

Adapted for Devotion

Data courtesy of Urban Space Lab at The New School
x
Radhya Kareem

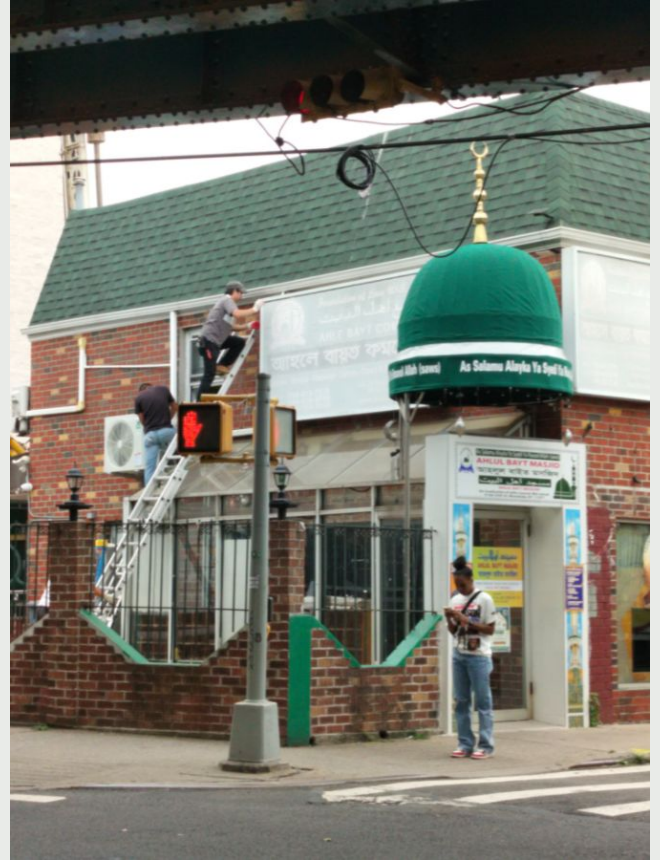


Image via: Radhya Kareem, mosque along Roosevelt Ave

Adapted for Re-use

... is an architectural buzzword and so many of these spaces have been morphed into shops, libraries and increasingly in the context of New York: affordable housing.



A counter phenomena is forming

... and may be of more interest, especially owing to the diverse urban fabric of New York.



What about the growing number of buildings...

Adapted for Devotion?

An endeavor of the **Urban Space Lab**: select NTAs of **Queens** were studied to account for **the number of** former **storefronts**, **residences**, **small scale industrial buildings** that in different forms have been **adapted for sacred use.**

This question exists at the nexus of the different ethnic/migrant groups that are present in the neighborhood and begs the question of **how spaces of belonging are negotiated** by them within the **constraints of existing building codes and zoning policies.**

There are two key variables that I would like to look at to further my contribution to an existing database that was collected over the course of two years that have not been analyzed in the research yet:

Adapting for Devotion: Visibility, Regulation and Public Space

- What former building typologies exist and which ones occur the most. Are there more residential conversions or more commercial ones?
- What zoning laws regulate these conversions? Spatially how do these occur and are there differences in the level of visibility these conversions have in terms of signage and visual denotation based on where they are?
- How do these changes occur in a residential neighborhood vs across a commercial corridor (like Roosevelt Avenue?).

Patterns of Immigrant Settlement Social Infrastructure

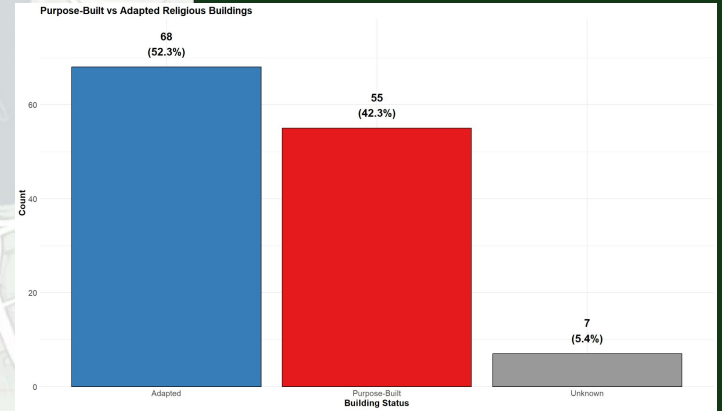
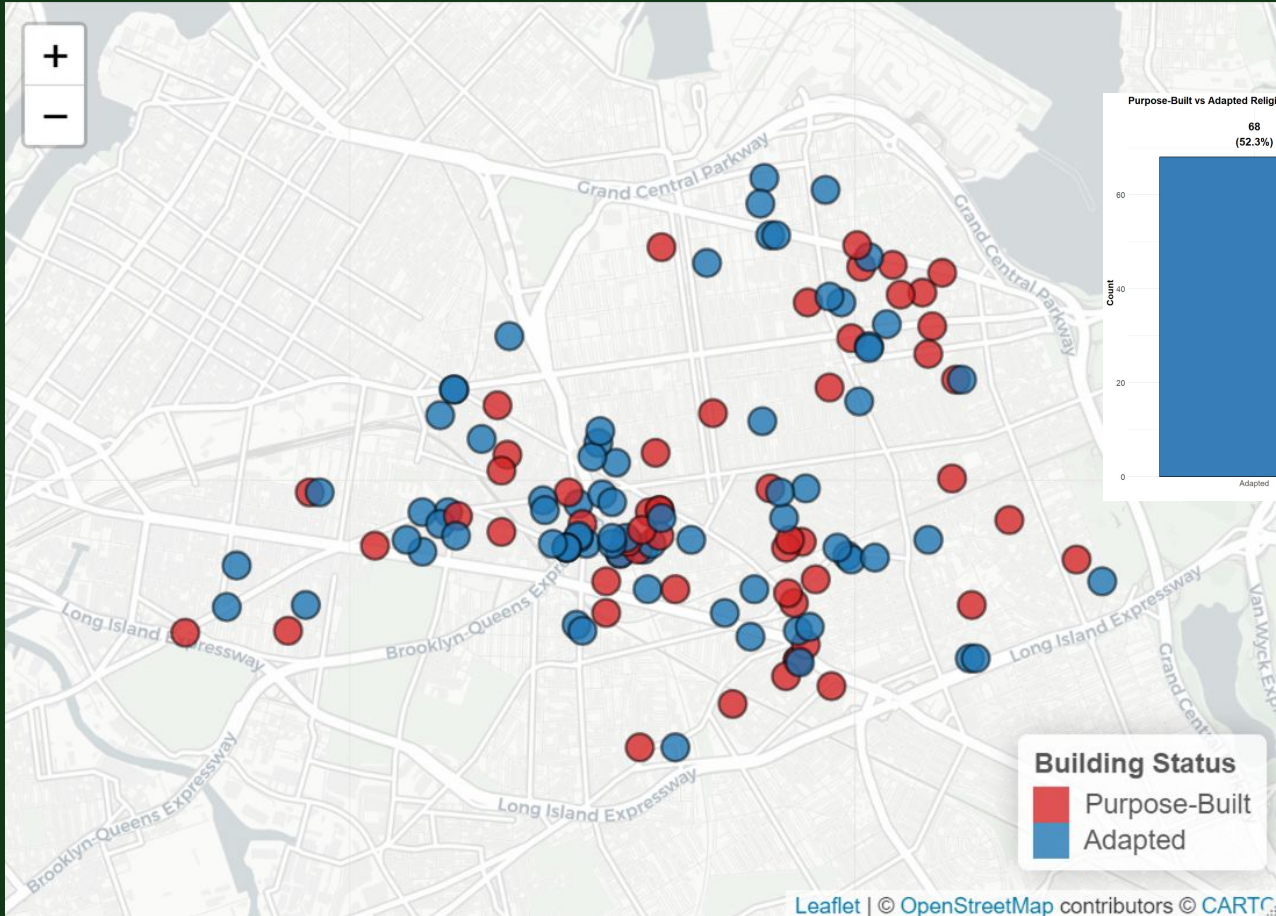
- Which communities have shaped Queens the most and where are they located?
- Are there clusters of different pocket adaptations? Is there a trend in the previous typology of the buildings that were converted?
- These are statistical questions that I could calculate but perhaps other inferences will have to be made qualitatively.

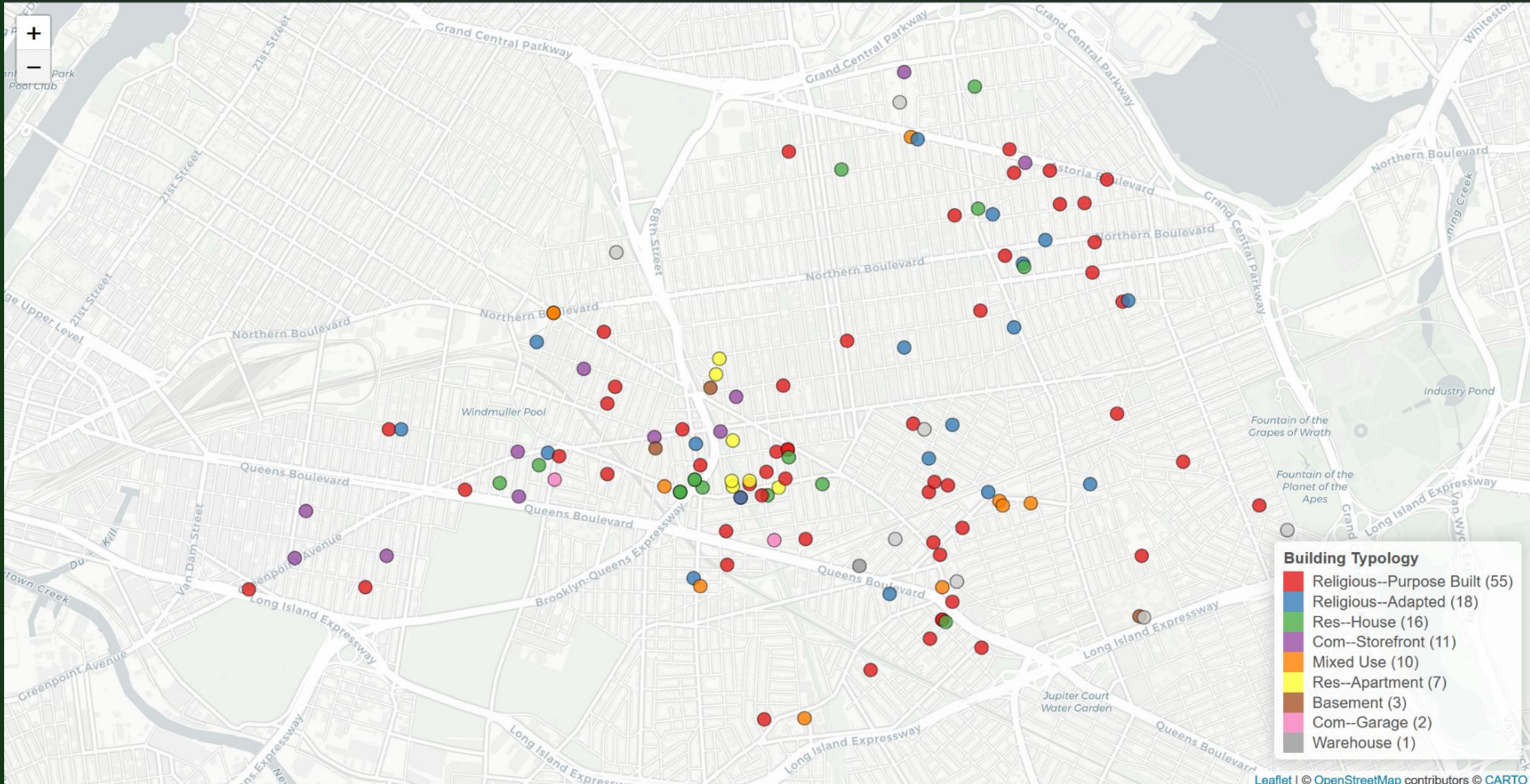
Dataset	Source / URL	Key Variables	Years	Geographic Level	Limitations
Adapted for Devotion Survey	Collected and contributed lab asset (PDF/CSV)	-Modifications -Type of Congregation -Type of adaptation -Signage	2024–25	Point (address-level)	Some typologies require interpretation; not comprehensive of all sites

NYC MapPLUTO	NYC DCP	Land use, building class, year built, lot area	2025-multiyear ?	Parcel	Some building-year fields incomplete
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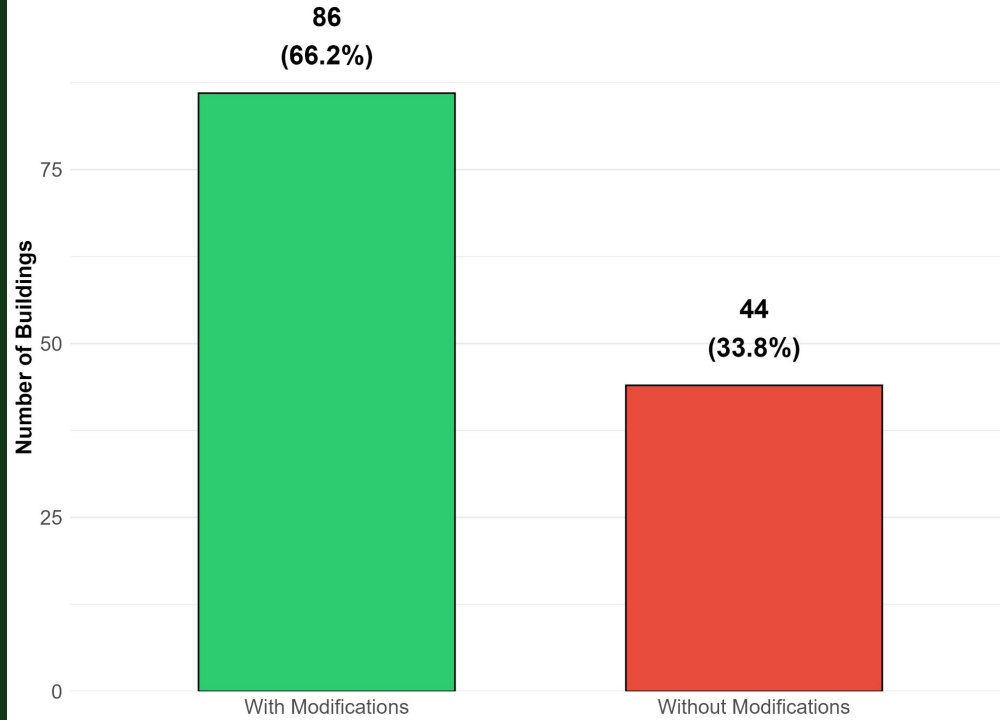
Used New York Zoning District Files instead

Only focused on current zoning as it was

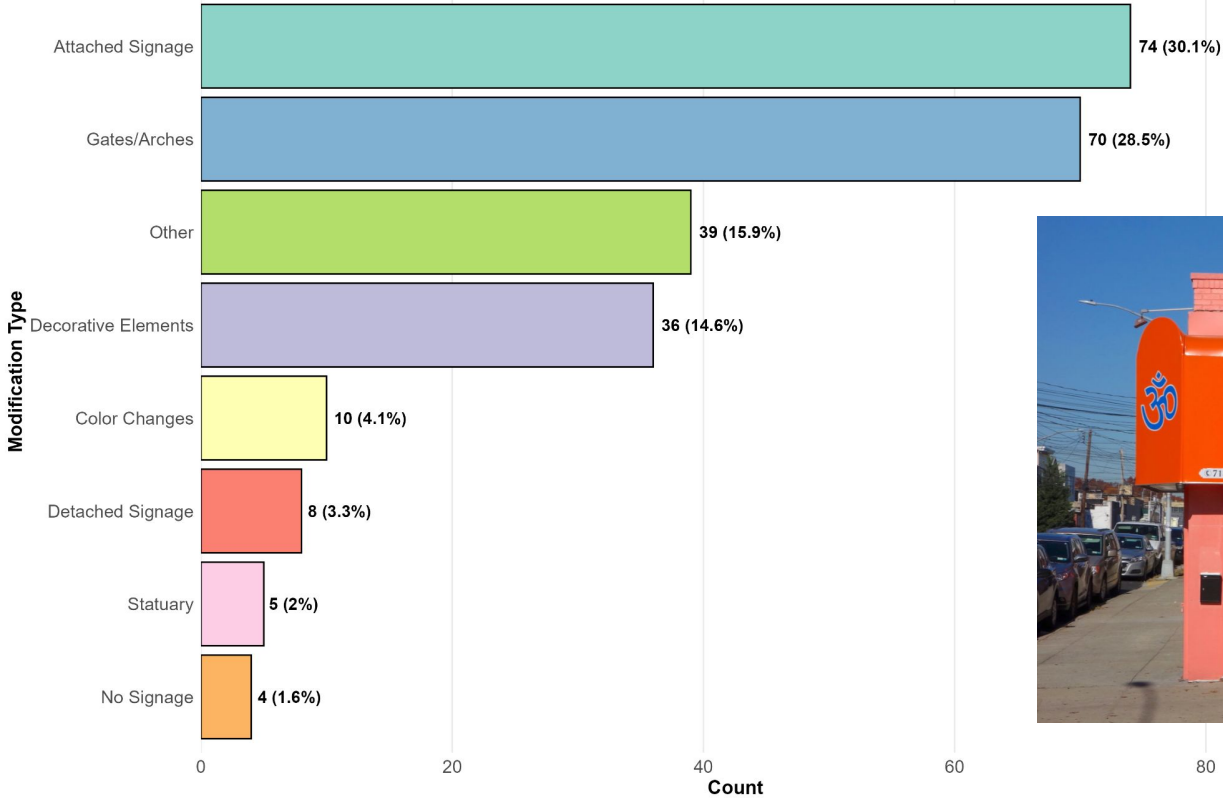




Buildings With vs Without Exterior Modifications

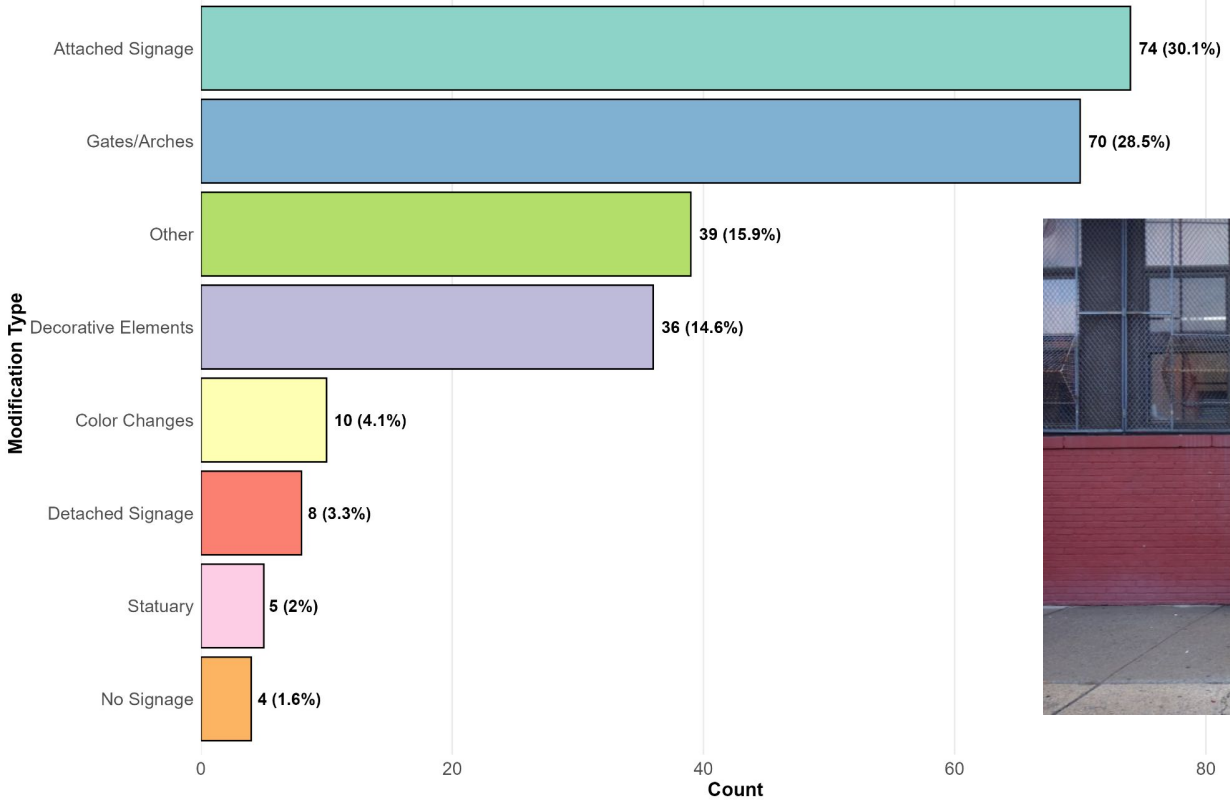


Exterior Modification Types



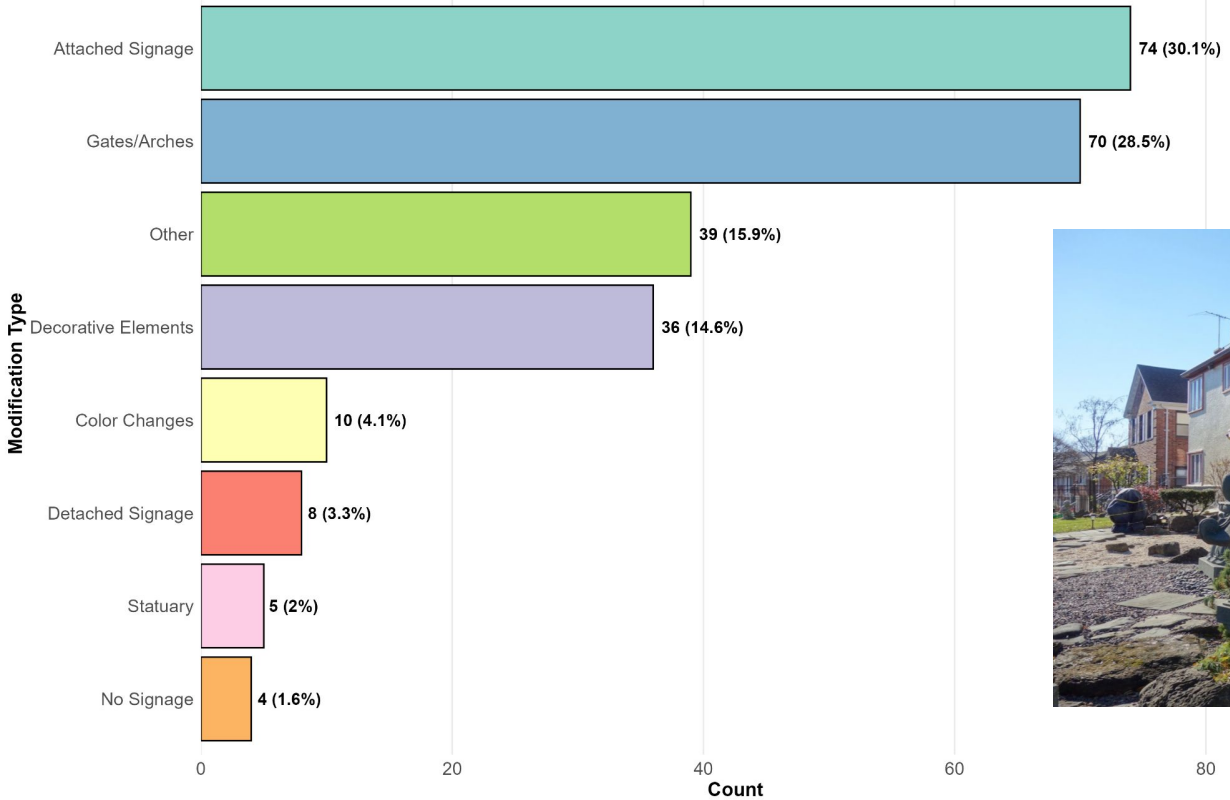
Images courtesy Joseph Heathcott + Urban Space Lab

Exterior Modification Types



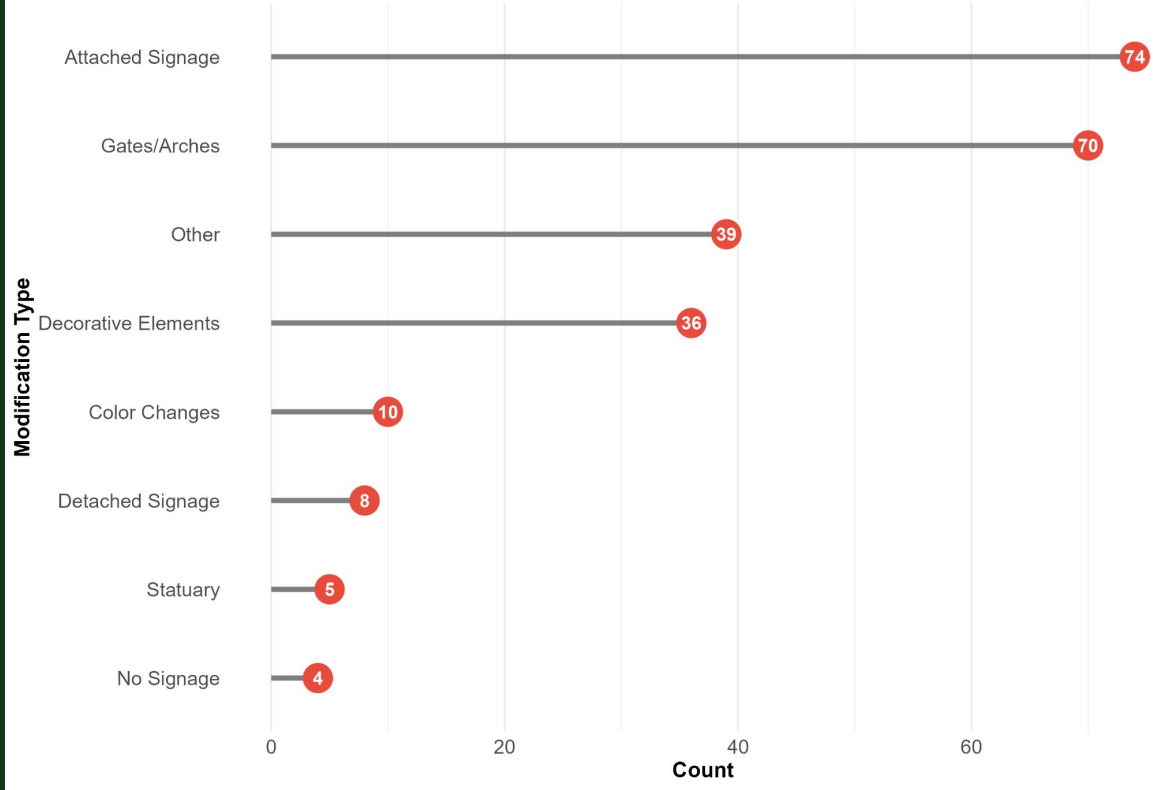
Images courtesy Joseph Heathcott + Urban Space Lab

Exterior Modification Types

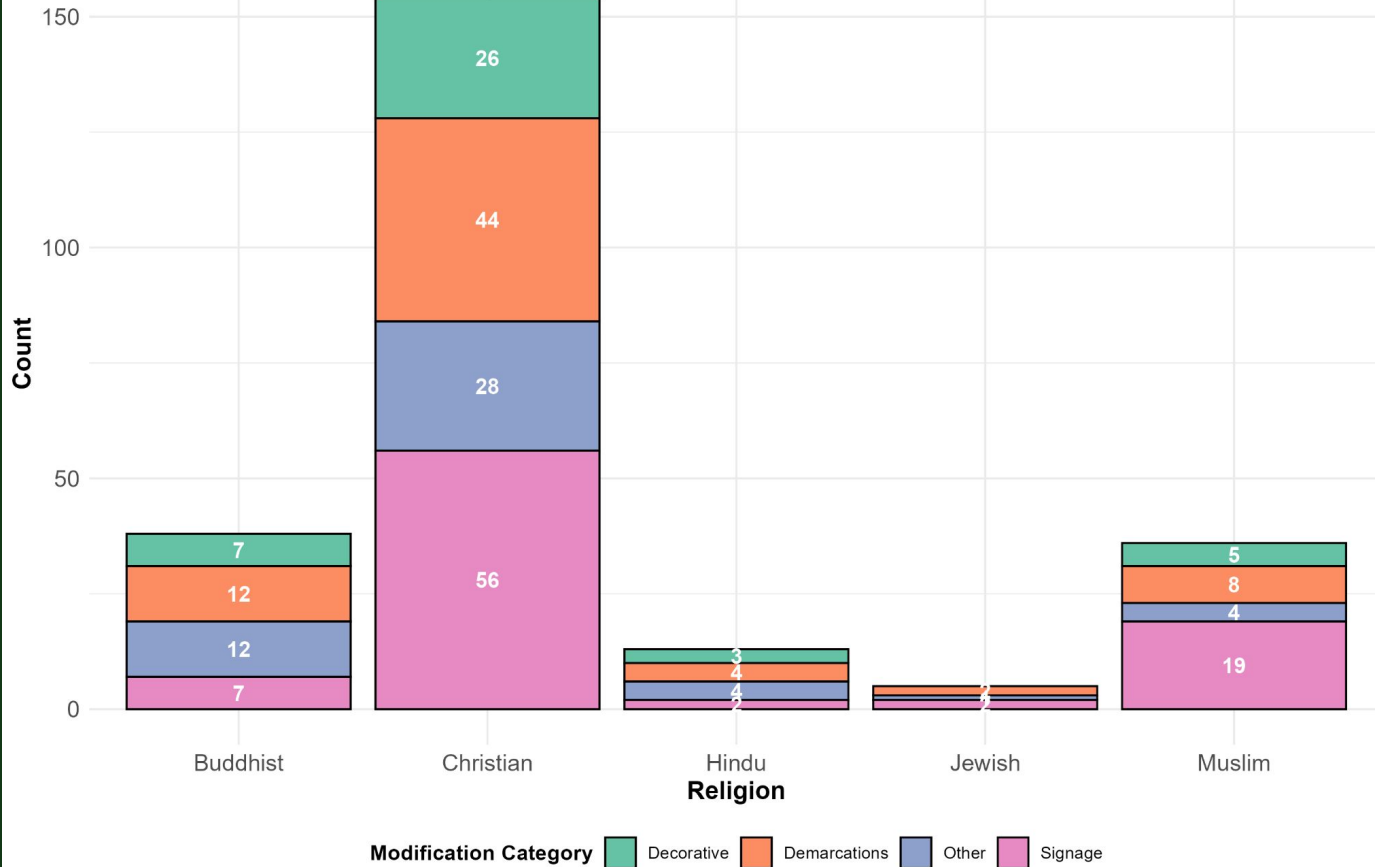


Images courtesy Joseph Heathcott + Urban Space Lab

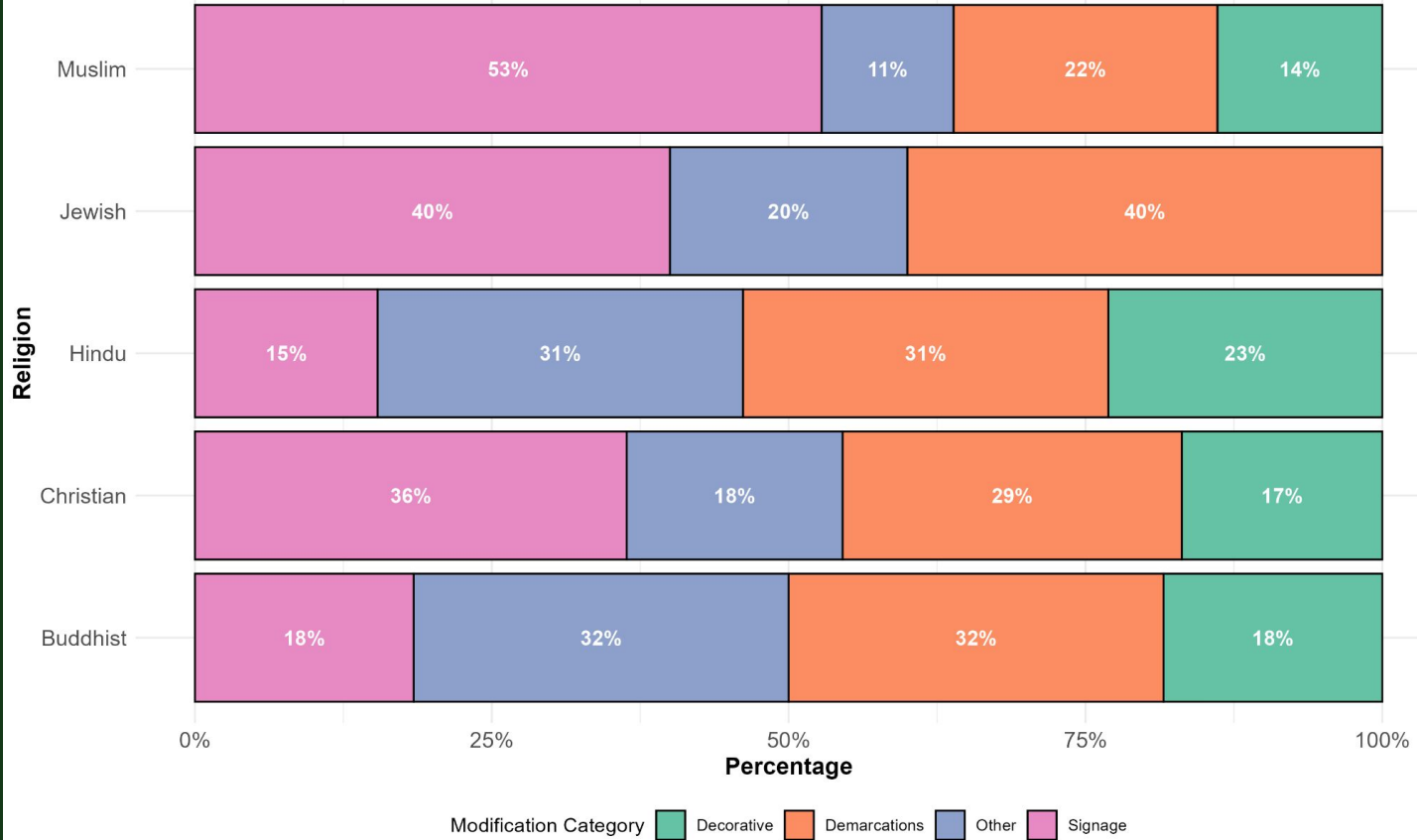
Top 10 Exterior Modifications (Lollipop Chart)



Modification Types by Religion



Modification Type Distribution by Religion (%)





North Bergen

Guttenberg

West New York

Union City

Weehawken

Hoboken

MANHATTAN

QUEENS

Zoning Districts

Congregations

Zoning Districts

- Low-Density Res (R1-R5)
- High-Density Res (R6-R10)
- Low Commercial (C1-C3)
- High Commercial (C4-C8)
- Manufacturing (M)
- Other

Building Typology

- Religious--Purpose Built (55)
- Religious--Adapted (18)
- Res--House (16)
- Com--Storefront (11)
- Mixed Use (10)
- Res--Apartment (7)
- Basement (3)
- Com--Garage (2)
- Warehouse (1)

Adaptations by Zoning Type

Queens Religious Congregations

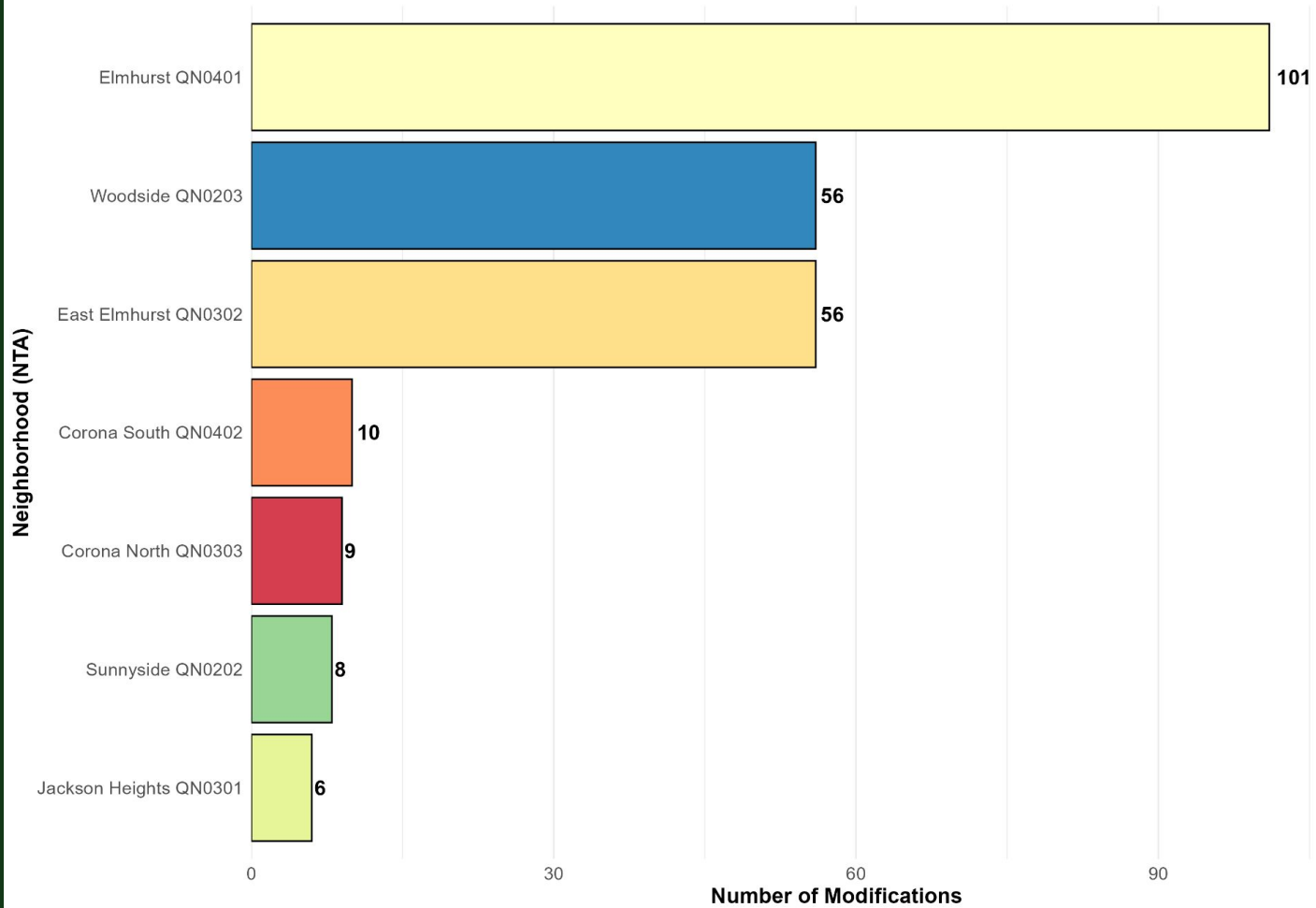
Zoning Category	Adapted Buildings	Purpose-Built	NA
Commercial	2	0	0
Manufacturing	7	0	0
Residential	59	55	7

Result of Spatial Joins with pre-existing collected lab data

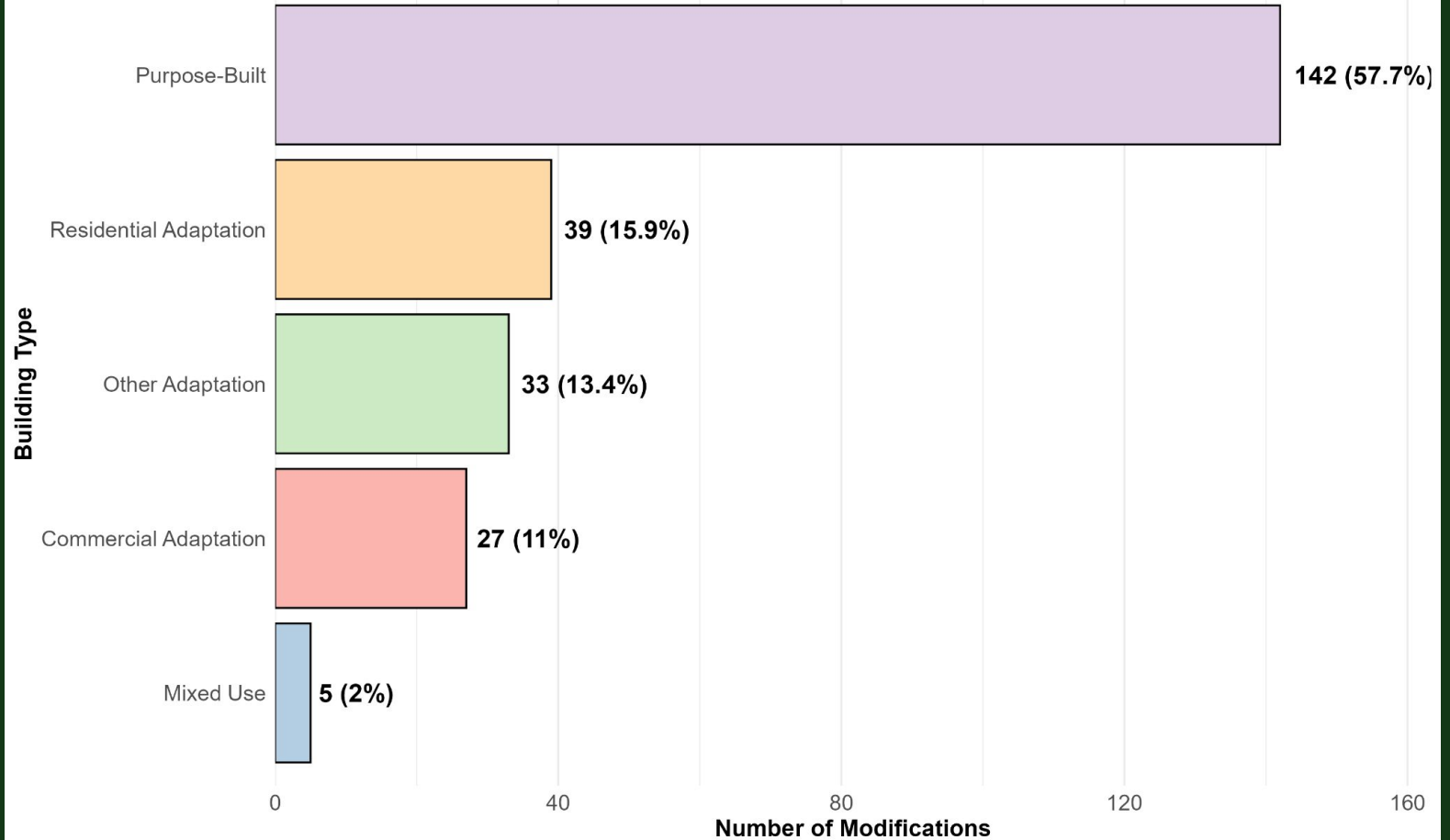
How it helps answer some questions for un-classed buildings: 7

Zoning Category	Building Typology	Count
Commercial	Com--Storefront	2
Manufacturing	Mixed Use- Residential and Commercial	4
Manufacturing	Com--Storefront	1
Manufacturing	Religious--Adapted	1
Manufacturing	Warehouse	1
Residential	Religious--Purpose Built	55
Residential	Religious--Adapted	17
Residential	Res--House	16
Residential	Com--Storefront	8
Residential	Res--Apartment	7
Residential		7
Residential	Mixed Use- Residential and Commercial	6
Residential	Basement	3
Residential	Com--Garage	2

Top 10 Neighborhoods with Most Modifications



Modifications by Building Type



Distribution of Congregation by Zoning Category

