

New construction
R3A regulations

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Characteristic of many of the city's older neighborhoods, R3A contextual districts feature modest single- and two-family detached residences on zoning lots as narrow as 25 feet in width. Parts of College Point and Whitestone in Queens, City Island in the Bronx and Port Richmond in Staten Island are typical R3A neighborhoods.

The amount of required open space on residential lots in R3A districts is governed by yard requirements. New detached homes must have two side yards totaling at least eight feet, but there is no minimum width requirement for either one. R3A districts also permit zero lot line buildings which are set along a side lot line and have one side yard at least eight feet wide. The front yard of a new home must be at least 10 feet deep and, to promote a unified streetscape, it must be as deep as an adjacent front yard but need not exceed a depth of 20 feet. The maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.5 may be increased up to 20% by an attic allowance for the inclusion of space beneath a pitched roof. The perimeter wall may rise to 21 feet before sloping or being set back to a maximum building height of 35 feet. Parking is in the side or rear yard but an in-house garage is allowed if the lot is 35 feet or wider, provided the driveway is at least 18 feet deep. One off-street parking space is required for each dwelling unit.