The WSDOT FISH PASSAGE AESTHETICS GUIDANCE provides three levels of importance to structures. 1.) Basic designs, 2.) Enhanced designs, 3.) Refined designs are used depending on context. The document will be used to facilitate collaboration between the WSDOT Bridge and Structures Office, region staff and stakeholders in complying with Context Sensitive Design principles.

Context Sensitive Design & The Federal Highway Administration

The Washington State Department of Transportation implements the Federal Highway Administration’s Context Sensitive Design (CSS) principles in the design of this project. CSS is a model for transportation project development that has received broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives. It must be designed also for its effect on the aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints and opportunities in a larger community setting.

WSDOT endorsed CSS for all projects, large and small by Executive Order 1028 in 2003, under Secretary of Transportation Douglas McDonald. After that Secretary Paula Hammond continued the practice and resigned an edited order. Standing Secretary of Transportation Lynn Peterson is currently redoubling these efforts.

Aesthetic Design

The goal of the recommendations is to influence the production of the aesthetic design. These will guide future designers as the fish passage designs are built out.

The recommendations are developed to aide in design. They are conceptual and outline typical situations. Throughout each phase of design and construction exceptional situations may arise in which a standard solution is not applicable. Specific situations must be assessed individually so that alternatives harmonize with the project as a whole.

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Context Sensitive Design

CSS delivers projects efficiently by addressing stakeholder issues early

“ All projects large and small must be designed for it’s effect on the aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints and opportunities in a larger community setting.”

WSDOT Executive Order 1028
Context Sensitive Designs

Strategy: Three Level Architecture

**Basic Designs:** Class two smooth concrete. Seen by almost no one.

**Enhanced Designs:** QPL/Standard form-liners. Highly visible settings.

**Refined Designs:** Community Input/Public Art
High profile settings.

Reference: Tom Baker PE presentation identifying three levels of aesthetics.
Basic Design:
Yarrow Creek Structures

Class two smooth concrete.
Seen by almost no one.

The use of pigmented sealer is dependent on risk of graffiti.

Basic Design:
Class two smooth concrete.
Seen by almost no one.
Enhanced Designs:
QPL/Standard form-liners.
Highly visible settings.

Enhanced designs are accomplished with common construction methods and materials.
Refined designs are accomplished with common construction methods and materials, however with custom designs.

Refined Designs:
Community Input/Public Art
High profile settings.