What is “Compatibility” in Architecture

Compatible is generally defined as "capable of existing together in harmony, or to be consistent." Architectural compatibility results from designing a building, or an addition to a building, that is in harmony with itself and its surroundings.
What is “Compatibility” in Architecture

Five Basic Principles

Size & Scale
Mass & Shape
Materials & Color
Arrangement of Openings
Details
Size & Scale

Scale is a comparison of the dimensions of various parts of a building to other related parts and to human dimensions. Scale also refers to the size relationships between adjacent buildings, and between buildings and adjacent open spaces.
Mass and shape define the form of a building. Mass refers to the volume defined by a structure relative to its surroundings and to its apparent solidity and weight. Shape is the complexity of the surface planes.
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Materials & Color

How do the exterior materials relate to neighboring buildings? Are they appropriate materials for the chosen architectural style? How many materials are used? In general, the use of more than two wall materials, even if the design of the wall is beautifully composed, detracts from the overall design. Limiting the number of materials focuses attention on the composition of the design. How does the color of the materials relate to existing materials on the house or in the surrounding neighborhood.
Arrangement of Openings

Typically openings in a building make up the largest and most distinctive elements of a building’s facades. Each individual building contains a rhythm established by the arrangement of windows and doors versus solid wall sections. Traditional architecture almost always places openings in a manner that while sometimes not simply regular, is nonetheless extremely rational.
Arrangement of Openings

In traditional buildings, window openings and window panes are typically vertically proportioned or square and should be similarly proportioned throughout the entire building.
Details

Is the use of details consistent with the architectural style of the house and the level of detail found in the neighborhood.