

3717 s alaska st

Early Design Guidance June 9, 2015 DPD Project # 3019517



SITE AREA: 74,400 sf

ZONING: NC2-40 with pedestrian overlay at Rainier Ave S and S Alaska St

+ NC2-65, all in the Columbia City Res Urban Village Overlay

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Proposal for a new mixed-use project 4-7 stories above grade with ground floor street-facing retail, apartments, and sub-grade parking. Development objectives include:

- 240-245 residential apartment units

- 25,000-30,000 sf retail/commercial

- 220-260 on-site parking stalls in subgrade garage

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS:

Height limit: 40' + 4' Bonus = 44' (note: 13' ground floor required)

40' + 7' Bonus = 47' (note: 16' ground floor + 12,000sf min

retail space required)

65' @ NE corner of site

(SMC 23.47A.012)

No parking required in urban village within 1,320 ft Parking:

of frequent transit. (SMC 23.54.015)

FAR: NC2-65 site lot area: 20,880 sf

FAR allowed: 4.75 MIXED-USE FAR x 20,880 = 99,180 sf

NC2-40 site lot area: 53,520 sf

FAR allowed: 3.25 MIXED-USE FAR x 53,520 = 173,940 sf

TOTAL FAR: 273,120 sf (SMC 23.47A.013)

Setbacks: None required. (SMC 23.47A.014)

Solid Waste Storage:

240 units (575 sf for first 100 units, plus 4 sf x remaining units)

575 + 4(140) = 1,135 sf

Retail:

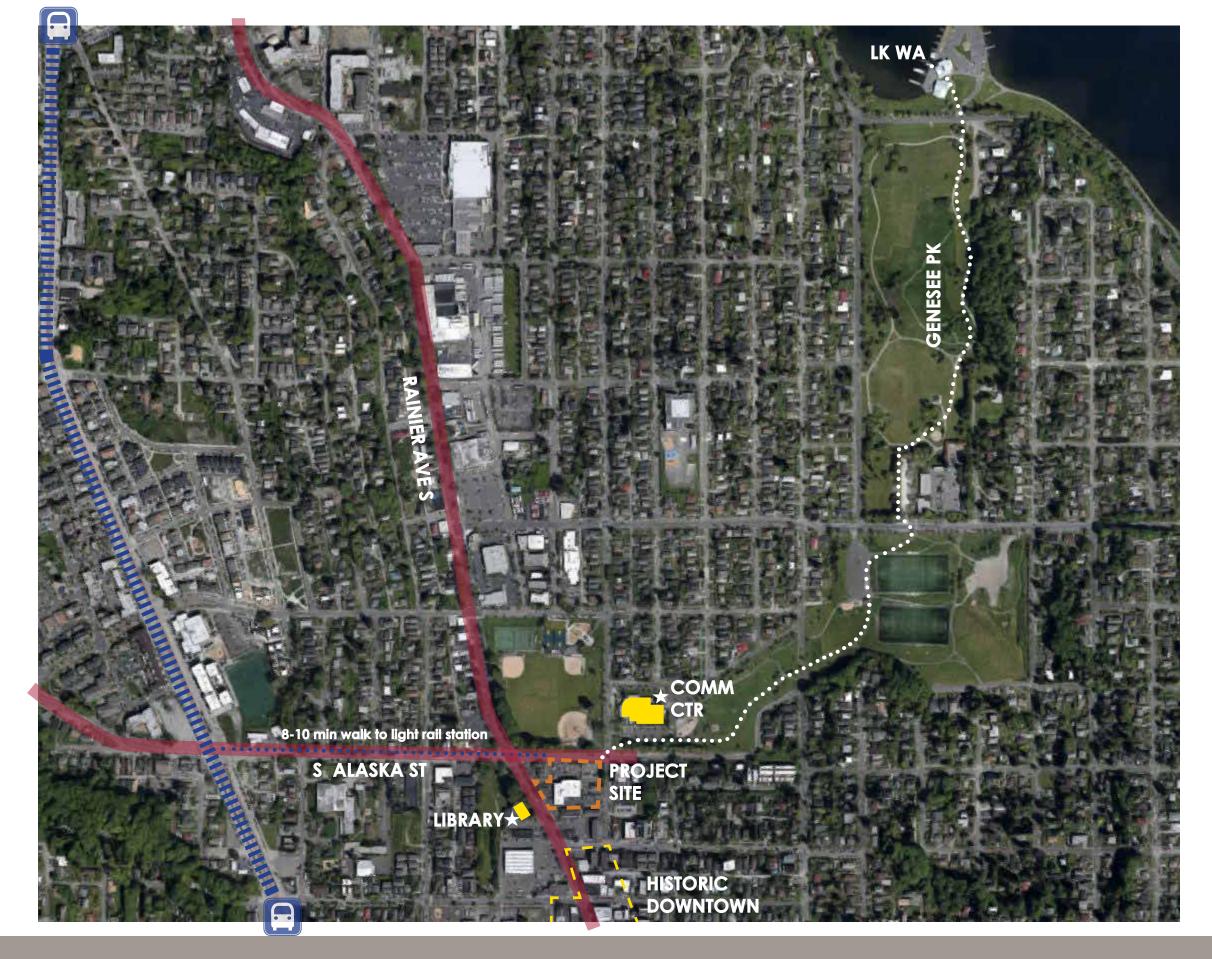
21,700 gross (15,001 - 50,000 sf)

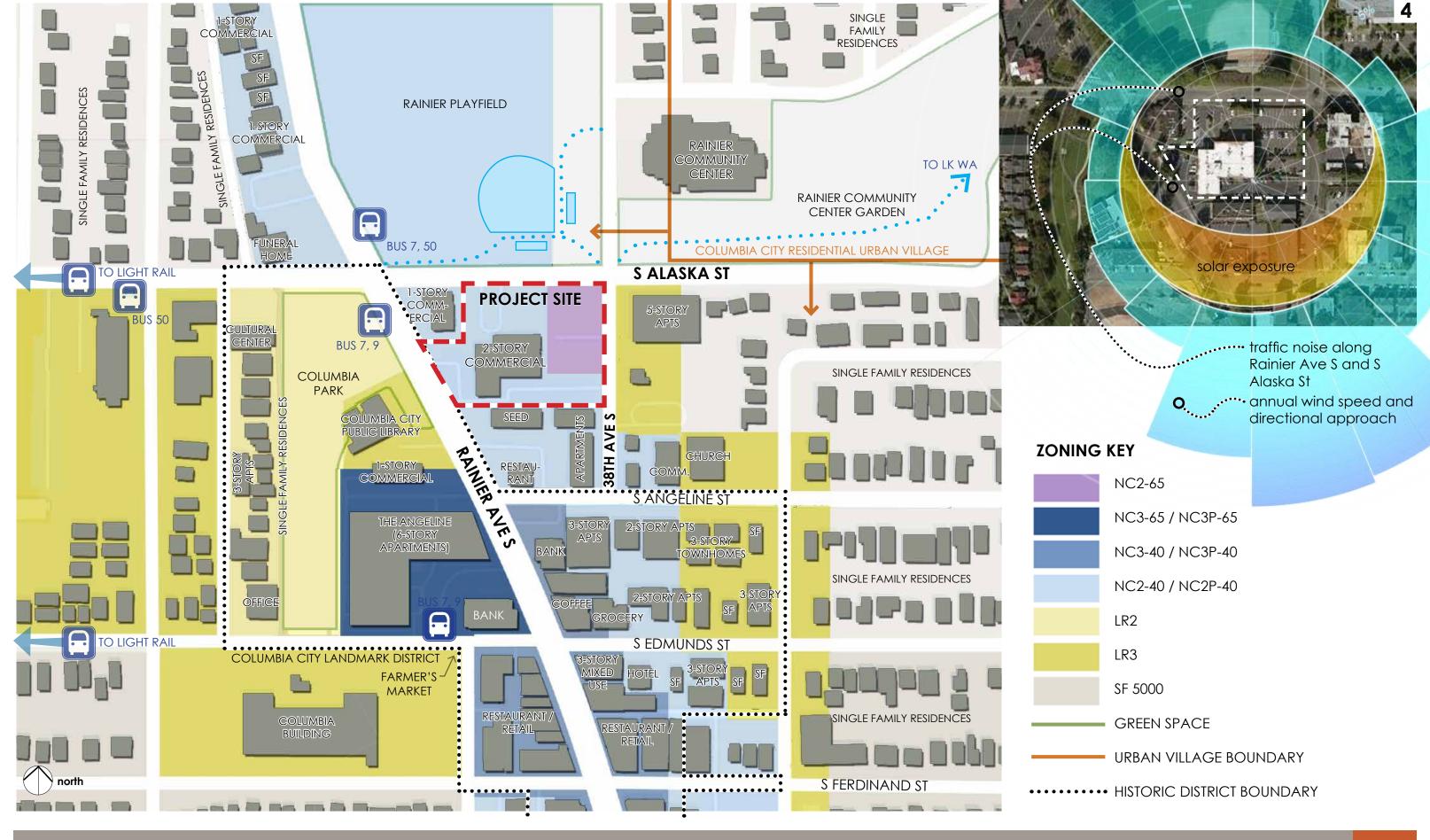
175 sf/2 = 88 sf

(note: reduced by half per SMC 23.54.04.B)

TOTAL required area: 1,223 sf

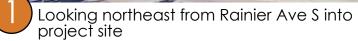
(SMC 23.54.040)













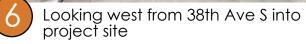


Looking north from project site





Looking west down S Alaska St





Looking east from project site to 38th Ave S



Looking west from project site across Rainier Ave S

-outline of project site boundary (across street)

Looking north from project site across S Alaska St

outline of project site boundary (across street)



Looking east from project site across 38th Ave S

KEY RAINIER AVE S RESPONSES:

- street-oriented retail
- respond to scale and siting of the library
- existing buildings set in landscape/open space
- most visible frontage
 - > "front door" to project and Columbia City

KEY S ALASKA ST RESPONSES:

- create edge for playfields/park
 - > pedestrian oriented retail @ base
 - > defined urban edge
- provide views into site
- add street-level landscaping

KEY 38TH AVE S RESPONSE:

- quieter side street (most appropriate zone for services) with LR3 zone across from site
- greater concentration of residential uses/minimal retail
- steeper topography/less pedestrian-oriented
- higher scale towards south end of street







Columbia City Public Library west of site







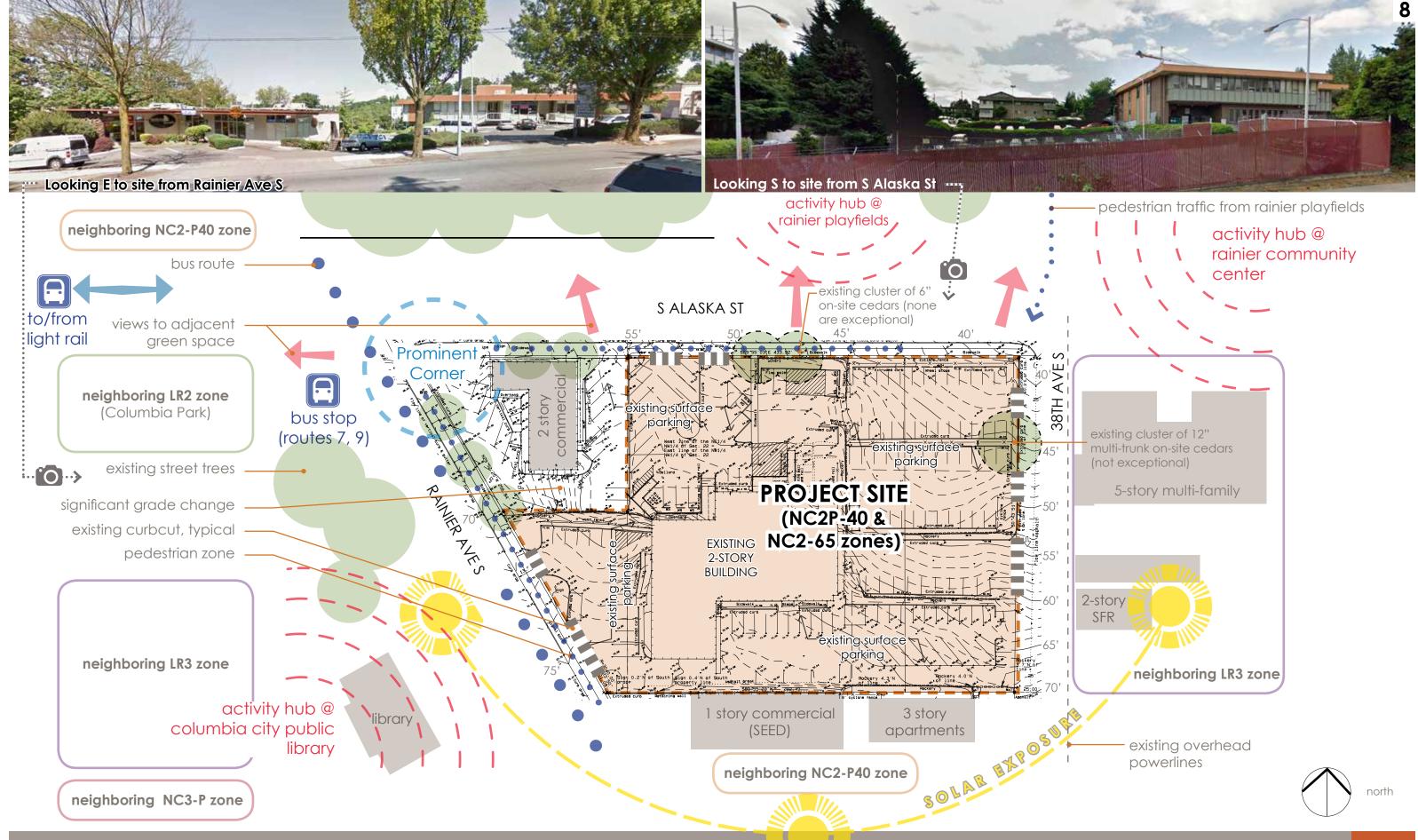


bank southeast of site















Availability of transit network (100 ft from site) 3 blocks to light rail

Preservation of character in the Landmark District through tenant infill in existing, well-kept historic buildings





Promotion of local goods and entertainment (example: Columbia City Farmer's Market)



Ample green space/park network adjacent to site that is well-utilized by the community

> CS2 A 1: Sense of Place

Emphasize attributes such as patterns of streets/blocks, relationships to open spaces, iconic buildings, and land seen as a gateway to the community

- respond to library across Rainier (iconic building set in open space; gateway)
- create playfield edge (secondary pedestrian gateway to downtown)

> CS2 B 2: Connection to the Street

Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and how buildings interact with them

- Rainier relationship is critical; engage with sidewalk to encourage pedestrians
- generate activity/enliven Alaska with vibrant streetfront and eyes on the street

> CS2 C 2: Mid-block Sites

Respond to existing anticipated street edges and datum lines

- grid shift at Rainier: street diagonal, but many buildings are orthagonal; preferred design concept melds both frontage types along Rainier

> CS3 A 1: Fitting Old and New Together

Create compatibility with context through articulation, scale/proportion, and materials

- existing higher scale in areas of lower topography, lower height along Rainier
- mix of streetwall-holding (more historic) and auto-oriented (set back from street). Preferred scheme holds sidewalk edge w/ areas of visual relief



> PL1 A 1: Enhancing Open Space

Positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces

- street/sidewalk-oriented plazas along Rainier (with good solar access)
- preferred design creates through-block passage from Alaska to Rainier

> PL1 B 3: Pedestrian Amenities

Create lively, pedestrian-oriented spaces to attract interest/interaction through visual access to the building entry and an engaging retail environment

- widened sidewalks along Alaska w/ retail environment
- entry plazas along Rainier flanking active retail or restaurant uses

> PL2 B 3: Street-level Transparency

Maintain sight lines into and out of ground level space to enhance safety and security

- entry plazas of preferred scheme allow views deep into the site/courtyard
- large areas of glazing and retail uses at street level along Alaska and Rainier



DESIGN CONCEPT

> DC2 D 1: Human Scale

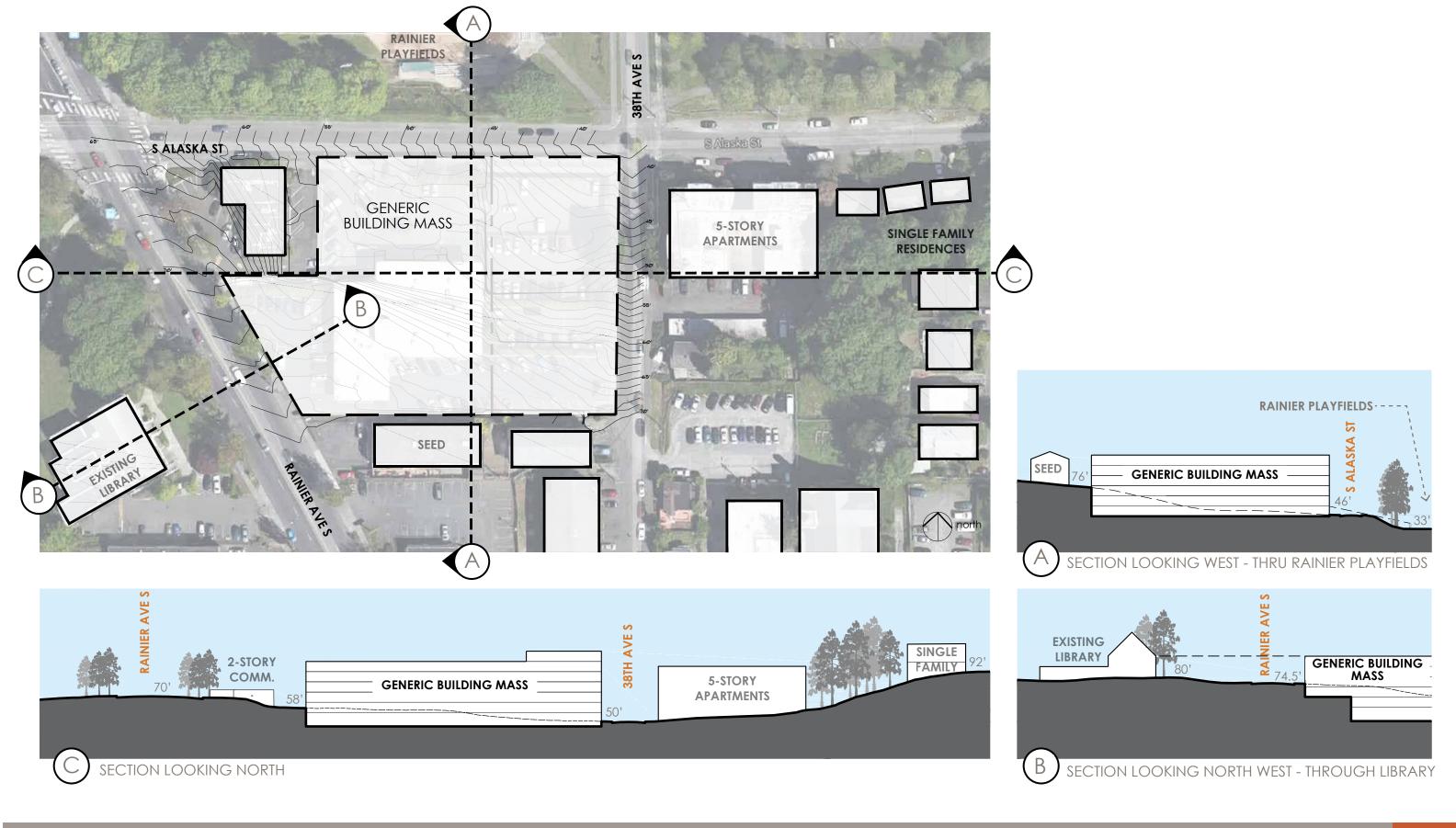
Incorporate architectural features and details of a human scale into the facade, entries, and open spaces to engage the pedestrian

- Building mass broken up with plazas, separations, and modulation of facades
- intimately-scaled plazas along Rainier, but large enough to encourage activity
- sightlines into block from pedestrian overlay zones (Rainier and Alaska)





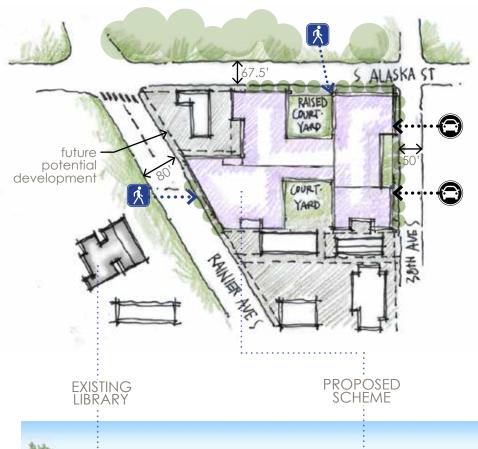


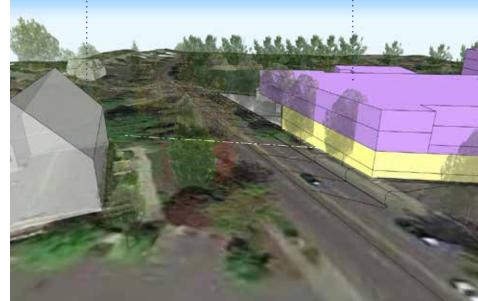




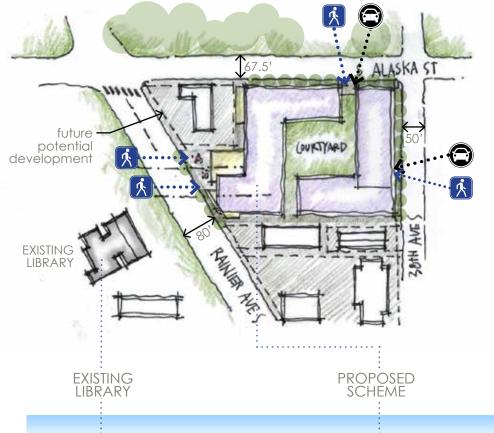


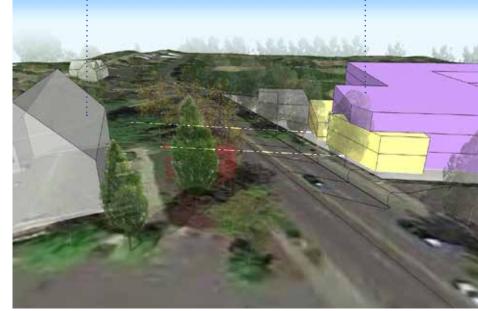




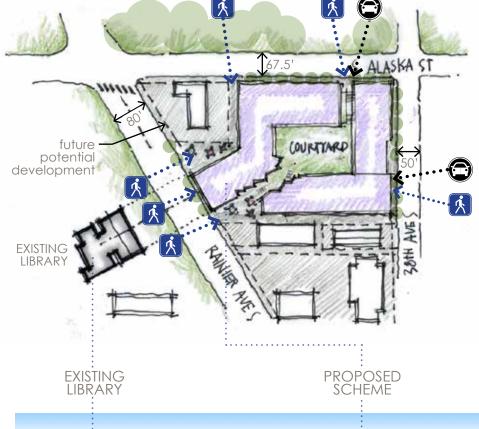


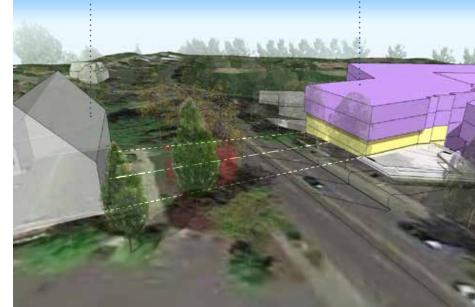
LOOKING NORTH DOWN RAINIER AVE





LOOKING NORTH DOWN RAINIER AVE





LOOKING NORTH DOWN RAINIER AVE







VEHICULAR ACCESS

overview

- 4-7 story massing; 44'-65' height
- 240 apartment units and 23,208 sf ground floor retail
- 223 onsite parking stalls in subgrade garage (56 retail / 183 residential)
- FAR shown: 273,119 sf (100% FAR utilization - limit is 273,120)

19,770 sf 36,665 sf 55,469 sf 45,969 sf 55,031sf

43,526 sf

16,689 sf

opportunities

- no departure requests required
- optimum utilization of retail frontage on Rainier Ave
- north-facing courtyard at third level provides vista to playfields across S Alaska St
- creates a strong street wall along Rainier Ave

challenges

- difficult to lay out units due to numerous inside corners and wide floor plates
- none of the courtyards are optimally oriented for solar acces and all are raised above street
- two driveways along steeply-sloping 38th Ave S are difficult for retail patrons to navigate
- units facing "alley" at south edge of property





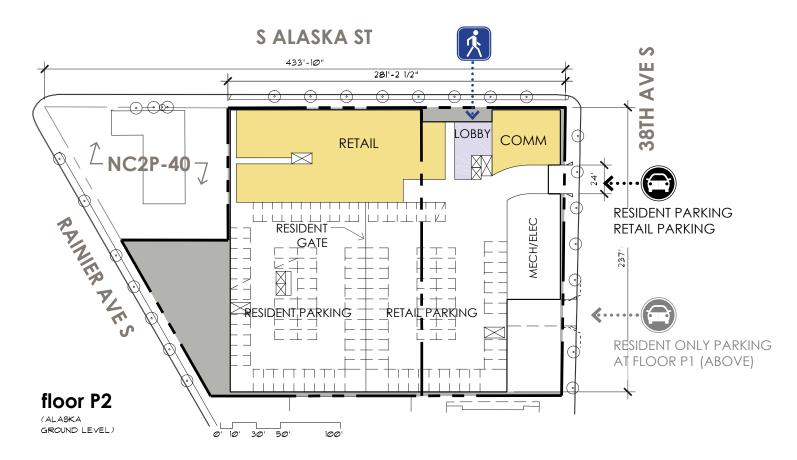
BIRD'S EYE LOOKING SOUTHEAST

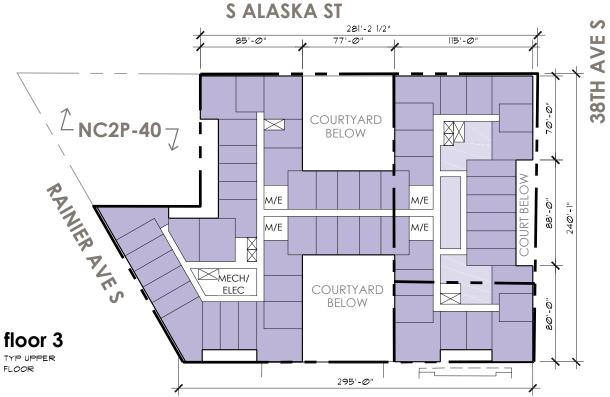


BIRD'S EYE LOOKING SOUTHWEST

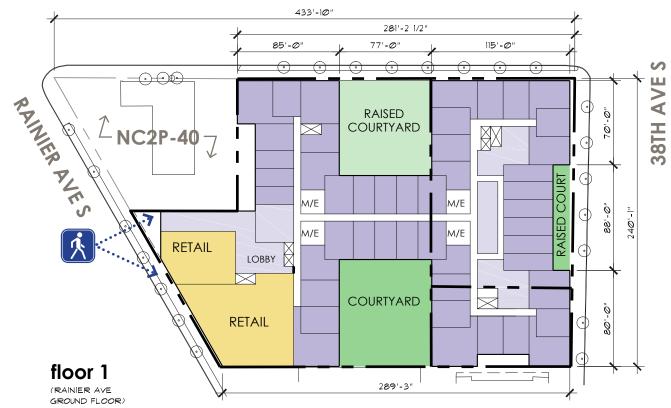








S ALASKA ST 433'-10"





BIRDS EYE LOOKING NORTHEAST





VEHICULAR ACCESS

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

overview

- 4-7 story massing; 44'-65' height
- 241 apartment units and 21,771 sf ground floor retail
- 267 onsite parking stalls in subgrade garage (65 retail / 202 residential)
- FAR shown: 252,622 sf (92.5% FAR utilization limit is 273,120)

P2: 61,265 sf P1: 54,324 sf 1ST: 52,476 sf

2ND: 44,356 sf BRD: 48,246 sf

4TH: 49,422 sf 5TH: 12,007 sf

opportunities ch

- jogs in facade fronting Rainier Ave allow opportunity for plaza/retail spillout to adjacent sidewalk, relief in pedestrian experience
- large interior courtyard as an amenity for residents
- buildings engage street along S Alaska St and 38th Ave
- vehicular entrances are divided between S Alaska St and 38th Ave for increased safety/security for residents

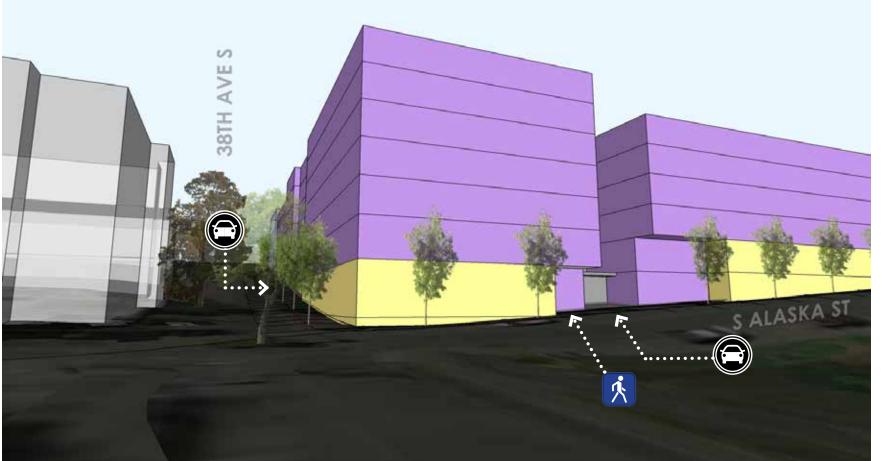
challenges

- limited connection between central courtyard and streetscape
- long facades along S Alaska St and 38th Ave will require careful and thoughtful architectural detailing to break down scale





BIRD'S EYE LOOKING SOUTHEAST

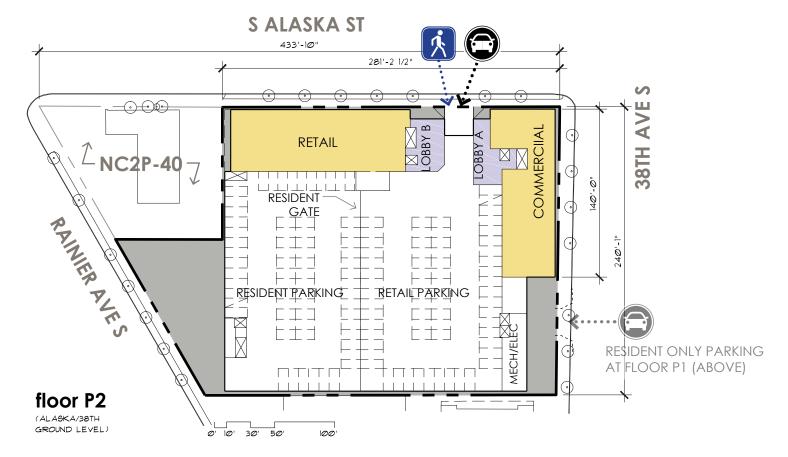


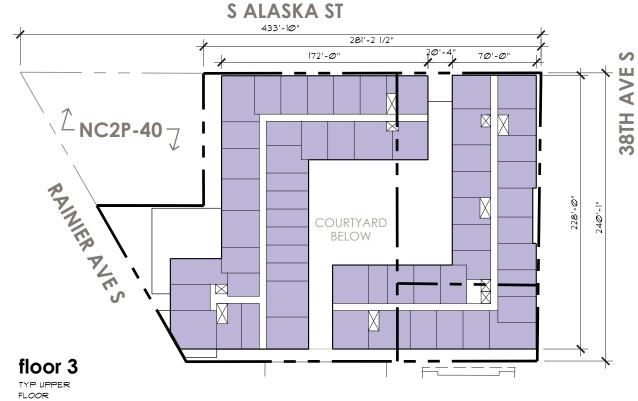
BIRD'S EYE LOOKING SOUTHWEST

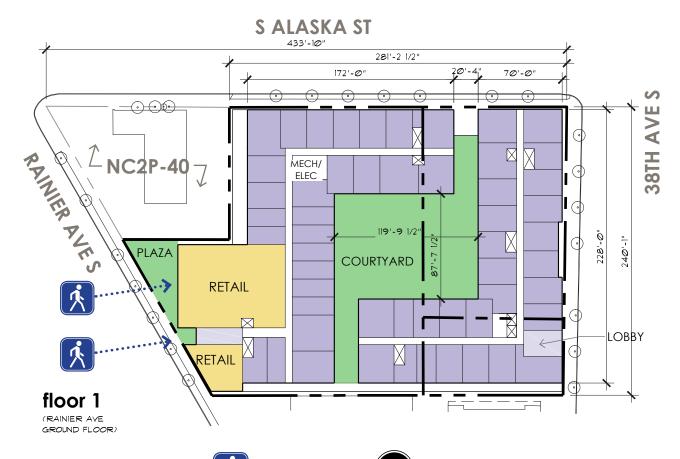












PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

L-SHAPE



BIRDS EYE LOOKING NORTHEAST





VEHICULAR ACCESS

overview

- 4-7 story massing; 44'-65' height
- 243 apartment units and 28,255 sf ground floor retail
- 231 onsite parking stalls in subgrade garage (57 retail / 174 residential)
- FAR shown: 251,055 sf (92% FAR utilization limit is 273,120)

22,956 sf 27,118 sf 44,293 sf 2ND: 49,439 sf 46,143 sf

49,237 sf 11,867 sf

opportunities

- large plazas/retail spillout space along Rainier Ave sidewalk
- building mass abutting Rainier Ave is oriented to create a dialogue with the street and is on axis with the library and street grid
- pedestrian and visual connection between central courtyard and Rainier Ave S
- buildings engage street along Alaska St and 38th

challenges

long facades along S Alaska St and 38th Ave will require careful and thoughtful architectural detailing to break down scale





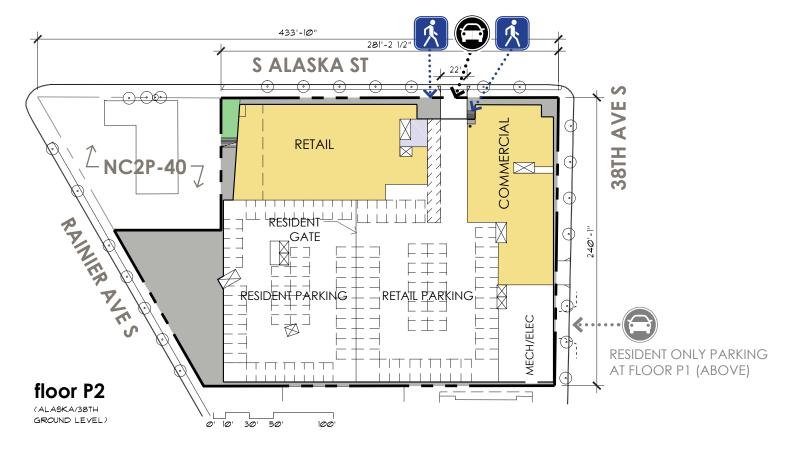


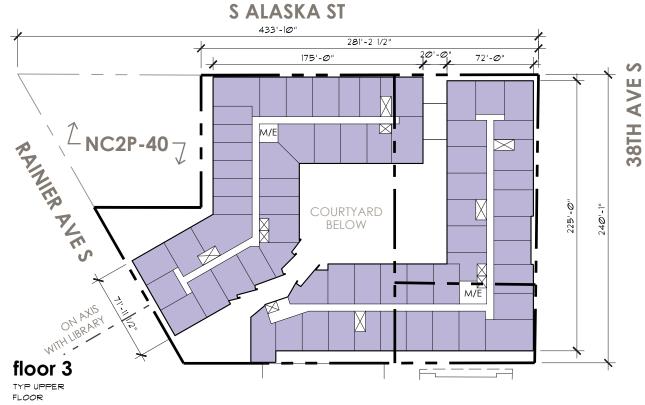


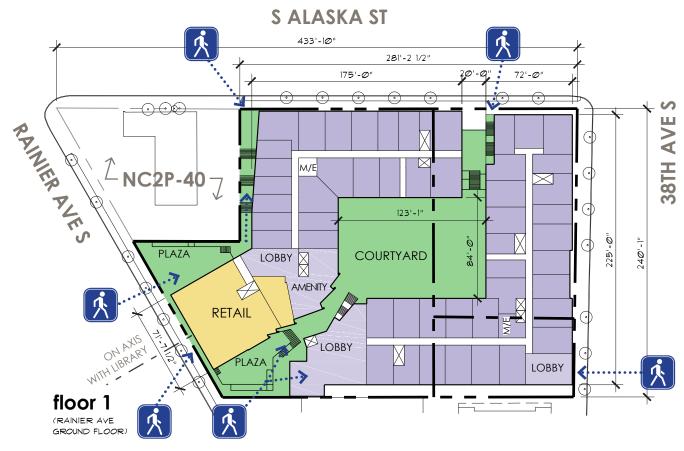
BIRD'S EYE LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM COMMUNITY CENTER













BIRDS EYE LOOKING NORTHEAST

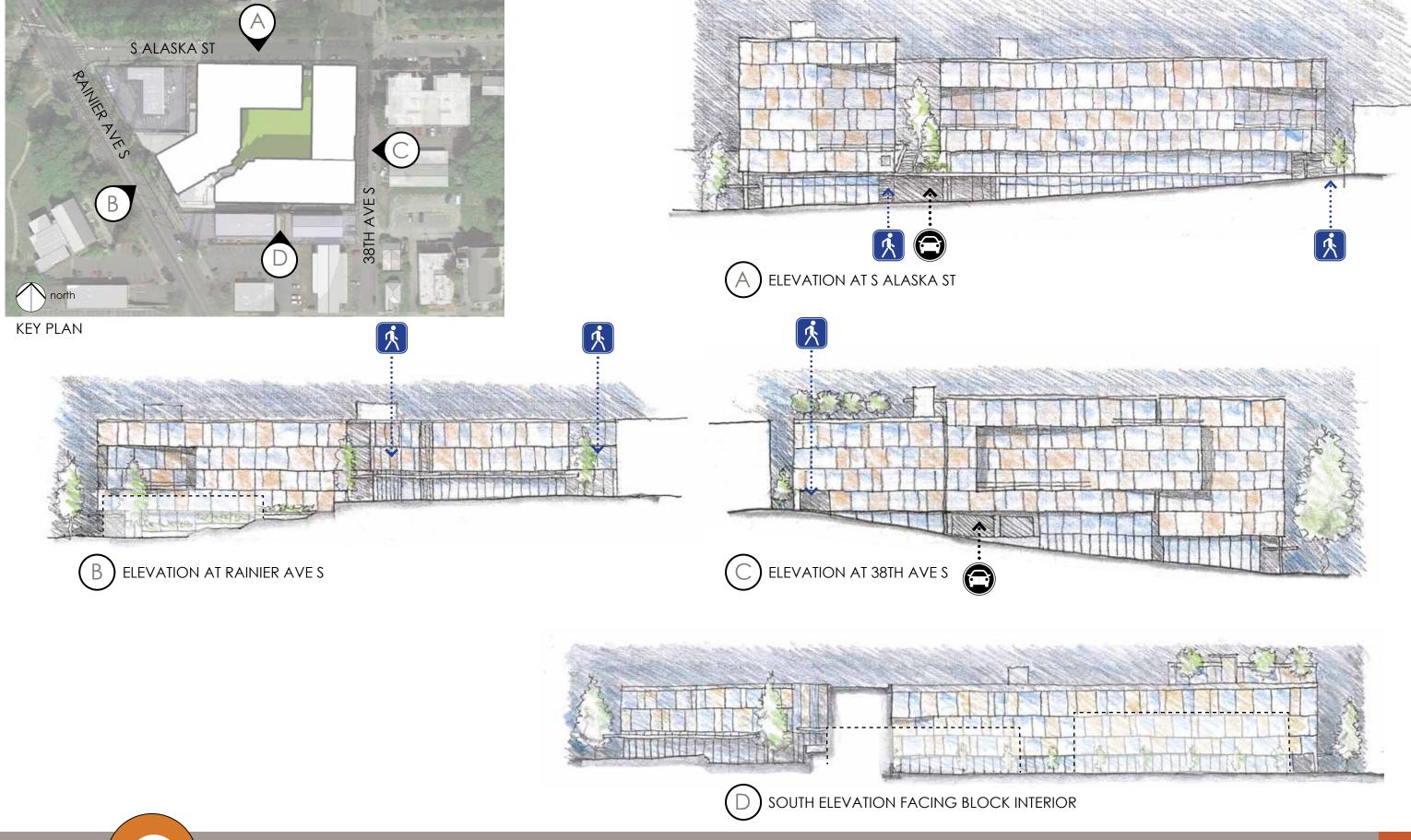








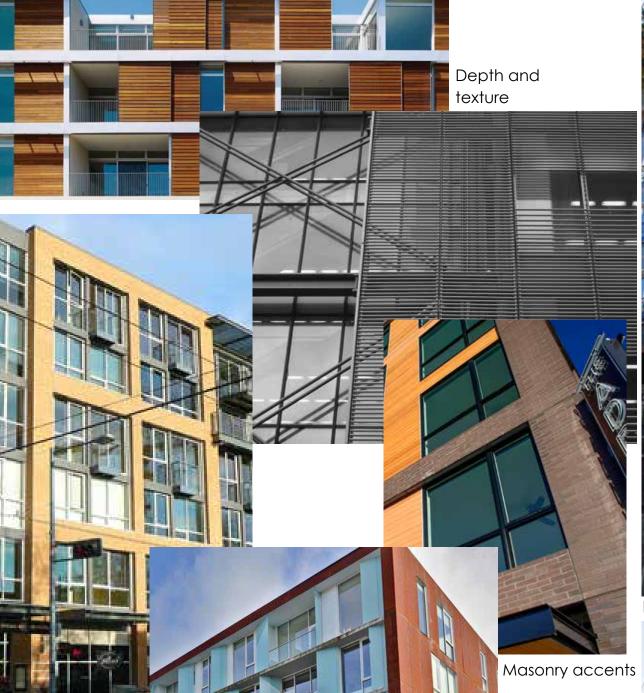








Facades with depth and texture







Natural materials with pattern, texture, and depth

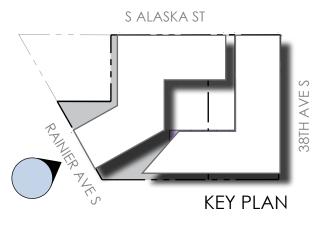


Sense of entry and overhead protection



Durable materials,

play between solid and void/ frame and infill

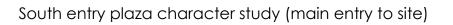




Rainier entry plaza concept - crevasse



Outdoor plaza seating

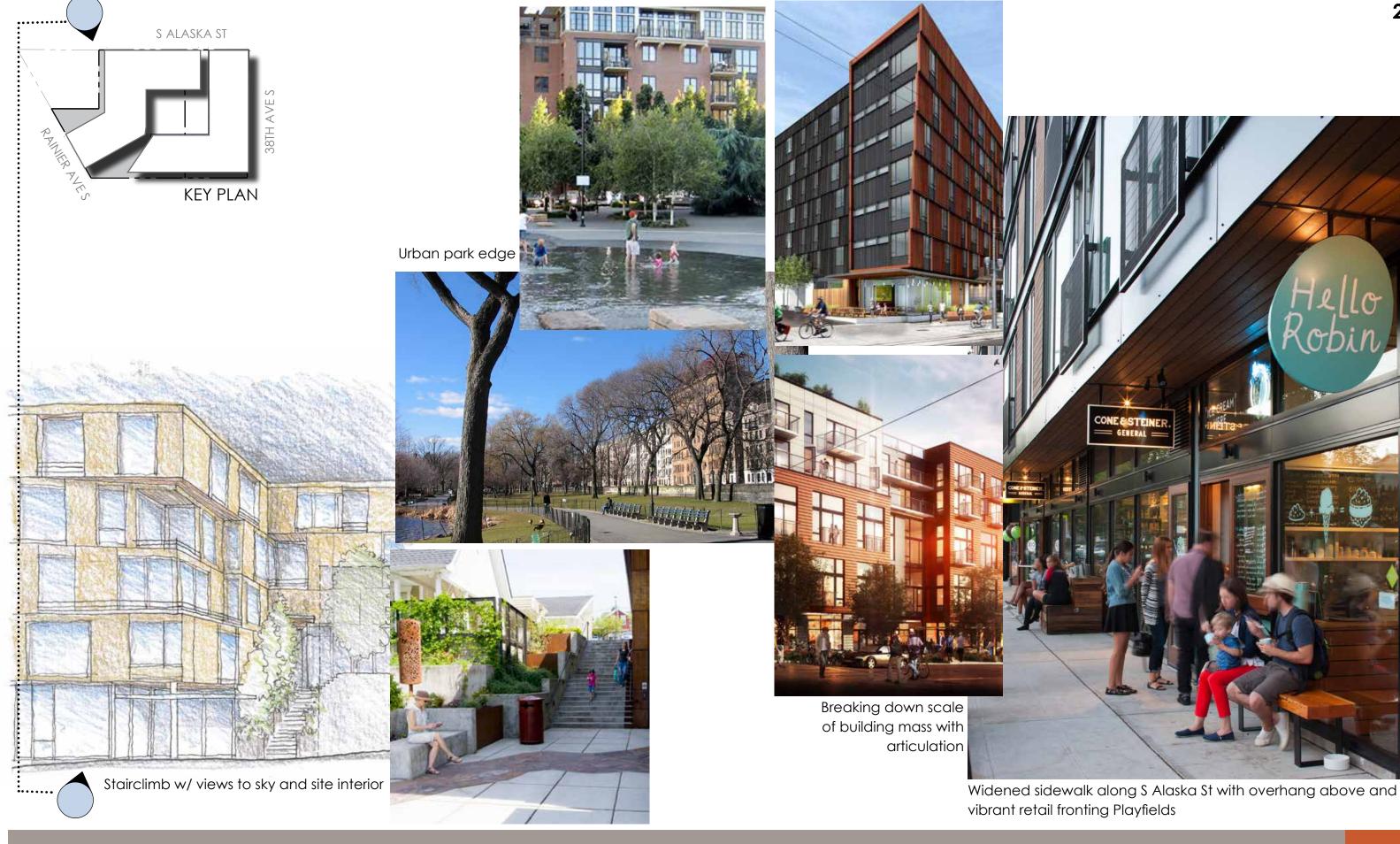


Vibrant, active space with visual depth and human scale

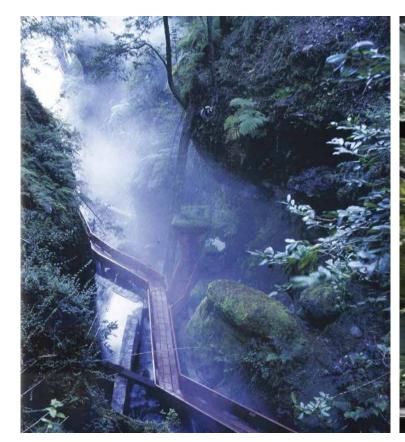


North entry plaza character study with retail spill-out uses









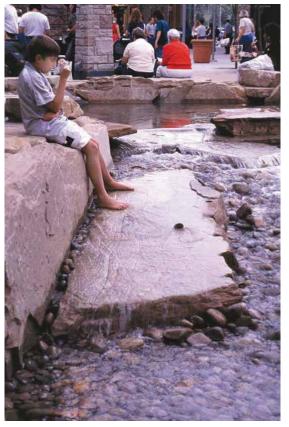












Karen Kiest | Landscape Architects



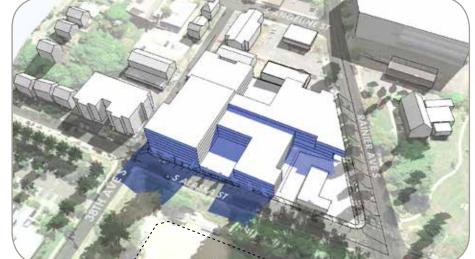










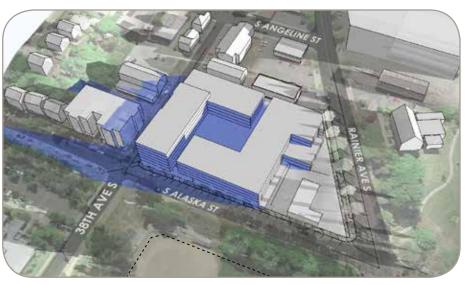






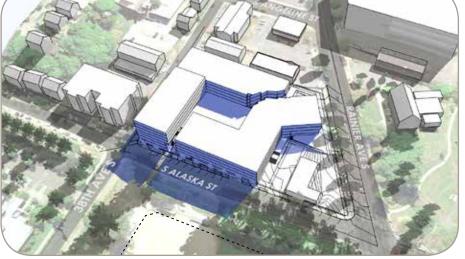


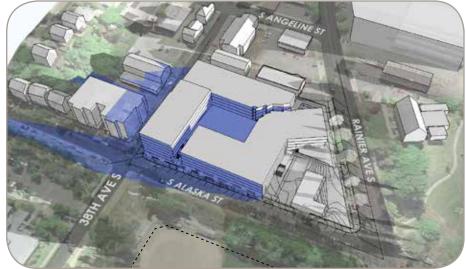












departure request for scheme B and preferred scheme C

DEPARTURE	CODE REQUIREMENT
Access to parking	SMC 23.47A.032.A.1.c
	If parking access is not provided from an alley and the lot abuts two or more streets, access is permitted across one of the side street lot lines.
	A total of five (5) one-way curb cuts are permitted per 23.54.030.F.2.a.1.
	Two (2) one-way curb cuts can be combined into one (1) two-way curb cut.

PROPOSED DESIGN JUSTIFICATION

curb cut off S Alaska St and one (1) two-way parking curb cut off 38th Ave S. Departure is requested to

One (1) two-way parking

provide curb cuts on two streets instead of all on one street.

The lot abuts three streets and has a total frontage of 671'-2". In response to the existing characteristics of each street and the slope of the grade, we are proposing to separate the primary retail and residential parking entries to divide the traffic impacts. Access to retail parking is proposed along S Alaska St in keeping with the more commercial character of the street, and residential parking will be predominantly accessed from 38th Ave S -- a steeper, narrower, and more residential street [CS2 B 2: Connection to the Street and CS2 D 5 Respect for Adjacent Sites]. Retail parking accessed off S Alaska St is more intuitively located for commercial traffic, and the shallower slope of the street will be easier to navigate for both customers and delivery trucks, enhancing safety [PL2 D 1: Wayfinding]. The bulk of the residential traffic and trash service is proposed on 38th, to reduce pedestrian-vehicle conflicts at the retail parking area and to minimize vehicle queuing and turning along S Alaska St. Dividing the driveways reduces the number of vehicle trips impacting the intersection of 38th & S Alaska, reducing the potential for conflicts at the important pedestrian corner crossing.



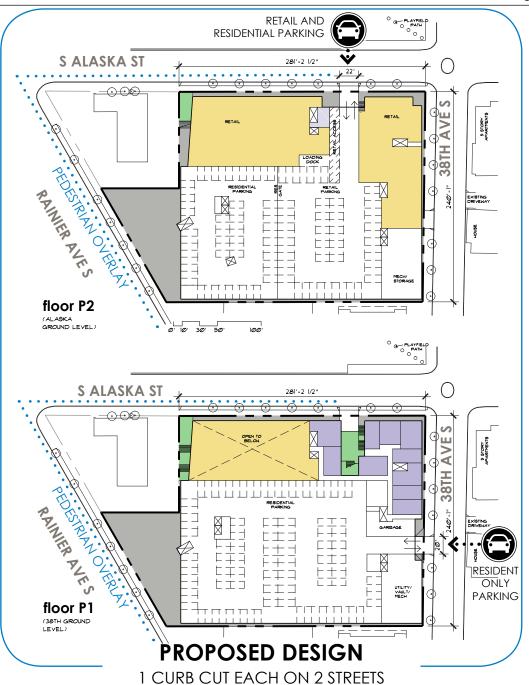
S ALASKA ST

- wider ROW
- shallower slope
- more through traffic



38TH AVE S

- narrower and steeper
- LR-3 zone frontage on east side



S ALASKA ST PARKING 38TH floor P2 S ALASKA ST AVE 38TH RAINERPLES floor P1 ONLY **PARKING** CODE-COMPLYING DESIGN 2 CURB CUTS ALLOWED ON 1 STREET



POTENTIAL departure request for preferred scheme C

DEPARTURE	CODE REQUIREMENT	PROPOSED DESIGN	JUSTIFICATION
Use frontage facing a	SMC 23.47A.008.C	65% of the street-level facade facing Alaska is	The existing topography along S Alaska St slopes 15' along the length of the site. A large multipurpose retail space is proposed to anchor the retail along Alaska, with a floor-to-floor height of approx 20'. Access to this retail space is
pedestrian- designated street	A minimum of 80% of the street-level facade width facing a principle pedestrian street (S Alaska) shall be occupied by general sales/services, eating/drinking	occupied by permitted pedestrian-oriented uses. The remaining frontage	proposed near the low point of the topography along its frontage, and the sidewalk then slopes nearly 10' upward from that main entrance, making the floor of the retail space well below the sidewalk at the west end of the site's Alaska frontage. In response to community desires and to provide an at-grade use, the project proposes an office/
	establishments, or other listed pedestrian-oriented uses	is proposed as office/ commercial use, through- block access stairs, and a	commercial mezzanine above the retail floor below and adjacent to the sidewalk [CS2 B 2: Connection to the Street and PL1 B 3: Pedestrian Amenities]. The proposed office use at grade will also serve to activate the public stairclimb space from Alaska up to Rainier and provide 'eyes on the street' for enhanced safety and security [PL2 B 3: Street Leve
		residential entrance to the building.	Transparency]



