

For Further Information

Form Based Codes: An Alternative Approach to Regulating and Shaping Development

Form Based Codes are emerging as one of the most interesting recent reforms to traditional zoning codes. Often associated with Smart Growth and the rise of “New Urbanist” planning concepts, form-based codes place primary emphasis upon the physical form of development, including building height, bulk, façade treatments, the relationship of the buildings to the street and to one another and the location of parking. Simply put, form-based codes emphasize the appearance and qualities of the *public realm* by addressing both structures and the places they create.

This list of resources also will be available on the City of Evanston’s web site at:
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/PlanCommissionMinutesAgendas.shtml>

About Form Based Codes

Form Based Codes Institute: <http://www.formbasedcodes.org/>

Definition of a Form Based Code
<http://www.formbasedcodes.org/definition.html>

Eight Advantages to Form Based Codes
<http://www.formbasedcodes.org/advantages.html>

Checklist for Identifying and Evaluating Form Based Codes
<http://www.formbasedcodes.org/checklist.html>

Resources
<http://www.formbasedcodes.org/resource.html>

Alternative Methods of Land Development Regulation
Prepared for the Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL by Victor Dover, AICP, 9/2/96
http://www.spikowski.com/victor_dover.htm

Form Based Codes: Implementing Smart Growth
Local Government Commission
http://www.lgc.org/freepub/PDF/Land_Use/fact_sheets/form_based_codes.pdf

Form Based Codes: A Supportive but Critical Perspective
American Institute of Certified Planners, Jerry Weitz, AICP
<http://www.planning.org/practicingplanner/print/05fall/practitionersbookshelf.htm>

Form First: The New Urbanist Alternative to Conventional Zoning
Peter Katz
<http://nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/referencelibrary/f/formbasedzoning/formfirst.htm>

Smart Code Annotated
<http://www.placemakers.com/info/SCdownloads.html>

Zoning Ready to be Reformed?
Washington Post Writers Group, Neal Pierce
<http://www.postwritersgroup.com/archives/peir0127.htm>

Zoning Reform Has Begun: Form Based Codes
National Association of Realtors
<http://www.realtor.org/SG3.nsf/Pages/formbasedcodes?OpenDocument>

Case Studies

Library of Land Development Regulation Codes (links to numerous city codes)
Smart Growth Network
<http://www.smartgrowth.org/library/byldrtype.asp?typ=5&res=1024>

Central Petaluma Specific Plan, Appendix A Smart Code
City of Petaluma, CA
<http://cityofpetaluma.net/cdd/cpsp.html>

Columbia Pike Special Revitalization District Form Based Code
Arlington County, VA
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/Forums/columbia/current/CPHDForumsColumbiaCurrentCurrentStatus.aspx>

Downtown Kendall: Transforming Miami-Dade's Edge City
http://www.doverkohl.com/project_graphic_pages_pdfs/Downtown%20Kendall%20project%20page.pdf

Form Based Code: The Farmers Branch Experience
American Institute of Certified Planners, Kaizer Rangwala, AICP
<http://www.planning.org/practicingplanner/print/05fall/essentials.htm>

Codes Project: Frequently Asked Questions
City of Farmers Branch, TX
<http://www.farmersbranch.info/Planning/codes7FAQs.html>