



**A New Hampshire Model Community: Beyond the Charrette**  
*a Blueprint for America initiative*  
*and part of the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects*  
**SUMMARY AND REFERENCE**

**About the Blueprint for America**

The Blueprint for America is a nationwide effort by the components of the American Institute of Architects to celebrate its 150th anniversary. Throughout the country architects, citizens, and community leaders will come together to address a community's distinct needs. The Blueprint for America uses the design processes to help citizens find their voices and realize a vision for beautiful, safe, and livable communities.

The commonalities of these "visions" will be refined to inspire a national vision for healthy, safe, and sustainable American communities and outline the necessary steps required to enhance the built environment. A compendium of the local programs will be gathered within a framework, providing a national mosaic with interrelated themes, issues, and solutions designed by AIA architects, community members, and community partners. The resulting mosaic will be presented to the nation as a gift for the future and as a testament to the value of design and the AIA architect.

**A New Hampshire Model Community**

The New Hampshire AIA (AIANH) component's initiative is to continue its anti-sprawl, livable community efforts by engaging one community over a longer period of time, with the goal of obtaining permits for a workforce housing or mixed use development tailored to a New Hampshire community's needs. We will interface with elected officials, other nonprofit organizations, local media, and community groups or other entities that comprise the community's civic leadership.

Once permitting is achieved, a private or non-profit developer could then implement this affordable, smart growth

project as a model that citizens could see and experience. This initiative will also become a guidebook for northern New England states, illustrating how communities can engage their residents in a proactive process that develops planning and zoning guidelines, not one solely reactive to impending growth.

By sharing our knowledge and experience, AIANH's architects offer our communities the opportunity to celebrate their heritage while addressing emerging challenges and trends.

The AIANH Blueprint for America is a collaborative effort of AIANH, PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, the Granite State Landscape Architects, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. For more information on the Blueprint for America initiative go to: [www.aianh.org](http://www.aianh.org).

**By the conclusion of 2008, AIANH 150 will complete a design, guiding it through the permitting stage, for a model neighborhood in a NH Community, based on the AIA's Livable Community Guidelines.**

**AIA's 10 Principles on Livable Communities**

**1. Design on a Human Scale**

Compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural resources, and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit people's health.

**2. Provide Choices**

People want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation, and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.

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### 3. Encourage Mixed-Use Development

Integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and diverse communities.

### 4. Preserve Urban Centers

Restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services, and buildings and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promote stability for city neighborhoods.

### 5. Vary Transportation Options

Giving people the option of walking, biking, and using public transit, in addition to driving, reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment, and encourages physical activity.

### 6. Build Vibrant Public Spaces

Citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places to stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.

### 7. Create a Neighborhood Identity

A “sense of place” gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.

### 8. Protect Environmental Resources

A well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution, and protects property values.

### 9. Conserve Landscapes

Open space, farms, and wildlife habitat are essential for environmental, recreational, and cultural reasons.

### 10. Design Matters

Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.

Visit the **Center for Communities by Design** for more information on how architecture can influence the quality of life in our nation’s communities., [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

### AIA Position on Sustainable Design and Resource Conservation and The “2030 Challenge”

The AIA has adopted a policy advocating that “all new buildings be carbon neutral by 2030, using zero fossil fuels to operate.”

The AIA policy promotes sustainable design and resource conservation practices for architects to achieve a minimum reduction of fifty percent of the current consumption level of fossil fuels used to construct and operate buildings by the year 2010. Subsequent targets each year thereafter will result in the design and construction of carbon neutral buildings by 2030.

For more information about the **AIA Committee on the Environment**, go to [www.aia.org/cote\\_default](http://www.aia.org/cote_default). For information on the **2030 Challenge** go to: [www.architecture2030.org](http://www.architecture2030.org).

## Questions?

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