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## ***BLUEPRINT FOR AMERICA***

**The American Institute of Architects Center for Communities by Design**  
*Helping to Create More Livable Communities*

AIA-NJ is concerned about the quality of the communities in our state and we need your help to identify the good and the bad! On the back of this sheet, you will find a summary of the Livable Community information we learned today. Go out into your community, or anywhere in New Jersey that you select, and locate one community that you think is great and one that needs improvement.

For Each:

- Photograph or Draw a picture of the community
- List the address or location
- Describe why you think it is successful or unsuccessful
- Include your name, your teachers name, and your school
- E-mail to [AIA150-NJ@optonline.net](mailto:AIA150-NJ@optonline.net) or Mail to

AIA150-NJ  
c/o 339 S. Van Dien Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

We will be sharing your submissions with architects and government leaders across the state to discuss your ideas. We will also be posting some submissions on our website.

If you have questions on this assignment, you can e-mail those questions to the same e-mail address above.

***We cannot wait to see your submissions! Thanks for helping!***

## **AIA-NJ**

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AIA New Jersey supports its members and promotes the public's understanding of architecture through advocacy, education and service.

# AIA Communities by Design



## The AIA's 10 Principles for 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.

### 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.