

THE CARADON *DESIGN* GUIDE

SECTION E

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

DOOR SURROUNDS
&
PORCHES



Supplementary Planning Guidance

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SECTION E

D O O R S U R R O U N D S
&
P O R C H E S

C O N T E N T S

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A. Simple porch on a modern house.
The width is generous and welcoming.



B. Traditional cottage porch. Note
the slate verge and timber lintel. This
one has a pair of benches inside.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Caradon District Council has produced the Design Guide to help conserve and strengthen the special character of the built environment in Cornwall, especially its traditional towns and villages. This factsheet is concerned with Door Surrounds and Porches. Other sections of the Design Guide will provide valuable background information.

- *Section A* Explores the concept of local distinctiveness.
- *Section B* Provides information on Design within the Planning System.
- *Section C* Looks at fitting development into the landscape.
- *Section D* Focuses on local context.

DOOR SURROUNDS & PORCHES

Traditionally there are several types of porches found in South East Cornwall. They vary in scale from the simple slate door hood to fully enclosed stone or glazed porches. This factsheet is to help you to design a new porch which enhances and is in keeping with your property and its neighbours.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- A badly designed and built porch is detrimental to the appearance and value of your property.
- The architectural style, materials and how they are used should match the original house as closely as possible.
- Open door hoods are less obtrusive than enclosed porches.
- Special care will be required if you live in a Listed Building or in a Conservation Area, and professional advice should be sought regarding correct period details. It will be necessary to use natural and good quality materials in these cases, which are appropriate to South East Cornwall.
- It is usually better to repair than replace an existing traditional porch or door surround, if one already exists on your property. Match damaged mouldings and details as closely as possible.
- Porches should always be in scale with the original house or cottage. Generally the smaller and less obtrusive the better. A porch should look as if it has 'always been there', rather than an element that has been stuck on.
- Consider the effect of a porch on neighbouring houses especially if you live in a terrace or row of similar properties. It is important to retain a harmony of rhythm and scale within the whole terrace.



A modern porch built in the vernacular style using slate verges and granite lintol.



A small Victorian semi glazed porch. Avoid very ornate decorated timber work, unless faithfully reproducing high 'Victorian' detailing on a property of that period.



A simple lean-to slate canopy with timber bracket supports on a traditional cottage. Note that gutters are not required on very small areas of roof, helping to create a lighter uncluttered appearance.

DOOR SURROUNDS
&
PORCHES

■ Avoid prefabricated or kit porches and door surrounds which are crudely detailed and of inappropriate style. Pre-formed fibre-glass 'Georgian' door surrounds are seldom detailed or proportioned correctly.

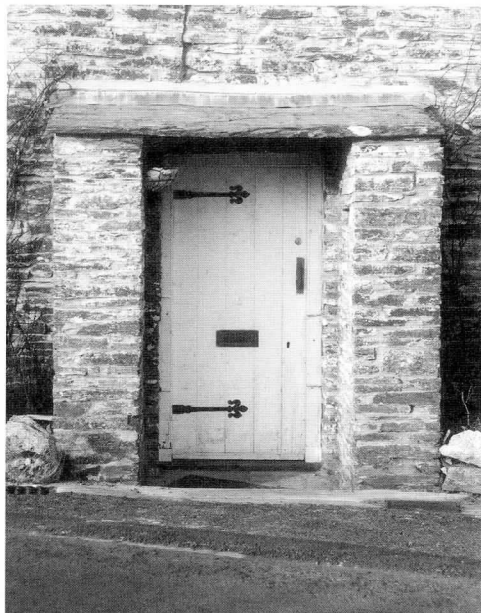
■ Avoid stained timber or PVCu glazed porches on older properties.

■ Avoid flat roofs unless reproducing a genuine period detail.

■ Dark stained timber, mahogany coloured frequently gives a heavy and overbearing quality to new porches. White or subtle shaded painted woodwork is generally less obtrusive.



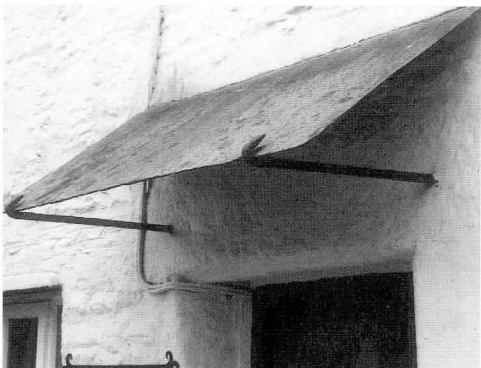
An enclosed pitch roofed porch of suitable scale, detailing and materials to match the cottage. Real slate roof, stone walls, slate cill and timber small paned window set well back in the opening. Note the vertical emphasis of this porch.



An open stone porch with a slate slab roof creates a robust and appropriate entrance for a cottage or country house. Note that the stonework matches the original cottage.



Door surrounds are generally found on more formal village or town Georgian period houses rather than country cottages. The details are classically inspired and, although often quite simple, add an elegance to the property. Fibre glass reproductions would not be acceptable.



A slate door hood on simple cast iron brackets is a very traditional Cornish detail, especially suitable for cottages, barns and rural properties.



A glazed porch which suits the scale and size of the house facade. Areas of glass are subdivided with similar sized panes in the windows, and the painted finish matches other windows in the facade.



An unusual porch detail created by setting the door back into the very thick cottage walls.