







Owner: Matthews Design & Drafting Services Inc. c/o Doug Matthews/Bethany VanRavens

## 10. Variance request

Describe the variance(s) applied for:

- 1. The By-law requires the Max. floor area ratio to be 41%. We are asking for an increase to 50.71%.
- 2. Rooftop Terraces are not permitted within the -0 suffix. We are asking for a Rooftop Terrace at the front of the dwelling.
- Where Rooftop Terraces are allowed in Residential Zones, they are subject to a maximum depth
  of 1.5m, measured from the main wall. We are asking for 3.69m depth, measured from the main
  wall.

Why is it not possible to comply with the provisions of the By-law?

Here is a letter from the owner:

What is Vastu? It is literally the "science of architecture." It is an ancient tradition and practice stretching back some 5,000 years to the Indian sub-continent. It is a body of principles used to evaluate, plan, and build a harmonious dwelling for its residents, be it a home, office, garden etc. These principles are aligned with life's four goals (puruṣārthas) as set out in Vedic philosophy, i.e. dharma (righteousness, moral values, ethics), artha (economic security, prosperity), kama (enjoyment, pleasure) and inevitably moksha (freedom, liberation from worldly attachments.) Indian philosophy places a great deal of emphasis on our interaction with the natural world, including outer space and the cosmos. Vastu uses spatial geometry, astronomy and astrology to provide a map of the best use of space for individuals. In our specific case, being a family of four, a lot size of 48'x48' was calculated as being the most optimal dimension for our family. We had a vastu consultant help perform many calculations based on our ages, station of life (i.e. we are currently in the householder stage per Vedic philosophy, there are other stages too such as student, renunciate etc.), and astrological calculations based on our time of birth and planetary positions to come up with the design and layout of our future home. We plan to build a house that we can call a home for decades to come and with this in mind, we are planning all aspects of this project based on Vastu, such as the placement of open roof space (terrace), bedrooms, bathrooms, doors, the kitchen, including a brahamstahna (i.e. a centre point of a building that must be kept open as it is thought to be the place of God). Vastu principles are inherent and readily used in India as a way of life. We hope this brief introduction to Vastu helps you understand the great importance of its use for us. Thank you.

- 1. So, as you can see, their Religion has played a significant role in the reason they can not comply to the By-laws.
- 2. & 3. We are asking for a Rooftop Terrace in order to keep the 48'x48' dwelling footprint, as noted above in the explanation and the footprint is within the Lot Coverage by-law. We do not want to add anymore liveable space to the dwelling, therefore, asking for both the Rooftop Terrace to be allowed and the depth to be increased to accommodate this.