Seattle Design Commission

Greg Nickels
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Brendan Connolly
John Hoffman
Mary Johnston
Juanita LaFond
Dennis Ryan
Norie Sato
Darrell Vange
Darby Watson

Projects Reviewed
Fire Station 35-Crown Hill
Fire Station 38-Ravenna
Third Avenue Makeover
United Indians of All Tribes- NW Canoe House

Commissioners Present
Karen Kiest, Chair
Tasha Atchison
Brendan Connolly
Mary Johnston
Juanita LaFond
Dennis Ryan
Norie Sato
Darrell Vange
Darby Watson

Staff Present
Guillermo Romano
Tom Iurino
Vivian Chang

Convened: 9:30am
Adjourned: 3:00pm

November 15, 2007
Action:

The Commission appreciates the presentation and efforts so far and approves schematic design with the following comments:

- Appreciate minimizing width of parking lot driveway on 15th Avenue Northwest.
- Appreciate follow-up on alley access. Perhaps the grade difference could be resolved so that it does not discourage future connection, even though technically the current design does not preclude the possibility.
- Appreciate the new concepts and stronger statements, like portal concept.
- Appreciate architectural gesture on 15th Avenue Northwest.
- Encourage more vision and response in architecture or “greening” opportunities to address future development to the north. Some of the greening in the alley could go to the courtyard.
- Encourage more elevations to respond to design and larger site plan.
- Interested in building design without appendage and therefore encourage more attention to the building if it did not have an appendage.
- Encourage more perspective from street level.
- Would like team to look into opportunity to express cistern feature more publicly.
- Encourage more aesthetic resolution between clerestory and features on the east elevation.
- Look into opportunities for design on the ground plane, and the difference between landscape and ground.
- Consider progression of height as well as depth of the building planes as it progresses from south to north.
- Engage the artist, but try not to spread their efforts too much.
- Look at relationship between ground plane and the building.
Proponent’s Presentation

Project Background
Fire Station 35-Crown Hill is a Neighborhood 1 Station and will be a replacement station, which means it will be torn down and rebuilt at the same site. There will be one fire engine, a four-person crew, and three bays. The future two-story 10,400 square foot building will sit on a 100-by-100-foot site. The first floor will contain an apparatus bay, station office, and storage rooms. Parking for firefighters will be located behind the building. The second floor will hold the dayroom/beanery, living quarters, roof deck/outdoor beanery, and fitness room. The roof plan consists of a hose drying tower, two clerestories, and generator.

Site Issues
The site is in the Crown Hill neighborhood and is bordered by an existing dry cleaning building on the south, 15th Avenue Northwest and Holman Road Northwest on the east, and alley on the west, and an autobody shop to the north. The site is located at a busy intersection, so emergency vehicles will use 15th Avenue Northwest to enter and exit the building. The partially paved and unpaved alley is located behind the site and is approximately four feet lower than the existing parking level. It is uncertain whether or not the alley will allow parking access for firefighter vehicles, since the cost to readjust the heights will be expensive and some residents abutting the alley have expressed disapproval for the idea. The building will be built to the limit of the east property line to allow more room for the apparatus bay and command a stronger presence in the neighborhood.

Exterior Issues
Areas for driving and pedestrian traffic will be differentiated by the use of an aggregate or scored line pattern in the sidewalk. In terms of sustainability, the team desires to achieve both LEED Silver and meet Seattle’s zoning Green Factor requirements. Also, energy savings will come from a high efficiency HVAC system, and stormwater prevention will be achieved through pervious paving in the covered parking lot. The landscaping will be a combination of green, blue, red, and orange colors to create the boldest look possible in order to reduce the arid nature of the neighborhood. Such plants include Chilean flame trees, Robb’s euphorbia, Crocosmia ‘Lucifer’ flowers, green wall vines, grape hyacinths, and Darwin barberry plants. The groundscape will contain greening in addition to a green wall.

There has been early involvement with Kate Kirkpatrick, the lead artist, who will have preliminary concepts by the end of December. The front facade may contain a canopy element with some type of vertical element (i.e. trellis), depending on funding and whatever design solution fits best.

In revisiting the concept design, the program has been limited by the size of the parcel. In the elevation diagram, the series of three portal frames facing the streets are masonry. The portal bay will be connected by sheer glass. However, the concept sketches for ideas for southwest hose
tower disappeared as an option as the tower is located towards the back of the facility due to program requirements. The monitor that goes in the face of the building will give elevation depth with daylighting opportunities. The monitors can cast light patterns on the face of the building in the morning and serve as a lantern in the evening. There are problems with a taller move on corner due to the potential envelope that could effectively block off one elevation. There is a clean material break with a metal siding down the south elevation which takes a turn, and comes back on the west side and north elevation. The residential side of building has a softened character by the exterior finish and landscaping. The team is working with several options to incorporate art into the design, such as providing canvasses outside the building. A real sheer mesh screen as backdrop has potential to be an art piece location. The Greening Crown Hill Improvement and Art Master Plan calls to add character and quality to buildings, while using transparency and a modern sense of sensible design.

**Commissioners’ Comments**
- Zoning wise, are future projects at zero-lot lines?
  - Currently, adjacent properties are zoned C1-40, with zero lot line setbacks and a 40’ height limit.
- The $90,000 art budget may have too many options. The art plan is still a blank canvas.
  - This issue will be sorted out when the artist chooses a direction.
- Glad to see evolution of making the street stronger.
- The north side of the site has a continuing three-wall item. Building to the north is not part of the team’s ownership.
  - The team has gauged a measured response for alleyway.
- Suggest that the north side be opened up a little more. Do not rely on someone’s blank wall.
- It would be helpful to show elevations in general and not just on north side.
- Like the planar walls, but worried about third wall because it is an appendage, so the team needs to study the effect of its absence. The building can probably stand alone, with alternative designs.
- The next level of detail would be helpful.
  - The team is trying to develop a proper thickness for the portals, which are truncated oblong shapes.
- Next time, bring SketchUp photomontage shots from across the street.
- East façade looks like a shadow.
  - Metal siding comes layered.
- Besides landscaping and building, do you have concept for a green roof in the architecture itself?
  - The building will not have a green roof due to FFD maintenance issues.
- Does the cistern have a presence?
  - No, it will be underground.
- Is there a way to bring cistern to the roof?
- In the elevation, extensions of the overhangs need to communicate unity.
- Pedestrian issues should be better addressed.
- Expanding fund can allow for more exciting art that is also sustainable.
- The design is missing more effort at the ground plane. The sidewalk should lead the way to the lobby and parking. More green in the courtyard can tie in to the building and into the street. Therefore, clearer coordination is needed.
- Apparatus bay, gateway to the fire station.
- Height is not in same gradation and has a stronger presence.
- Let the strength of planes work for you.
- There are opportunities for a rain garden.
- There is not a lot of relationship between landscape and building.
- What is going on under the deck space?
- Wondering if solid clear/solid clear design and the piece behind the exterior communicate well in the design. Let light behind it shine through.
- Are there opportunities for photovoltaic panels on the roof?
- Appreciate the minimum width of driveway.
- Concern that the project will not make improvements to the grade separation between the alley and the building, so that it can function as a working alleyway instead of vacant space.
15 November 2007  Project:  Fire Station 38-Ravenna
Phase: Schematic Design
Last Reviews:

Presenters: Frank Coulter, Fleets and Facilities Department
Keith Schreiber, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Stephen Starling, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Cyril Vallee, Schreiber Starling and Lane
Jess Harris, Department of Planning and Development

Attendees: Dove Alberg, FFD
Ross Budden, neighbor
Linda Colasurdo, FFD
Molly Douce, SFD
Christina Faine, FFD
Joe Hampton, FFD
Patricia Hopper, Seattle Arts and Cultural Affairs
Andy Ishizaki, FFD
Kieu-Anh King, Central Staff
David Kunselman, FFD
Frank Lawhead
Jeremy Nicholas, FFD
Valerie Paganelli, Resident
Teresa Rodriguez, FFD

Time: 1.0 hours (SDC Ref. 169/RS0609)

Action:
The Commission thanks the design team for a thorough and thoughtful set of presentations, and, by a vote of 8-1, approves schematic design, with the following comments:

- Nice jump from concept to schematic.
- Consider the roof wall as the waterfall cascades down the side of the building. Resolve whether or not the waterfall is more important than the difference between residential and office?
- Encourage the simplification of the multiple elements and materials, particularly on the corner while keeping in mind the zoning may change from NC 30 NC 65 in the future.
- Encourage the team to define the red material as soon as possible. Make sure it is weighty and permanent.
- Consider the integration of the rain garden, street trees, and stormwater irrigation as pieces in themselves and bring these elements around the corner.
- Allow the artist to explore opportunity to place art throughout the site.
- Reconsider the shed in the south elevation.
- Consider the sunshades in the waterfall façade and ask whether its value is significant.
- Encourage the team to look at the overall form by keeping the roof pure and building as much of a crystal box as possible.
Consider views south from the deck over the roof and if the deck should be considered in the views.

Encourage closer look at the relationships between boxes and the juxtaposition of joints. Be careful about the number of joints between materials.

The reason for not approving the schematic design: the design team should have better resolved the entry corner by the schematic design stage.

**Proponent’s Presentation**

*Project Background*

Fire Station 38 will relocate to Northeast 55th Street and 40th Avenue Northeast. The broader site context includes single-family homes, commercial buildings and multifamily, Burke Gilman Park, and Children’s Hospital. However, there are no civic buildings within close proximity. The new site currently contains a gas station and a balloon company. The remediation process has begun. More recent developments, like three-story townhouses along Northeast 55th Street, have also begun, whereas the corner needs much development.

There are four concepts to meld together into solution, which include the apparatus bay, support, transparency, and capping. First, the element that conveys that the station is a civic building is the hose tower, which is the point of interaction. The apparatus is an iconic message painted in red, whereas the apparatus support is less expressive that supports broader goals. Also, there is need for public interaction and privacy, which is demonstrated by the glass and transparency. The main entrance lobby is open and engaging. The glass is then extended to the second floor within living quarters that includes removal and privacy. The cap will tie smaller elements of the support to larger ones.

Each elevation captures a different concept. The south elevation shows a sunscreen, which is a stronger horizontal element. The west side of the building will have more diminutive elements as it approaches single-family units and also because it is across the street from multi-family units. The west detail includes landscape changes from high to low elevations. There is modulation to elevation. Smaller windows will be placed in the thick shell for protection. A rain-screen will envelope the west elevation. The eastern side of the building sits on the property line and the building scale is for future potential wall. It will allow indoor natural light. The north elevation enforces support and function to the yard.

![Figure 2: Fire Station 38 Elevations](image)
The front apron of the apparatus bays has some form of red metal (not Core-10). This metal/corrugated panel will change with time of the day and also the season. The public lobby will have transparent layer, which includes semi-transparent minimalist glass-box for privacy. The art at the corner may be one piece or a series of pieces, but it will be prominent. The roof will collect rainwater. There will be photovoltaic panels, green mechanical screen, through ventilation. The PV panels have an opportunity to display high art work as a direct visual to the public. There will be a strong rectilinear form from Northeast 55th Street.

The landscape design includes plant material that is drought tolerant and therefore is low maintenance since no irrigation is needed. There will not be a lawn. Instead, the plant palette includes accent trees, street trees, Northwest shrubs/groundcover, ornamental grasses, Boston ivy, and evergreens. The storm line is about seven feet deep, which may mean smaller street trees. The schematic design is shy of Seattle’s Green Factor, although there are other opportunities to improve sustainability measures. One idea is to expand the rain garden and layer shrubs on the ground feature. The façade will play with the architecture. The color will be softened. The corner will have a sign and flagpole. A plaza and a major art piece are still under consideration.

**Commissioners’ Comments**

- Is there space for planting garden vegetables?
  - There is a planting opportunity in the southern portion for planting vegetables.
- Is there parking on the north side? Is it paved?
  - That site is under remediation and the team is not sure of the soil condition.
- Summarize sustainable components of building.
  - There will be daylighting in the north and south sides of the building, with side windows in the apparatus bay. There will also be natural ventilation in the upper floor, since 80% of the wind comes from the south. Rain screen materials are recycled exterior skin and most places of the building uses industrial concrete. Sustainable site elements include taking rainwater from the roof to water the landscaping on the west side of the building. In addition, photovoltaic cells on the south elevation will screen mechanical equipment and energy use. There will be energy use reduction by the optimized envelope, which is the most meaningful element and drives a lot of decisions.
- What will happen to the street trees on 40th Avenue Northeast?
  - They will be further up the block, and some will be further north.
- There does not seem to be a relationship between the raingarden on west elevation to the landscape. Can the team use the sloped roof?
  - The team has not decided where the water is collected.
  - Then, that should inform your façade; start from where the water comes down.
- Defining sleeping components changes to office. The roof form is the signature element, so the material will be brought down to the rain garden rather than highlight residential and workspace.
  - The team will explore that.
- The presence of the photovoltaic cells on flat roof is another large gesture. It should be reflected in the drawings. Another element is needed to what is already a complex southern elevation. If that is the pedestrian side, it is too broken up and too suburban. It is all in the massing.
Really worried about the corner because of how everything is meeting.

The two big moves are the roof and the big apparatus bay. The most important piece is the corner, which has five elements. Begin design decisions at the corner and keep in mind that the neighborhood is eroded at this corner while taking into consideration that this is a commercial corner. Zoning will likely change from NC-30 to NC-60. Also, Whole Foods will likely develop nearby. Also, this is a 100% corner, and the rain garden could have a strong presence here.

Do not wait too long to choose the red material. Right now, the “red” in the diagrams seem like a lightweight red.

Is a railing needed behind the front glass façade?

Sustainable elements may need to be a bigger driver, and not just expressed internally. Problems of putting this building together are the unsustainable maintenance, etc. Different materials are joined at corners, whereas the roof is one gesture trying to say that it is. Therefore simplify the gestures.

Use the consolidation of different elements to make a big gesture. The mini version on other side does not underscore importance of larger piece, so resolve the lower massing.

The sheltering overplane is a different idea than the solar piece. Consider thermal performance of heat trap.

Work on daylighting.

The curvilinear language is in the plan form around the back. Have more informed language about what the right angle corner does under different circumstance. Keep the roof clear and building as “crystal box” as possible.

The shed on the side is an additive feature; the south elevation reads like the Chinese restaurant being added next door which detracts from the entry statement. In particular, the roofline is poking into the building façade. Can the team have the roof reference the datum of the lobby?

Like the direction the team is moving in. The street trees should go away on 40th Avenue Northwest because it competes with the rain garden.

Extend stormwater elements to the right-of-way because street trees can give scale to the site. Incorporate trees on Northwest 55th Street and smaller trees off parking area in the back.

Consider view to the top of roof and top of window space in regards to the relationship between the deck area, roof and the top of the window lobby.

The flagpole is a very civic element in itself, so get rid of the sign and incorporate art instead.

Not sure about location of artwork; have the artist look at whole site. However, the team needs to resolve the corner architecturally first before the artist looks at location and type of art.

In regards to the weight and balance of materials, there seems to be lots of lightweight materials, which calls for grounding elemental materials that anchors it as a long-standing civic building, such as Core-10 and concrete since they are more longstanding. Have a hierarchy of hue and weight of materials.

Add trees to Tetris. Think street trees lend elegance to street and add ecological value.

Pull rain garden around corner. Consider whether or not the roof and the wall will be a waterfall.
15 November 2007  Project:  Third Avenue Makeover
Phase:  First Phase
Last Reviews:  None
Presenters:  Lyle Bicknell, DPD CityDesign
Attendees:  Dave Ferons, Rice Fergus Miller
           K. Schreiber, Schreiber Starline & Lane
           Stephen Starling, Schreiber Starline & Lane
           Cyril Vallee, Schreiber Starline & Lane

Time: 1.0 hours                        (SDC Ref. 169/RS05017)

Action:

The Commission thanks CityDesign for a thorough and thoughtful set of presentations, with the following comments:

- Impressed with the great work despite limited time and money
- Commend work with private sector and working with private developers
- Anxious to build on success of Phase I
- Suggest added police presence go along with physical improvements, reactive to changes taking place and proactive
- Word needs to get out about this positive effort
- Encourage the City to be the “Joneses”, and be the city that everyone looks to for inspiration for a great public realm.
- Advocate for rolled curbs where possible for necessary loading
- Encourage seasonal lighting pieces, creative bike furniture, street grate art
- Encourage developing new street furniture
- Encourage coordination with Seattle Parks & Recreation so elements can cross into other parts of city and parks
- Emphasize importance of CityDesign and fully support its efforts.

Proponent’s Presentation

Project Background

Phase I is complete and will be executed this Saturday. This project came about a year ago, when Diane Sugimura took out money to fund bus shelters along Third Avenue. ZGF Architects conducted an analysis from Benaroya Hall to Blanchard. It was not until shootings occurred, that the Mayor became concerned about Third Avenue. Tim Ceis, Deputy Mayor, expressed desire for implementation of Third Avenue improvements by mid-November 2007. Third Avenue is more than a transit corridor; it will be the main light rail spine for 2009 and continues to be a major bus corridor. Linkages include Pike/Pine, Downtown Retail Core, and Belltown. Continuity is desired across Stewart. The problems associated with Third Avenue are areaways that prevent greening efforts, poor maintenance, ugly street furniture, and crime issues. However, positive elements include a great collection of historic buildings made of terracotta from 1910s to 1940s.

There are several important recommendations for Third Avenue improvements. These include replacing curbside shelters with edge canopies as bus waiting areas, placing inviting signage at the pedestrian and vehicular level, creating contiguous glass canopies, planting dramatic
landscaping, improving sidewalks, storefronts and building edges, and placing functional and whimsical public art. CityDesign is currently working with private companies to install contiguous glass canopies, such as continuous glass at Century Square. The team is also developing an inviting and coordinated sign program. In regards to the dramatic and abundant landscaping, plantings will include hanging native baskets and 17 large flowerpots. Seattle Parks Department will oversee the irrigation of the landscaping, in addition to local business improvement districts. The sidewalk condition will focus on quality and consistency. There will be compact litterbins that will have six times the original capacity and are capable of alerting maintenance when they sense they are full. More seating will be put in place. There will also be rolled curbs to delineate where cars and pedestrian share sidewalk. There will be improved storefronts and building edges. Macys is working with ZGF to replace the gate with more appropriate scale and design. Public art includes five Nutcracker statues for the holidays, as well as LED lights and planters. The concept plan includes Pike/Pine as the core area, in which sidewalks in front of Macys will be widened by four feet. More trees will be planted and curb cuts will be eliminated.

**Implementation**

Phase II has a budget of $150,000 to expand planning to extend down south to King Street Station and north to Belltown. Belltown has a lot of great surrounding amenities with poor connections and therefore, it needs more pedestrian connections and it is expensive to acquire green space.

**Commissioners’ Comments**

- The light feature along Third Avenue is an idea to implement.
- Is this a carrot or a stick?
  - The only incentive for private developers is assistance from DPD.
- When you make a change, there may be another element you may provide, such as a section of Pine Street between 1st and 2nd and Occidental Park, which are examples of places that have momentum for street life. Make sure you get more police enforcement;
  - There is high level police presence initially but should decrease gradually over time
- Education would be helpful by using representations of Christmas to show that these are city investments
  - Post-Intelligencer ran this story, as did King 5 News.
- Be the Joneses; such as the curbed edges.
- Can Third Avenue be only for busses and bikes during high traffic?
- Is there a spring palette?
  - Yes, there will be a switch to a spring palette next year.
- Globe lights could be part of transit tunnel improvements.
  - Coordinate with Parks Department for maintenance
- Is there Sound Transit art?
  - They will be integrated to the building.
- Can there be a design competition for shelter design?
  - Maybe. In Everett, there are hanging baskets and in-ground planters.
- It is important for CityDesign to be responsive, which it is doing a good job of.
15 November 2007  Project: United Indians of All Tribes: North West Canoe House
Phase: Schematic Design
Last Reviews:
Presenters: Toby Ressler, Department of Parks and Recreation
Osama Quotah, Jones and Jones Architects
Attendees: Dottie Faris, Jones & Jones
John Paul Jones, Jones & Jones
Toby Ressler, SPD
Time: 1.0 hours (SDC Ref. 169/RS05017)

Action:

The Commission thanks the design team for a thorough presentation and beautiful evocative graphics. The Commission understands the political and design hurdles and gives its unequivocal support for this project, as well as the importance in the cultural life of Seattle, with the following comments:

- More attention to the relationship between the two structures
- Regarding the gathering space, focus on the ability to accommodate salmon bypass
- Attention to the relationship to the light at Aloha pedestrian bridge and paths to site
- Appreciate the plant palette and relationship to tribal uses
- Bring the magic of canoe making into the landscape and architecture
- Look into artist residency and youth internships
- Recognize that the size is modest and look for the “big brother” somewhere else on the lake
- Interested in beach connection to the shed
- Appreciate the importance of arrival by water

Proponent’s Presentation

Project Background
The United Indians of All Tribes Foundation presence at South Lake Union Park will include a Welcome Canoe House and Carving Canoe House. Both structures will house cultural demonstrations and educational and interpretative activities. It is envisioned that the Northwest Canoe Center will be located on a restored beach along the western edge of Waterway 3. Within the Carving Canoe House, there will be storage for canoes that will be hand-launched into Lake Union as well as an ongoing Native American canoe-carving program. During normal operating hours, docents will explain the Northwest Native American skills and beliefs used over generations to create these craft and how they were used in the Northwest coastal canoe culture.

The Welcome Canoe House will depict other aspects of Native American life on the waterways of the Pacific Northwest. There will be interactive displays that will aid in educating visitors to this facility. The Welcome Canoe House will also house a gift shop, a catering kitchen, and a large multi-use space for the staging of canoe rides and cultural events. The kitchen will support catered events such as traditional salmon bakes and other Native American culinary activities.

Activities at this site will include: canoe-building classes, Native American carving demonstrations, canoe rides, Native American watercraft displays, outdoor preparation area for
alder-smoked salmon bakes, anchor point for Potlatch Trail to Elliott Bay along Broad Street, gift shop with Native American arts and crafts, storytelling, dance and drumming events, and children’s powwows. It is an important consideration that the Welcome Canoe House and Carving Canoe House are located at the soft edge of Lake Union so that the Northwest Native canoe can be launched, displayed, and utilized in an authentic manner.

Living Roofs
The living roofs on the NW Canoe Center are one of the most significant sustainable features of the project. Living roofs have been around for centuries, and they offer significant benefits to the project as a whole. They require a certain amount of maintenance once established but they extend the service life of the roof beyond almost any other membrane roofing system. The living roofs will blend and ground the project in the South Lake Union Park setting. They will animate the roofscapes, provide excellent insular properties for the spaces below, and reduce the visual impacts of the project. This is especially true from the neighboring hillside of Queen Anne. Another important feature of these roofs is their ability to minimize the quantity of stormwater runoff that will need to be mitigated on-site, an especially important factor, considering the center’s proximity to Lake Union.

Commissioners’ Comments
- See how you can arrive from parking lot to the gate. Are the paths defined so that people can walk past buildings? What is the interaction between the buildings and why are there no pathways? Which paths can be touched and which ones can be manipulated? There are beach strawberries and other free flowing vegetation instead of a concrete path and it is hard to find paths.
- The large gathering space for classes, canoe journeys, etc. seem to be an effective use.
- How does the site transition to the beach?
  - It occurs between the edge of the landscape and the beach. Afraid of beach erosion during summer winds, which point to north.
- What height is the bridge off the top of the window?
- Where will the logs come from?
  - There will 100% participation from Indian tribes.
- Are utilities in buildings being installed?
  - Yes, Seattle Parks & Recreation will install them.
- Where will the water go into from the rain gardens along edge of park?
  - Rainwater will be treated in the rain gardens before entering Lake Union.
- Integrate plantings.
Create a small rain garden from living roof
A lot of longhouses had wetlands or plants that would be made into medicine, baskets, etc.
Will there be rain gardens between buildings?
  No.
Create a little watershed.
Are there opportunities to bring the richness of creating canoes to the landscaping and architecture?
  Yes, from the Center for Wooden Boats. In addition, the tribal council will send two to three artists for residency for carving.
What happens to the chips carved from boats?
  Need to get back to that issue.
Mercer Ave improvements; seems
May work with King County Metro art people.
  Do not have patch for them.
Where is the entrance?
Who will maintain the area?
  Parks Department will maintain the buildings separately.
The size modest, but the demand will be greater. Capture more of the shoreline; the beach could come right in.
  A lot of people may arrive by water on kayaks. The Inner Tribe and Duwamish people will have a welcome party at the beach for the grand opening.