



Figure 4.66 Pier detail.

tance, the larger the letters should be and the higher the sign. However, in general, a person is less likely to look up more than 10° to view a sign; therefore, signs that are placed above the viewing distance tend not to be seen. Also, note that it is easier to read light images on dark colors than the other way around.

Signs that use symbols to convey information such as warnings or directions are preferred over those that have information in only one language. Likewise, consideration should be given to ADA concerns for designing signage. It should be determined if the information to be conveyed on the sign is necessary for access to or from an area or facility. In some cases textural signals should be installed with the signs. The familiar universal symbols have made sign selection for many purposes much easier. Sign shape and color are also important considerations. Many signs now use standardized shapes and colors, so care should be taken to not use these combinations unintentionally.

Signs directed toward drivers must be visible and readable from quite a distance away. Common street and traffic signs have been developed with fairly explicit standards of design and installation; however, site-specific signs should allow for the fact that drivers have a very short time in which to read and comprehend the information on a sign. In most instances, several signs in a sequence may be more effective than too much information on a single sign. Information should be organized and presented in a hierarchy of importance, from general to more specific, rather than given as a string of unweighted data.