

Design Guidelines: Alleys

AI1 Rear and side facades that are visible from the public realm should be pleasant and inviting. These facades should have the same level of trim and finish as street-facing facades.

AI2 Avoid large uninterrupted expanses of wall surfaces.

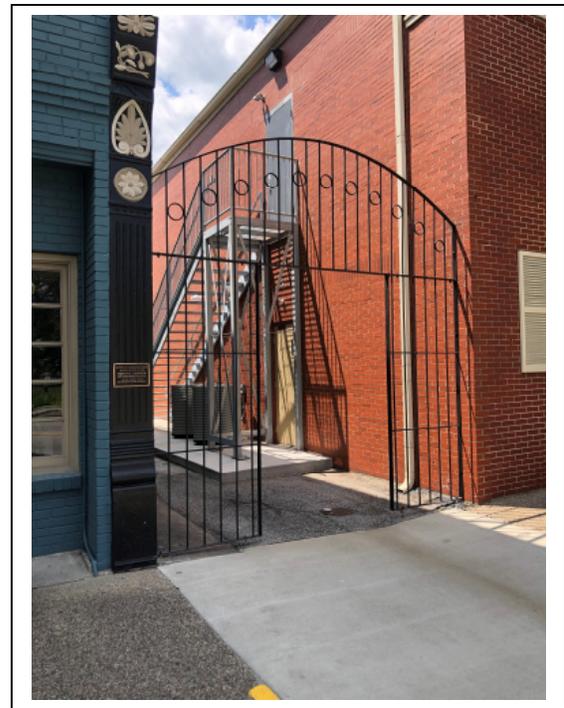
AI3 Reduce potential for criminal activity by discouraging cutouts or openings that are not visible from the ends of the alley.

AI4 When they do not conflict with the structural integrity of the building, access to utilities, and public safety systems, the use of green walls is encouraged to soften facades and to add vegetation to alleys.

AI5 Alley entrances should be adequately lit with light fixtures that complement the architectural style of the building. Lighting should be downward-oriented or shielded to prevent glare onto residential properties

AI6 Canopy lighting or decorative lighting that drapes across the alley is encouraged. Lighting should be placed at a minimum clearance of 14-feet to allow for service by utility vehicles and public safety vehicles. Also consider in-pavement lighting within destination alleys to help create an identifiable place.

AI7 Consider the use of special paving materials, colors, and/or patterns to differentiate the alley from the periphery streets and sidewalks. The change in materials should provide for an attractive pedestrian environment and lend an identity to the alley.



The use of a decorative metal gate helps to give this alley a distinct identity.

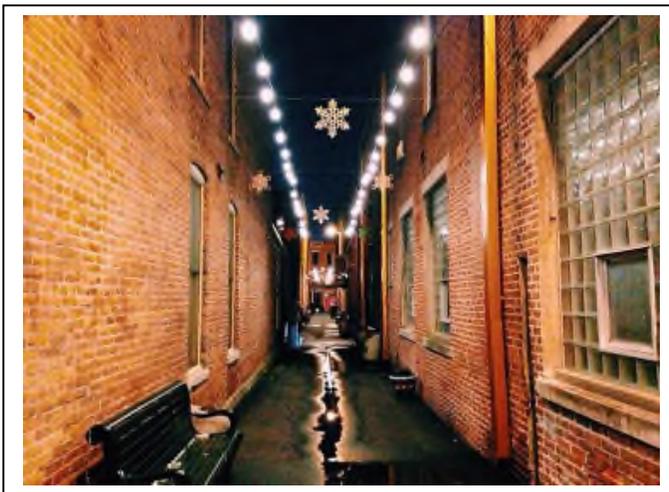
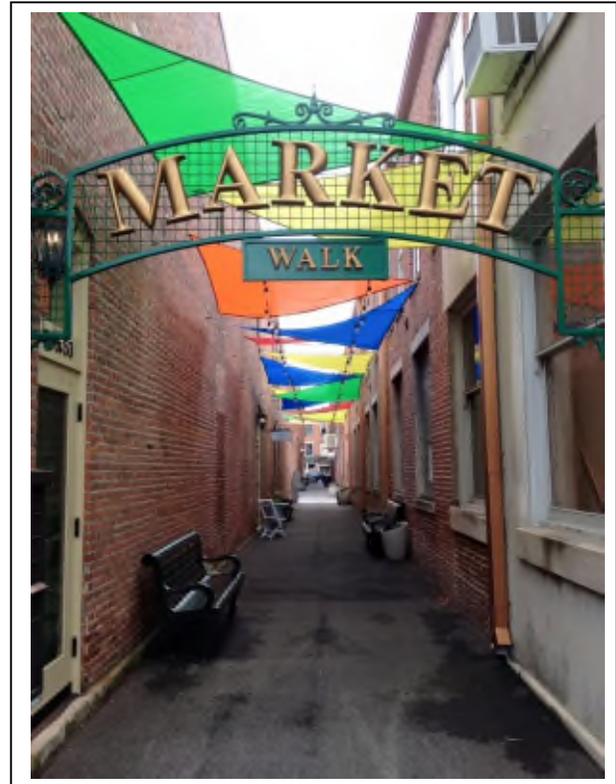
AI8 Impervious paving should be avoided to reduce associated stormwater pollution. Consider using pervious pavement, permeable pavers, grid pavers, and or strip paving where appropriate.

AI9 Property owners and tenants are encouraged to consolidate collection areas to provide for efficient service and to reduce encroachments into the alley. To the extent possible, these areas should be located away from public pathways and public gathering places to minimize views and offensive odors.

AI10 Waste receptacles placed within the alley should be screened. Screenings should be consistent with the building architecture in form, material, and detail.

AI11 Consider utilizing alleys as a location for public art. Any art pieces should be affixed in a manner that causes the least damage to the host building as possible and is readily reversible.

AI12 Alley murals should not be painted directly on previously-unpainted masonry walls, and should not cover or detract from significant architectural features. See the design guidelines for signs for more information on murals.



As these alleys from Wabash, Indiana (top and left) and Denver, Colorado illustrate, a little creativity can transform alleys into vibrant and inviting spaces.