

**COUNCIL POLICY**

SUBJECT: BALBOA PARK ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS  
POLICY NO.: 700-24  
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 24, 1981

**BACKGROUND:**

Balboa Park, the center of San Diego's social and cultural life for over half a century, is symbolized by the Prado area. This area of avenues, gardens, plazas and Spanish Colonial buildings was developed for the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition.

The remaining buildings in their unity of overall concept coupled with their diversity of individual architectural development, present one of the most comprehensive expressions of Spanish Colonial architecture and the only such expression within a similarly confined area now existing in the Western Hemisphere.

On September 7, 1967, the local Historic Site Board designated the buildings on the Prado as Historic Site #1. Subsequently, on December 12, 1976, the buildings were included on the National Register of Historic Places.

**PURPOSE:**

Establish guidelines to preserve the comprehensive expression of Spanish Colonial architecture in the Prado area. The Prado area is described as:

That area contiguous to the east-west axis of El Prado and the north-south axis from Fine Arts Gallery to the Spreckels Organ.

The guidelines are to be followed in the development and maintenance of buildings in the El Prado area of Balboa Park in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Bartholmew Master Plan for Balboa Park adopted September 14, 1961 by the City Council. Further, the guidelines are to be utilized to insure that new structures built in this historic area shall by their architectural style and their close relationship to the existing landscape of the area continue to enhance the intriguing combination of variety and unity that has contributed to the romantic atmosphere of Balboa Park.

**POLICY:**

The Spanish Colonial architectural style of the 1915 California Pacific Exposition Buildings shall be incorporated in new structures through the use of architectural design, style and ornament similar to, or compatible with, that of the other Spanish Colonial buildings in the area.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

Council Policy 300-07  
Administrative Regulation 25.60  
Administrative Regulation 25.70

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-192661 01/18/1968

Amended by Resolution R-254869 08/24/1981