



FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE SOUTHWEST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3013912

Address: 4433 42nd Avenue Southwest

Applicant: Courtney McCunney, Nicholson Kovalchick Architects

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2014

Board Members Present: Myer Harrell (Chair)
Laird Bennion
Todd Bronk
T. Frick McNamara
Daniel Skaggs

Board Members Absent: None

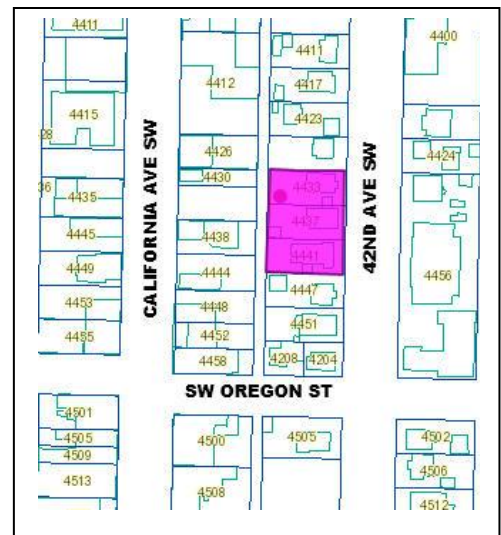
DPD Staff Present: Tami Garrett, Senior Land Use Planner

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2-40)

Nearby Zones: North: NC2-40
South: NC2-40
East: NC2-40
West: NC2-65

Lot Area: 17,250 square feet (sq. ft.)



Current Development: The project site contains three existing structures: a live-work building, a single family residence and a triplex building. There are five significant trees on site, 6" in diameter or greater. One of the trees, a 33.2" Black Locust located near the site's southwest corner, has been identified as an Exceptional Tree.

Access: Vehicular access to the project site will occur from the existing 16' wide paved alley.

Surrounding Development: Surrounding development includes single family homes, duplexes and triplexes located along the project site's block front to both the north and south. A surface parking lot associated with the West Seattle Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie is immediately north of the subject site. This same private club, a veterinary hospital (Greentree Animal Hospital), accessory surface parking lots and other commercial uses are west of the project site. A church and parochial school (Hope Lutheran) is located directly across the street to the east. There are also several other churches and private schools (West Seattle Christian, Holy Rosary) in the immediate vicinity of the project.

ECAs: The site's existing topography is characterized with having grades descending approximately 5' from north to south. There are no Environmentally Critical Areas (ECAs) mapped on or adjacent to the site.

Neighborhood Character: The project site is located within the West Seattle Junction Hub Urban Village, 1.5 blocks to the northeast of the intersection of California Ave SW and SW Alaska St. The general character of this block of 42nd Ave SW is generally residential in nature. A new 65' residential building is under construction a half-block to the south, and two relatively new mixed-use commercial/residential buildings are within two blocks to the south. The neighborhood is very pedestrian-oriented, and within 1,000 feet of the West Seattle Junction public transit hub. There are multiple shops, restaurants and grocery stores all within walking distance of the site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is for the design and construction of a mixed-use commercial and residential building with approximately 78 residential units surrounding two ground-level live-work units. All parking for the proposed development (approximately 52 stalls) to be provided in a below-grade garage accessed via the alley.

EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE MEETING: January 10, 2013
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DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Four alternative design schemes were presented to the Board, including one option that was not originally included in the EDG design packets initially provided to the Board, but was provided as

a supplement at the time of the meeting. This option, provided at the DPD Planner's request, illustrated a proposal that would preserve the City of Seattle exceptional tree (33.2" Black Locust) that currently exists on the site. All four options included a four-story structure with below-grade parking garages; and a residential lobby area primarily accessed from 42nd Avenue Southwest, but also with a smaller secondary entrance from the alley.

The first scheme (Option 1) maximized the allowable buildable envelope and showed a deep courtyard accessed from grade along 42nd Avenue Southwest. This option included 73 residential units, 58 parking stalls and three live-work units at grade in the northeast corner of the site.

The second scheme (Option 2) also included central courtyard but it was wider and shallower in comparison to Option 1. This option included 69 residential units, 58 parking stalls, two live-work units accessed from grade along 42nd Avenue Southwest and an adjacent residential lobby in the northeast corner of the building.

The third and applicant preferred scheme (Option 3) included a courtyard along the alley as opposed to the main street. This option included 71 residential units, 57 parking stalls, two live-work units at grade along 42nd Avenue Southwest and an adjacent residential lobby in the northeast corner of the building.

Option 4, as stated above, illustrated a scheme showing the existing Exceptional Tree would be preserved. Due to the tree's location, this scheme provided a reduced building massing in comparison to the other three options, as well as, a lower parking stall count in the below grade parking garage. This option included 59 residential units, 43 parking stalls and two live-work units at grade and an adjacent residential lobby in the northeast corner of the building.

The EDG packet includes materials presented at the EDG meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3013912) at this website:

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Design_Review_Program/Project_Reviews/Reports/default.asp.

The EDG packet is also available to view in the project file (project number 3013912), by contacting the Public Resource Center at DPD:

Mailing Public Resource Center

Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public attended this Early Design Review meeting. The following comments, issues and concerns were raised (with Board/applicant response in *italics*):

- Questioned the height of the existing tree nearest to the south property line and who would be responsible for tree removal debris.
Existing mature tree is estimated between 40' to 50' maximum; owner of proposal site would be responsible for removal of tree debris.
- Asked if future development would be apartments or condos; and, what types of unit are being proposed.
Apartments with a mix of one and two bedroom units.
- Explained that a nearby construction proposal (“Oregon 42 Apartments”) was required by Seattle City Light (SCL) to underground its electrical utility and encouraged the applicant to consult with SCL as early as possible in the design process to verify if their proposal would also be subject to that requirement.
- Advised that a design which included an onsite mid-block connection between the street (42nd Avenue Southwest) and the alley for the public’s benefit would possibly require policy from the City of Seattle and easement property rights through the land.
- Inquired if departures were being requested with the preferred design scheme.
No departures requested.
- A representative from the West Seattle Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie :
 - Expressed that philosophically the organization has no significant objections to people doing what is within their right to do.
 - Explained that characterization of the neighborhood is active throughout the day and at night due to the close proximity of the numerous schools, churches and usage of the Eagles facility. Stated that maximum utilization of the Eagle’s surface parking areas occurs at various times of the day/evening.
 - Requested the Board understand that Eagles property, as well as, other neighboring commercial properties west of the subject site may be sold in the future and developed to their maximum potential.
 - Stated that the proposal would be positive impact for the property values and an asset to the community.
 - Concerned about the lack of onsite parking being provided by development in the neighborhood.
- Representatives of Hope Lutheran Church:
 - Stated that existing parking conditions within immediate vicinity of the project site are a daily issue.
 - Concerned that the proposed quantity of onsite parking is not adequate for the amount of units proposed and will negatively impact existing on-street parking conditions.
 - Commented that the design schemes appeared monolithic and bland with no modulation along the street-facing facades.
 - Encouraged a design that is more livable, pedestrian-friendly and retain more of the existing West Seattle character as identified in the West Seattle design guidelines.

- Asked why the term “flats” was used as part of the project’s name (“BCK Junction Flats”). *Explained that it is a working title and typical residential apartments are being proposed.*
- Preferred a design that resembles an “urban flat with retail at-grade” appearance which could potentially activate the street in the long-term.

INITIAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING: August 29, 2013
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DESIGN PRESENTATION

The applicant submitted a Master Use Permit (MUP) application to DPD on March 29, 2013. The design massing scheme presented to the Board was based on the preferred scheme (Option 3) offered at the EDG phase. The preferred massing design had further evolved to include colors, materials, fenestration, architectural detailing and landscaping.

The proposed building’s east facade was broken down into two smaller masses separated by a mid-site recessed portion that was distinguished by a change in materials. A mansard roof is proposed for the upper level along 42nd Avenue Southwest façade. The two live-work units were set away from the ground-level residential units by both a vertical separation and a change in building plane. Patios and juliette balconies were provided for the ground-level residential units along the east facade, and overhead weather protection was shown at the live-work and building lobby entries. The main building lobby was accessed from 42nd Avenue Southwest, with a secondary entry accessed from the alley west of the project site. The below-grade parking garage was accessed from the alley, at the southwest corner of the project site. Residential open spaces included a large west-facing semi-private courtyard and an outdoor rooftop common multi-zoned active recreation area. The presentation included proposed landscaping design details. No development standard departures were requested.

The packet includes materials presented at the Recommendation meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3013912) at this website:

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The Recommendation packet is also available to view in the project file (project number 3013912), by contacting the Public Resource Center at DPD:

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public attended this Initial Recommendation meeting. The following comments, issues and concerns were raised (with Board/applicant response in *italics*):

- Concerned that the amount of onsite parking proposed (52 stalls) will not be enough to meet the parking demand for the future residents at this property.
[Staff Note: Such information/questions should be directed to the DPD discretionary planner (Tami Garrett) in writing as a public comment.]
- Asked about the smallest residential unit's square footage proposed in the building.
350 sq. ft.
- Appreciated the following aspects of the presented design: location of the live-work units to the north, window design (fenestration), the mansard roof design and the incorporation of brick materials.
- Encouraged the incorporation of a mid-block connection from California Avenue Southwest, across the alley and through the property leading to 42nd Avenue Southwest.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING: January 16, 2014

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The Southwest Design Review Board (DRB) members recommended approval of the subject design with several conditions at the August 29, 2013 Initial Recommendation meeting. After the meeting, the applicant expressed concerns with attaining the following DRB recommended condition:

1. *The recess at the center portion of the east façade abutting three residential units should be increased from 4' to 6' minimum (or more) with the intent to create usable residential amenity, to encourage human activity and enliven the streetscape. (A-2, A-4)*

The applicant submitted an alternative design to DPD to address the intent of this condition. DPD reviewed the proposed alternative design and advised the applicant that input from the DRB members was necessary. Therefore, an additional Recommendation meeting was required for the DRB to review the proposed revision.

The applicant's presentation focused solely on the applicant's response to the Board's condition noted above; as well as, other conditions addressing the proposed building's 42nd Avenue Southwest frontage. Three design options were presented to the Board. No development standard departures were requested.

The packet includes materials presented at the Recommendation meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3013912) at this website:

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public attended this Final Recommendation meeting but no public comment was offered at this meeting.

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following siting and design guidance.

EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE: January 10, 2013

1. Design Concept and Massing:

- a. The Board felt the preferred design scheme Option 3 should move forward to Master Use Permit (MUP) submittal with the following guidance:
 - i. More modulation applied to the 42nd Avenue Southwest façade is necessary to bring more interest to the building mass.
 - ii. The design should include elements from Option 1-including the distinct separation between the commercial (live-work units) and residential units at grade. Also the orientation of the residential lobby entrance situated towards the mid-portion of the structure at grade visually creates a good separation of uses. (B-1)
 - b. The Board agreed that the preferred design included a balanced mix of residential and commercial uses along the 4th Avenue Southwest street-front. The Board noted that the amount of live-work units proposed (two) is appropriate for this mid-block site which is in a neighborhood in transition and situated across the street from several institutional uses (schools, churches). (B-1, C-1)
 - c. The Board supported a design that did not include preservation of the Exceptional Tree. Detailed Board discussion/guidance concerning this subject is offered in item #4. (B-1, E-3)
2. **42nd Avenue Southwest frontage:** The design of the new building should incorporate architectural features, elements and details to achieve a good human scale, encourage human activity, and reinforce the existing spatial characteristic of 42nd Avenue Southwest. (A-2, A-4, C-3)
- a. The Board stated that a building with a strong street-facing urban edge and a softer urban edge to the west is appropriate. However, the Board expressed

concern with the monolithic appearance of the building's east-facing façades abutting 42nd Avenue Southwest. The Board expects to review a design at the Recommendation meeting that incorporates modulation with upper-level setbacks and recesses that breaks down the mass and adds interest and character. (B-1, C-3)

- b. The Board discussed the merits between raised residential balconies and stoops with stairs for the first-floor residential units along the street-facing façade. The Board initially noted that a design inclusive of stoops would be more successful than raised balconies in creating a transition between the public sidewalks to the entrances. However, the Board recognized that, due to the horizontal distance from grade (approximately 7') created by the existing downward sloping condition from north to south, stoops would be problematic—would negatively affect available landscaping areas. Therefore, the Board stated it could support a design inclusive of raised balconies that enhance security and privacy to those units. The Board expects the applicant to continue to explore a stoop solution and provide renderings of this option at the Recommendation meeting. (C-3, D-12)
- c. The Board acknowledged that street-facing blank walls will need to be addressed. The Board expects to review details pertaining to any landscaping treatments (green screening) proposed to address this concern at the Recommendation meeting. (D-2, E-2)

3. Residential Open Spaces:

- a. The Board felt the preferred design (Option 3) which illustrated a raised courtyard along the west alley side would create a more usable gathering area for the residents as opposed to the at-grade courtyard areas abutting the east street side which could become space that isn't usable by the residents. The Board agreed that a design which included courtyards situated on both the street and alley side is optimal, but voiced concern that the courtyard abutting the street not be as long and narrow as illustrated in Options 1 and 2. (A-7)
- b. At the Recommendation meeting, the Board stated that they expect to see elements (outdoor furniture, trees, landscaping, water features, etc.) included in the landscape design that activate the proposed residential open spaces. (A-7)
- c. An alternative location for the proposed rooftop deck area should be explored and presented at the Recommendation meeting. (A-7)

4. Exceptional Tree: A special site condition is the presence of one identified Exceptional Tree, a 33.2" Black Locust located near the site's southwest corner. The information presented to the Board from the applicant's arborist described the tree as having "a low safe and useful life expectancy considering its structural condition, extent of decay and proximity to proposed site development". The EDG packet showed that the preservation of the Exceptional Tree would result in a minimum loss of ten units (14%) and fourteen parking stalls (25%) in comparison to the preferred scheme (Option 3). (E-3)

- a. The Board agreed that a design which includes the preservation of the identified exceptional tree (Option 4) is not recommended based on the documentation presented by the applicant and initial feedback from the DPD Tree Expert.

- b. The Board recognized that tree replacement would be required per SMC 25.11.090 (Tree Protection). The Board reviewed this code citation which details the tree replacement process and acknowledged that further consultation between the applicant's arborist, DPD reviewers and the DPD Tree Expert was necessary before the Board could offer any design feedback. Therefore, the Board requested the applicant address this requirement directly with DPD during the initial MUP review process and provide tree replacement specifics at the Recommendation meeting. (E-3)
- c. The Board agreed that the future replacement trees provided an opportunity to enhance the project. The Board expects to review a quality landscape design that distinguishes the selected replacement trees and illustrates the placement of those trees. (E-2)
- d. The Board requested the applicant investigate alternative tree placement locations in addition to the site's northwest corner podium. For example, tree clustering to better distinguish the building entry and offsite options (in addition to required street trees) were offered by the Board. (E-3)

INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS: August 29, 2013

The Board discussion of the proposed departures (if applicable) and conditions are at the end of this document.

1. Design Concept and Massing:

- a. The Board stated the final building design did not appropriately respond to the Board's guidance that more modulation be applied to the 42nd Avenue Southwest façade in order to bring more interest to the building mass. Detailed Board discussion/recommendations concerning this subject are offered in item #2. (A-2, A-4, B-1, C-2, C-3)

2. 42nd Avenue Southwest Frontage:

- a. The Board reviewed the stoop study renderings and acknowledged the project design inclusive of raised balconies is more successful than stoops with stairs for the first-floor residential units along the street-facing façade. (C-3, D-12)
- b. The Board discussed and reviewed the building's east-facing facades abutting 42nd Avenue Southwest. They noted that the street-facing facade lacked adequate modulation and design to reduce its monolithic appearance. The Board recommended the following conditions to assist in addressing this concern. (A-2, A-4, A-6, C-2, C-3)
 - i. The recess at the center portion of the east façade abutting three residential units should be increased from 4' to 6' minimum (or more) with the intent to create usable residential amenity to encourage human activity and enliven the streetscape. (A-2, A-4)
 - ii. Vary (lower) the roof parapet height at the center portion of the east façade to accentuate the modulation between the two mansard-roofed building masses. This variation of parapet height should also be applied in a similar fashion at the north, west and south facades. (A-2, A-4)

- iii. Utilize the arrangement of balconies (juliette), sliding glass doors and window detailing/framing to provide variety on both the east and west façades. Building facades comprised of exclusively Juliette balconies was strongly discouraged by the Board. (A-2, A-4)
- c. The Board stated the window frame with a deep recess that's demonstrated along the east façade should be maintained. (C-1, C-2, C-4)
- d. The Board expressed concern that the pathways from the sidewalk to the live-work entrances weren't designed appropriately to support a viable commercial use. The Board encouraged a redesign of the landscape/hardscape elements within the ROW to create pathways to the live-work units that is more substantial. (A-2, A-4, E-2)
- e. The Board was satisfied with the signage design provided for the commercial (live-work) and main residential lobby entrance and acknowledged the proposed live-work signage was appropriate for the scale, character and use of the project and surrounding residential/institutional area. (C-3, D-9)
- f. The Board reviewed the conceptual lighting design for the entire project and agreed that overall it would promote visual interest and pedestrian /resident security. The Board noted the proposed Bega Small Scale Floodlights (light fixture #1 on page 29) meant to illuminate the trees/vegetation abutting the east façade may cause light pollution into the upper residential units. The Board recommended a condition that discouraged the installation of flood lighting to avoid light spillover into adjacent residential units along the street-facing façade. The Board encouraged the design team to explore other lighting options (path lighting, wall sconces, etc.) that would address this concern. (D-7, D-10, D-12)
- g. The Board acknowledged that the street-facing brick wall façade below the residential units at the southern end of the building would appear massive to pedestrians. The Board supported the usage of layered landscaping as a design treatment to help soften the wall but recognized it would take some years for the plantings to be established. Consequently, the Board recommended a condition that appropriately-sized plantings abutting the brick wall facade be installed at a larger size to provide some level of screening at building occupancy. The Board stated the brick façade should continue to extend to the base of the building in the same area-as shown in the REC DRB materials (page 24). (D-2, E-1)

3. North, South, and West Façades/Alley Frontage:

- a. The Board discussed and reviewed the building's west-facing facades abutting 42nd Avenue Southwest. The Board noted the west façade lacked variety and upper-level modulation. Board discussion/recommendations concerning this subject are offered in item #2. (A-2, A-4, B-1, C-2, C-3)
- b. The Board discussed the bioretention planter blank wall condition near the alley edge. They commented that the proposed climbing ivy wouldn't establish properly in an 8" planting strip and acknowledge that a more viable design solution was necessary to minimize the wall height (13'). Therefore, the Board recommended a condition that the wall should be terraced with the lowest terrace level at or below eye-level at the top of wall; and has plantings that step down into the courtyard area. The Board also stated that there needs to be an

architectural response alternative if it is necessary to retain the full wall height per the Stormwater Code requirements. (D-2, E-2, E-1)

- c. The Board acknowledged the visibility of the north and south facades-especially those facades situated at the property line. The Board recommended a condition that, at the northeast and southeast corners of the building, the brick façade material and the roof should wrap the corners in a more substantial manner and smoothly transition to the change in material and color at the preferred abstract zero lot line façade alternative (#3) identified in the REC DRB materials. (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, D-2)

4. Residential Open Spaces:

- a. The Board appreciated the elements (outdoor furniture, citrus greenhouse, dog run, landscaping, etc.) integrated with the proposed residential open spaces. (A-7)
- b. The Board reviewed the proposed residential open space designs (rooftop deck area and raised courtyard along the west alley side) and stated past concerns regarding the size, location, configuration and usability of those areas had been resolved. (A-7)

5. Landscaping and Exceptional Tree:

- a. The DPD Planner updated the Board regarding the tree replacement consultation that had occurred between the applicant's arborist, DPD reviewers and the DPD Tree Expert prior to the Recommendation meeting. The DPD Planner explained that the DPD Tree Expert had reviewed the arborist report and had arrived at the appropriate tree canopy amount that needed to be recovered onsite and/or within the right-of-way which is allowed per the Tree Protection Ordinance. It was also explained that any proposed trees within the right-of-way would require approval from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). The Board expressed strong disappointment that neither the applicant's presentation nor landscape design materials clearly distinguish the selected replacement trees from the code required tree quantity (street trees, green factor) and their location. The Board indicated that the absent tree replacement specifics, in addition to minimal landscaping details offered (tree location and size) hinder their ability to provide constructive design feedback. The DPD Planner reassured the Board that City Staff (DPD Tree Expert, DPD Zoning Reviewer, and SDOT Arborist) have collectively reviewed the applicant's landscaping reports/plans and will verify that this code requirement has been met.
- b. The Board reviewed the conceptual landscape plan and stated that the landscape design needed to better integrate with the clean lines of the architecture and that the design should incorporate more plant variation, specifically regarding overuse of Rubus in the right-of-way (ROW) planting area at 42nd Avenue Southwest. The Board was reminded by Staff that that the final design of the landscaping within the right-of-ways (ROWS) is within the purview of SDOT. (C-2, D-1, E-2)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: January 16, 2014

The Board discussion of the proposed departures (if applicable) and conditions are at the end of this document.

1. **42nd Avenue Southwest Frontage Alternative Design Discussion:**
 - a. The Board reviewed and debated the merits of all three alternative design options for the building's east-facing facades abutting 42nd Avenue Southwest. The Board explained that two of the three design options (#1 and #3) had elements that combined would meet the intent of the prior Board guidance/recommendation. Consequently, the Board did state support for a "hybrid" alternative design option and recommended the following conditions in addition to the conditions stated at the prior Recommendation meeting. (A-2, A-4, A-6, C-2, C-3)
 - i. The recess at the center portion of the east façade abutting three residential units should be increased from 4' to 6' minimum (or more) at the first floor level; maintain a 4' minimum building recess at the upper floor levels; and add 4' deep balconies to the upper floor levels with the intent to create usable residential amenity to encourage human activity and enliven the streetscape. (A-2, A-4)
 - ii. Differentiate the materiality and colors for the first floor deck and upper level balconies at the center portion of the east façade from the two end building masses to reduce the building mass and bring more interest to the design. (A-2, A-4, C-2, C-3, C-4)
 - iii. Any infrastructure associated with drainage of the balconies should be deemphasized in appearance. (A-2, A-4, C-2, C-3, C-4)

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Board identified the Citywide Design Guidelines & Neighborhood specific guidelines (as applicable) of highest priority for this project.

The Neighborhood specific guidelines are summarized below. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

A. Site Planning

A-2 Streetscape Compatibility. The siting of buildings should acknowledge and reinforce the existing desirable spatial characteristics of the right-of-way.

West Seattle Junction - specific supplemental guidance:

A pedestrian-oriented streetscape is perhaps the most important characteristic to be achieved in new development in the Junction's mixed use areas (as previously defined). New development-particularly on SW Alaska, Genesee, Oregon and Edmunds Streets-will set the precedent in establishing desirable siting and design characteristics in the right-of-way.

- A-4 **Human Activity.** New development should be sited and designed to encourage human activity on the street.

West Seattle Junction - specific supplemental guidance:

An active and interesting sidewalk engages pedestrians through effective transitions between the public and private realm. Particularly in the California Avenue Commercial Core, proposed development is encouraged to set back from the front property line to allow for more public space that enhances the pedestrian environment. Building facades should give shape to the space of the street through arrangement and scale of elements. Display windows should be large and open at the street level to provide interest and encourage activity along the sidewalk. At night, these windows should provide a secondary source of lighting.

- A-5 **Respect for Adjacent Sites.** Buildings should respect adjacent properties by being located on their sites to minimize disruption of the privacy and outdoor activities of residents in adjacent buildings.

- A-7 **Residential Open Space.** Residential projects should be sited to maximize opportunities for creating usable, attractive, well-integrated open space.

B. Height, Bulk and Scale

- B-1 **Height, Bulk, and Scale Compatibility.** Projects should be compatible with the scale of development anticipated by the applicable Land Use Policies for the surrounding area and should be sited and designed to provide a sensitive transition to near-by, less intensive zones. Projects on zone edges should be developed in a manner that creates a step in perceived height, bulk, and scale between anticipated development potential of the adjacent zones.

West Seattle Junction - specific supplemental guidance:

Current zoning in the Junction has created abrupt edges in some areas between intensive, mixed-use development potential and less-intensive, multifamily development potential. In addition, the Code-complying building envelope of NC-65' (and higher) zoning designations permitted within the Commercial Core would result in development that exceeds the scale of existing commercial/mixed-use development. More refined transitions in height, bulk and scale-in terms of relationship to surrounding context and within the proposed structure itself-must be considered.

C. Architectural Elements and Materials

- C-1 **Architectural Context.** New buildings proposed for existing neighborhoods with a well-defined and desirable character should be compatible with or complement the architectural character and siting pattern of neighboring buildings.

West Seattle Junction - specific supplemental guidance:

Facade Articulation: To make new, larger development compatible with the surrounding architectural context, facade articulation and architectural embellishment are important considerations in mixed-use and multifamily residential buildings. When larger buildings replace several small buildings, facade articulation should reflect the original platting pattern and reinforce the architectural rhythm established in the commercial core.

Architectural Cues: New mixed-use development should respond to several architectural features common in the Junction's best storefront buildings to preserve and enhance pedestrian orientation and maintain an acceptable level of consistency with the existing architecture. To create cohesiveness in the Junction, identifiable and exemplary architectural patterns should be reinforced. New elements can be introduced - provided they are accompanied by strong design linkages.

- C-3 Human Scale.** The design of new buildings should incorporate architectural features, elements, and details to achieve a good human scale.

West Seattle Junction - specific supplemental guidance:

Facades should contain elements that enhance pedestrian comfort and orientation while presenting features with visual interest that invite activity.

Overhead weather protection should be functional and appropriately scaled, as defined by the height and depth of the weather protection. It should be viewed as an architectural amenity, and therefore contribute positively to the design of the building with appropriate proportions and character.

Signage: Signs should add interest to the street level environment. They can unify the overall architectural concept of the building, or provide unique identity for a commercial space within a larger mixed-use structure. Design signage that is appropriate for the scale, character and use of the project and surrounding area. Signs should be oriented and scaled for both pedestrians on sidewalks and vehicles on street.

D. Pedestrian Environment

- D-2 Blank Walls.** Buildings should avoid large blank walls facing the street, especially near sidewalks. Where blank walls are unavoidable they should receive design treatment to increase pedestrian comfort and interest.
- D-9 Commercial Signage.** Signs should add interest to the street front environment and should be appropriate for the scale and character desired in the area.
- D-12 Residential Entries and Transitions.** For residential projects in commercial zones, the space between the residential entry and the sidewalk should provide security and privacy for residents and a visually interesting street front for pedestrians. Residential buildings should enhance the character of the streetscape with small gardens, stoops

and other elements that work to create a transition between the public sidewalk and private entry.

E. Landscaping

E-2 Landscaping to Enhance the Building and/or Site. Landscaping, including living plant material, special pavements, trellises, screen walls, planters, site furniture and similar features should be appropriately incorporated into the design to enhance the project.

E-3 Landscape Design to Address Special Site Conditions. The landscape design should take advantage of special on-site conditions such as high-bank front yards, steep slopes, view corridors, or existing significant trees and off-site conditions such as greenbelts, ravines, natural areas, and boulevards.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

At the times of both Recommendation meetings, no departures were requested.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation summarized below was based on the design review packets dated August 29, 2013 and January 16, 2014, and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the August 29, 2013 and January 16, 2014 Design Recommendation meetings. After considering the site and context, hearing public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the five Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design, with the following conditions:

1. Vary (lower) the roof parapet height at the center portion of the east façade to accentuate the modulation between the two mansard-roofed building masses. This variation of parapet height should also be applied in a similar fashion at the north, west and south facades. (A-2, A-4)
2. Utilize the arrangement of balconies (juliette), sliding glass doors and window detailing/framing to provide variety on the east and west façades. Building facades comprised of exclusively Juliette balconies is strongly discouraged. (A-2, A-4)
3. The lighting plan for the site should maintain the same level of lighting design, scale, pattern, fixture type and location as shown in the REC DRB materials with the exception of floodlights to minimize light pollution into the residential units at the street-facing facade. (D-7, D-10, D-12)

4. Plantings abutting the street-facing brick wall façade below the residential units at the southern end of the building should be installed at a larger size to provide some level of screening at building occupancy. (D-2, E-1)
5. The blank wall at the alley should be terraced with the lowest terrace level at or below eye-level at the top of wall; and include plantings that step down into the courtyard area. There needs to be an architectural response alternative if it is necessary to retain the full wall height per the Stormwater Code requirements. (D-2, E-2, E-1)
6. At the northeast and southeast corners of the building, the brick façade material and the roof should wrap the corners in a more substantial manner and smoothly transition to the change in material and color at the preferred abstract zero lot line façade alternative (#3) identified in the REC DRB materials. (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, D-2)
7. The recess at the center portion of the east façade abutting three residential units should be increased from 4' to 6' minimum (or more) at the first floor level; maintain a 4' minimum building recess at the upper floor levels; and add 4' deep balconies to the upper floor levels with the intent to create usable residential amenity to encourage human activity and enliven the streetscape. (A-2, A-4)
8. Differentiate the materiality and colors for the first floor deck and upper level balconies at the center portion of the east façade from the two end building masses to reduce the building mass and bring more interest to the design. (A-2, A-4, C-2, C-3, C-4)
9. Any infrastructure associated with drainage of the balconies should be deemphasized in appearance. (A-2, A-4, C-2, C-3, C-4)