

## Balance

- 1.31 In order to achieve the best visual effect, the directional emphasis of an elevation should be counteracted by the directional emphasis of the openings within it. This means that a horizontally proportioned elevation should contain vertically proportioned window openings, while a vertically proportioned elevation should contain horizontally proportioned window openings.
- 1.32 A square-proportioned window, though it attracts the eye, is neutral, and imparts no directional emphasis. Square windows may be used on an upper storey above vertically proportioned window openings – the vertically proportioned windows will suffice to balance a horizontally proportioned facade.
- 1.33 Where a horizontally proportioned window opening is essential, it may be placed in a projecting part of the facade, such as a wing or gable, which has a vertical emphasis that will balance the emphasis of the window. Alternatively, the window may be modified to provide a vertical element.



*(Left) Vertically proportioned openings used with square openings to balance a horizontal elevation. (Right) Horizontally proportioned opening balances a vertical projecting wing*

## Windows

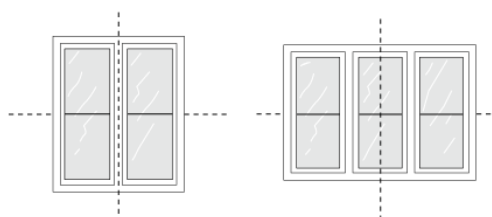
- 1.34 Unevenly subdivided windows can disrupt the balance of a well-composed elevation (see the section on ‘Balance’). Window subdivisions should be arranged symmetrically about the horizontal and vertical axes of the openings. Large, un-subdivided panes of glass should not be used, as they can distort the visual scale of the building.



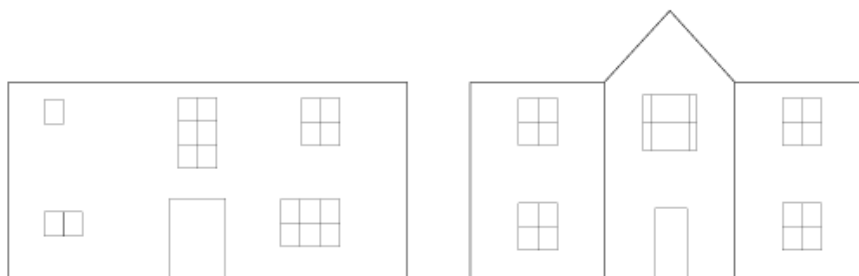
*Incorrect*



*Correct*



- 1.35 The use of a regular pane size for all windows can help to unify windows of different sizes. Conversely, variation in the pattern produced by subdivisions can highlight particular parts of the elevation – for example, the central axis of a gable.
- 1.36 All windows and doors should be of painted timber, in keeping with the building traditions of Essex. The drab effect produced by stained joinery is to be avoided. Microporous paints, where used, should be of high build quality.



*(Left) Regular pane size unifies windows of different sizes. (Right) Variation among subdivisions highlights the central axis of the gable.*

- 1.37 Wide patio doors can be a disruptive element in a front or rear elevation, creating the effect of a void. They should be no wider than 1.5m and located under a projecting first-floor bay. In the case of a framed building, they may form part of a larger glazed area.
- 1.38 Subdivided french doors can be used more flexibly, but are best located on a central axis or on a projecting or receding part of an elevation not shared with another window.



- a. Incorrect. Wide patio doors create effect of a void*  
*b. Correct. Patio doors under projecting bay (1.5m)*  
*c. Correct. Patio doors as part of larger glazed area*  
*d. Correct. Subdivided French doors on central axis*  
*e. Correct. Subdivided French doors on projections not shared with another window*