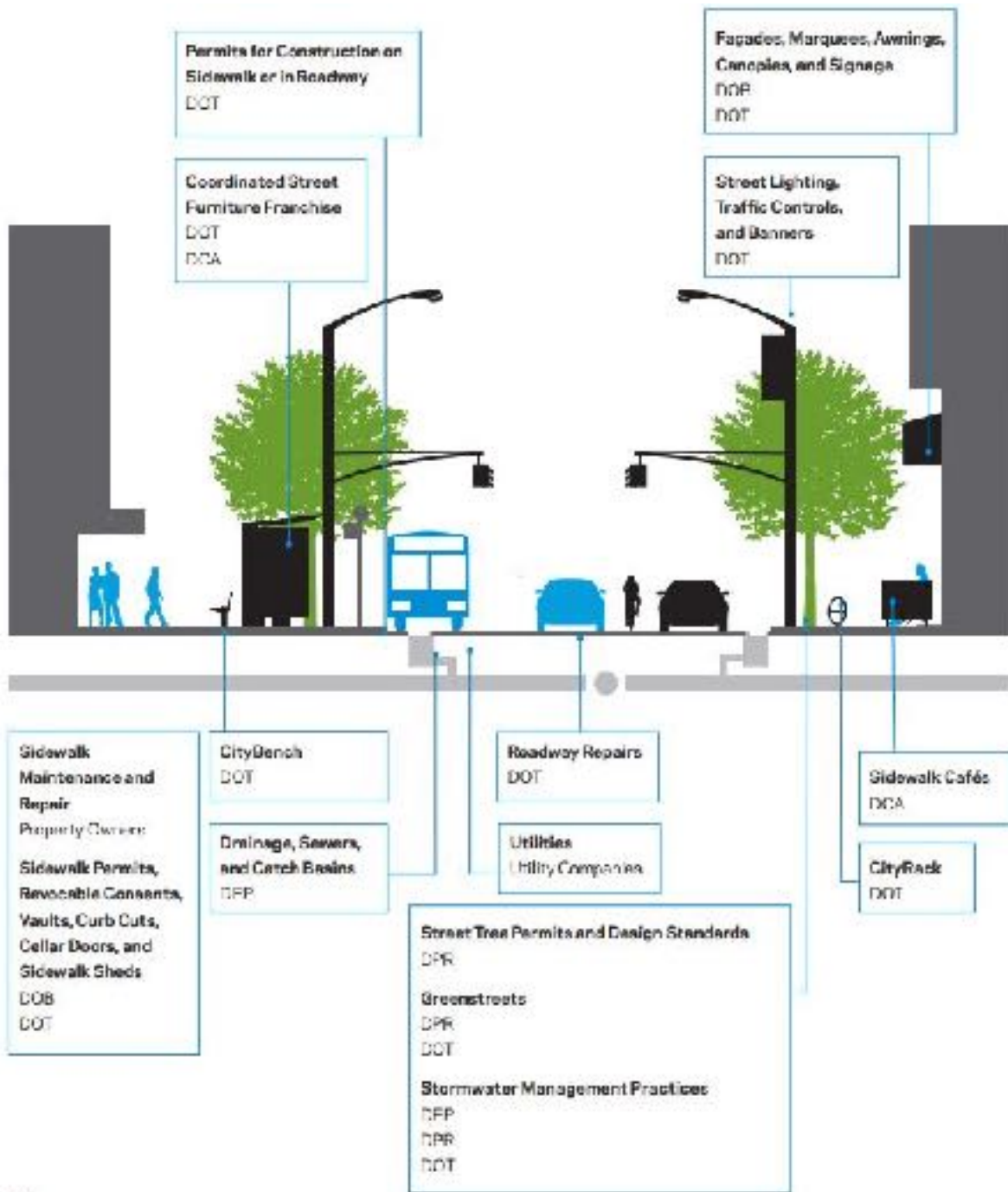
The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping, semi-transparent green polygons. The colors range from light, pale greens to deep, dark forest greens. The shapes are angular and layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The design is primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame, with some elements extending towards the left.



Paper Streets



Paper Streets



Typology of a Building

"The higher the building, the lower the morals." - Noel Coward



Building Walls

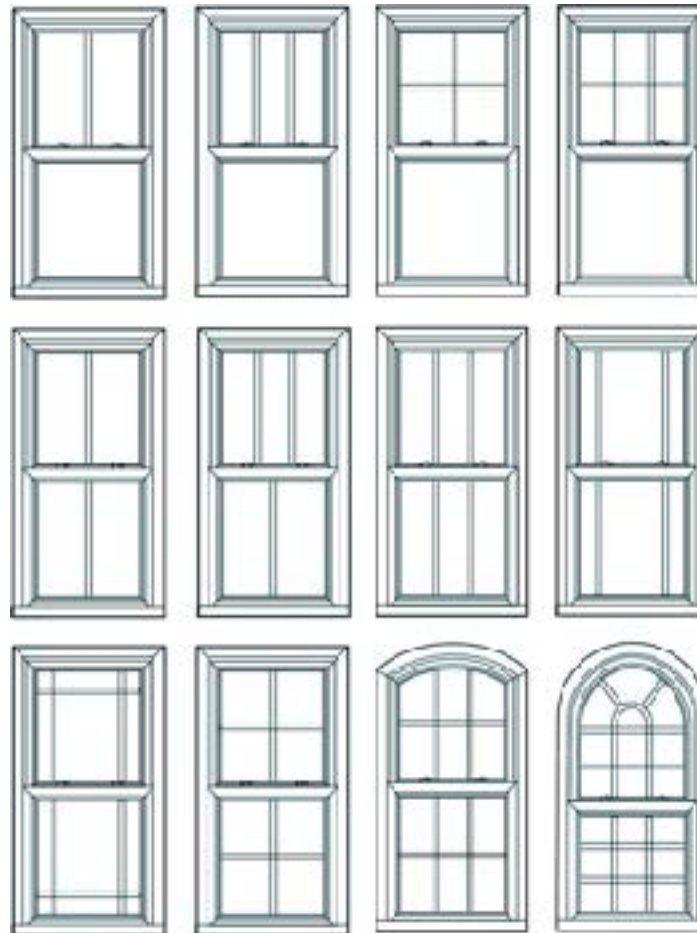
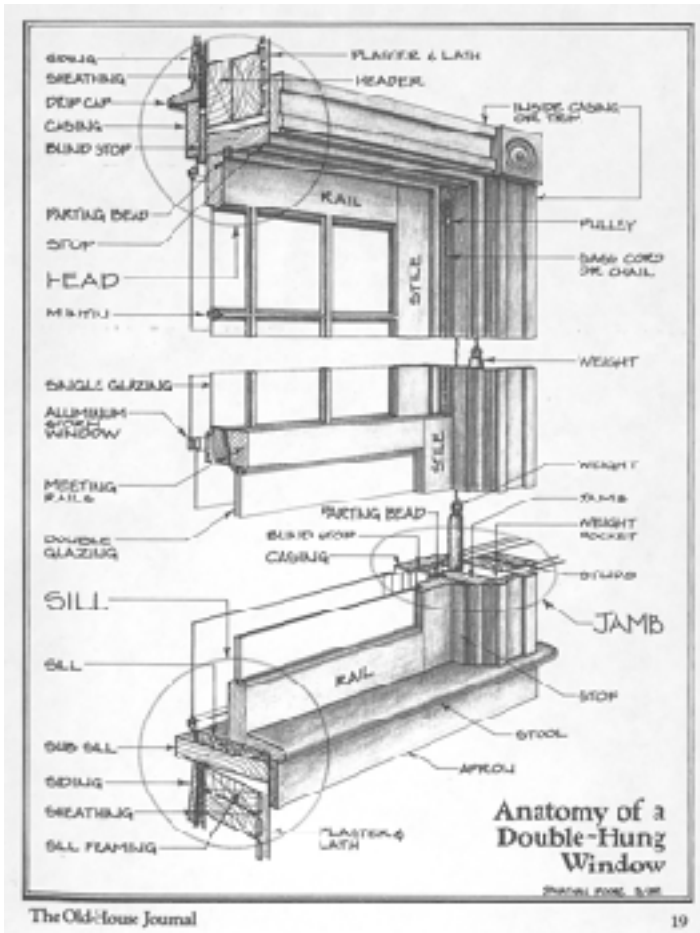
Framing. Weights. Curtains.





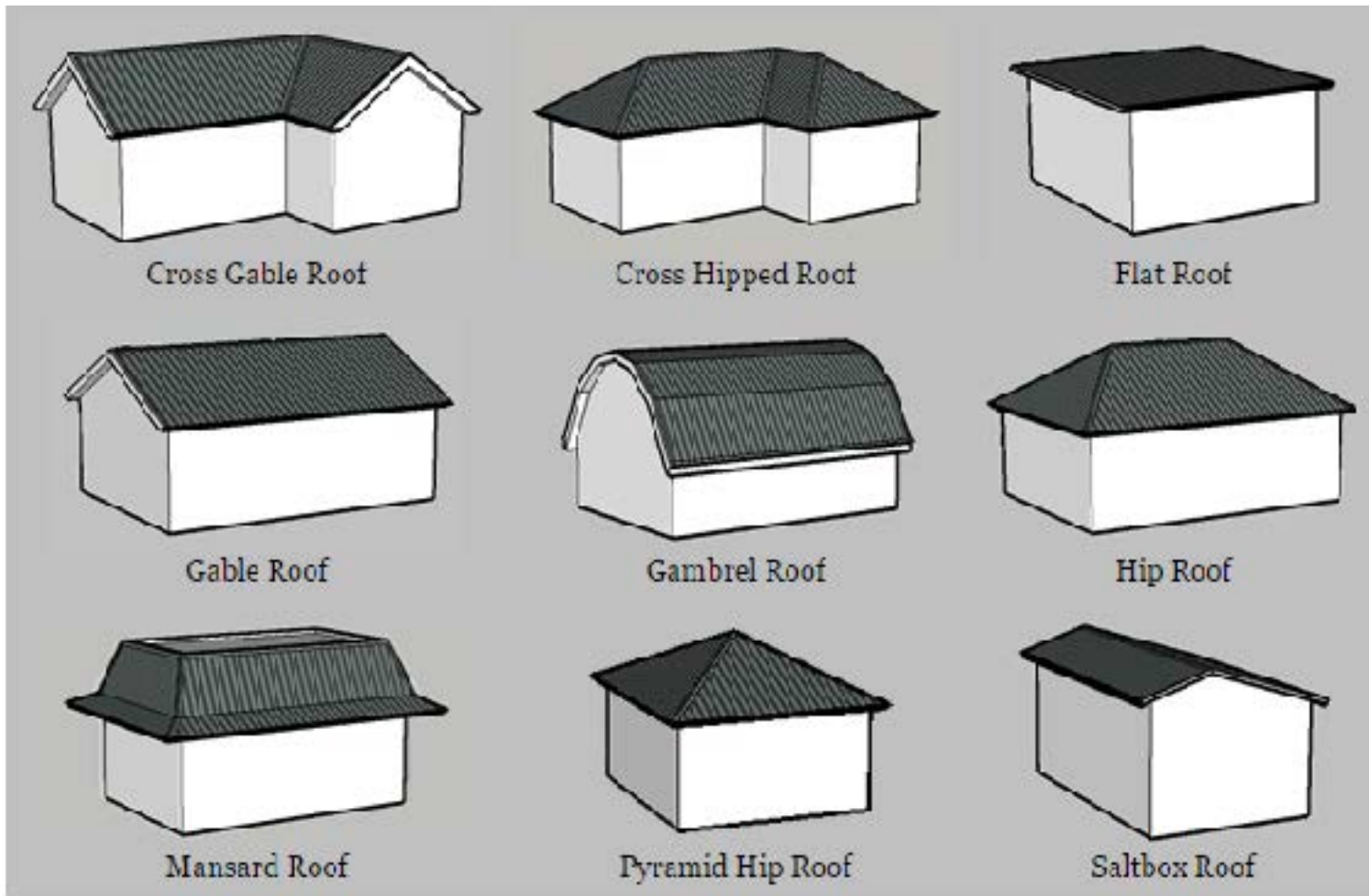
Doorways

Point of Arrival. Transition. Liminal Spaces.



Fenestration

Ratio. Volume. Rhythm. Style.



Roof Lines

Diversity. Unity. Simplicity.

Architectural Styles

A Simplified Overview of American Styles





Federal

Simple. Idealist. Pragmatic.



Greek Revival

Aspirational. Inspirational.



Gothic Revival

Romantic. Celebratory. Diversity.



Italianate

Urban. Cultured. Sophisticated. Victorian.





Second Empire

Mansard. National Styles. Legal Loopholes.





Victorian

Queen Anne. Floral. Decadent. Asymmetrical.



Richardsonian Romanesque

Uniquely American. Heavy and Open. Experimental.



Colonial

Traditional. Nationalistic. Mass Produced.



Craftsman

Mission. Prairie.

Horizontal. Early Modern.





Art Deco

Geometric. Organic. Ornate. Decadent.





International

Materiality. Clean. Blank.





Brutalism

Exposure. Raw Materiality. Monumentality.





Shed

Rejecting Orthogonality.



Post-Modernism

Satirical. Irreverent. Context-Driven.





Modern Medievalism

Defensive. Secure. Inward.

Urban Materials

“We are living in a material world and I am a Material Girl.” - Madonna