GRAVESHAM LOCAL PLAN

Shopfront design sheets 1 - 6

3. Design details; door & access, stallriser, pilasters and fascia

Informal Guidance to Support SPG3 and SPG4

Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of

Gravesham Borough Council

Design sheet 3: Design details; door & access, stallriser, pilasters and fascia

Doorway and Access

The doorway is an important visual element within the shopfront.

Traditionally entrances have been recessed in order to provide an inviting lobby area and protection from the weather for the customer while increasing the window display area at the same time. The recess breaks up the scale and window area and thus adds detail and interest to the street scene. The floors are often decorated with tiles and mosaics which sometimes incorporate the name of the shop owner.

- A change or removal of the recess to create a doorway opening straight onto the pavement will not normally be permitted.

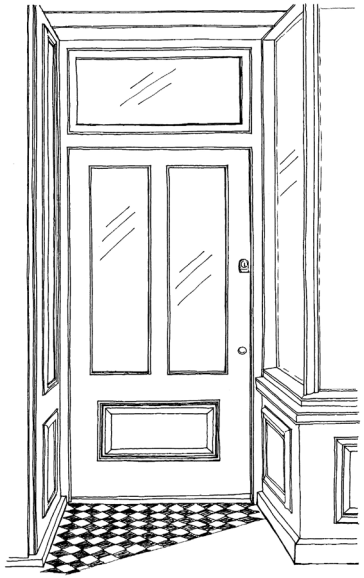
- If the original door has disappeared and no photographic or other evidence exists to create a replica, a suitable replacement door should be designed. It should in style and material match the rest of the shopfront.

- Align the design of the door with the vertical and horizontal subdivision of the shopscreen. It is appropriate to include a solid panel at the base of the door to coincide with the stallriser, and above the door a fanlight might be incorporated so as to follow the line of any transom lights.

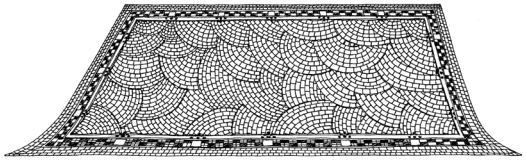
Access should be facilitated for everybody including for those physically impaired, parents with pushchairs and small children.

- New doorways should be wide enough to allow for the passage of wheelchairs and preferably be a single leaf door.

- Thresholds should ideally be level, but if raised, a door recess can accommodate a ramp. The ramp should ideally have a gradient of 1:20, but a gradient up to 1:12 is acceptable.



The removal of a recessed doorway will not normally be permitted



Example of mosaic tiles in a recessed doorway

Further Information:

- The British Standards Institution (BSI) document 8300-2:2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment. Buildings – code of practise
- Approved Document M – Access to and use of buildings: Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellings 2015
- Contact STG Building Control Partnership on Tel. (01634) 331133 or email: building@stgbc.org.uk.

The Stallriser

The stallriser forms the base of the shopfront. Its height can vary depending on the nature of the business and how much window display area is needed. Depending on the building they can be rendered, painted timber panelling, stone or marble faced or tiled. The use of modern square ceramics or composite tiles and mosaics tend to be unsuccessful in historic buildings.

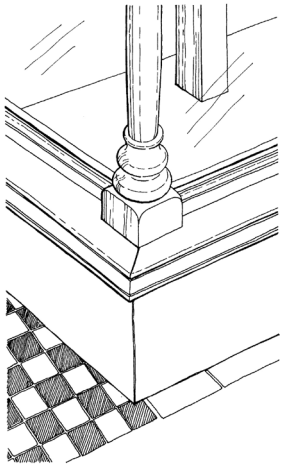
Examples: Late 19th and early 20th century shopfronts used a variety of materials for the stallriser of the shopfront, such as timber, marble cladding, and tiles.

Where a timber panelled stallriser is proposed this should have properly detailed panels; applied surface mouldings to create a panelled appearance as a substitute for proper joinery will not be acceptable. It should terminate in a moulded projecting sill and a sub-sill to create a clear horizontal distinction between the window and the base.

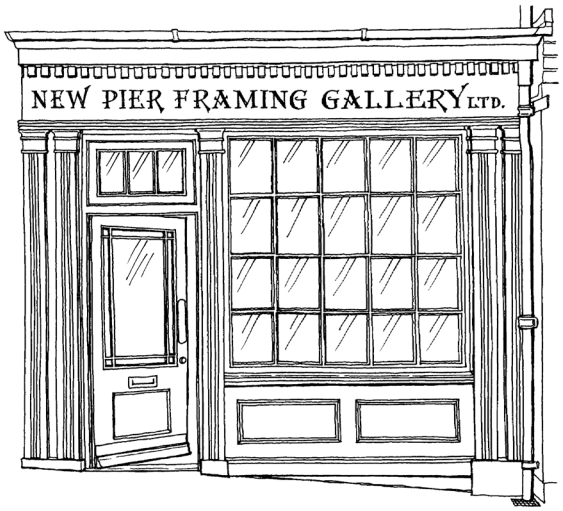
Pilasters

Pilasters to both sides of a shopfront give it a vertical framing that provides visual support to the building above. Pilasters should always be incorporated in a traditional shopfront design. They should normally include some kind of base and a capital. Late 19th and early 20th century shopfronts often terminate in carved console brackets that enclose the fascia.

In a modern style shopfront the inclusion of a pilaster might not be desired or appropriate. However, the



Traditional stallriser height can vary depending on window display area needed.



Pillasters provide a vertical framing that provides a visual support to the building above.

principle of providing a clear division between shopfronts and visual support for the upper part of the building still applies. This can be achieved, for example, by incorporating or retaining flanking masonry piers and, where necessary, to include piers within the shopfront.

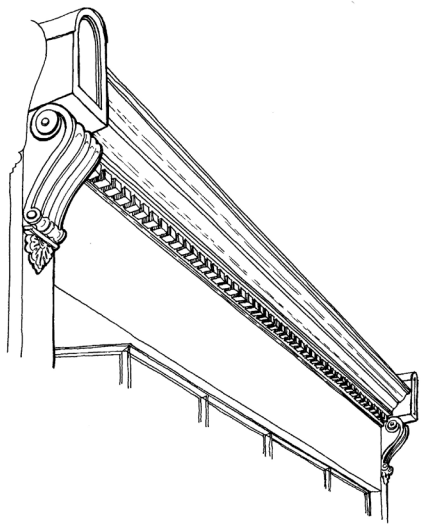
Fascia

The fascia is the space that advertises the business. The fascia usually has a deep moulded section along the top edge, known as a cornice, which provides a visual termination between the shopfront and the building above. In traditional shopfront design the fascia is normally enclosed by capitals or console brackets supported by pilasters.

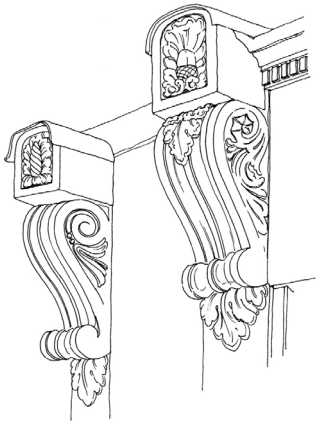
- The height of the fascia should be appropriately scaled in relation to the overall proportion of the shop. It should not exceed 20% of the overall shopfront.

- The fascia should not be extended, or a sub-fascia added, to hide suspended internal ceilings. Suspended ceilings can be concealed by setting them well back from the shopfront. Alternatively they can be positioned behind an opaque transom light which can be introduced for this purpose.

For more information on Fascia design see the ‘Design Sheet 5: Signs & Advertisement’.



The cornice provides a visual termination between the shopfront and the building above



Carved brackets (Corbels) often enclose the facia