City of Seattle

Department of Construction and Inspections
Nathan Torgelson, Director

DESIGN REVIEW

DESIGN GUIDANCE
STREAMLINED DESIGN REVIEW

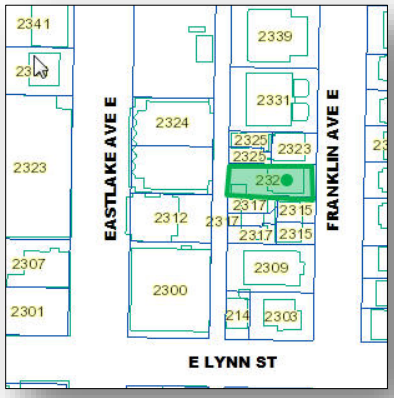
Project Number:	3020190
Address:	2321 Franklin Ave E
Applicant:	Hugh Schaeffer
Date of Report:	Thursday, January 14, 2016
DPD Staff:	Colin R. Vasquez

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Lowrise 3 (LR3),
Eastlake Residential Urban Village Overlay

Nearby Zones: (North) Lowrise 3 (LR3)
(South) Lowrise 3 (LR3)
(East) Lowrise 3 (LR3)
(West) Neighborhood Commercial
2 P-40 (NC2 P-40)

Lot Area: 4,400 square feet.



Current Development:

The project site is a midblock rectangular-shaped parcel bounded by Franklin Ave E and an alley. A single family residence currently occupies the site. The parcel measures 40.00' wide by 110.00' deep. The site slopes down from the east to the west with a grade change of approximately twelve feet. The site contains no significant trees.

Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

Development along the block front is a mix of single family and multifamily residences ranging between 1 and 3 stories. Architectural styles and generations, include late 20th century apartment style buildings, contemporary townhouses and older single family structures.

Environmentally Critical Areas:

None.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes the construction of two, three-story, two-unit townhouse structures with surface parking for four vehicles. The existing building will be demolished.

Access:

The project proposes vehicle access to the site from an alley that connects to E Louisa St and E Lynn St. Perpendicular parking will be located adjacent to the alley. Pedestrian access is located adjacent to the street and on the north and south sides of the structure.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DPD received three comment letters during the public comment period ending on October 28th 2015. Their concerns included the following:

- Increased parking demand and traffic congestion.
- Shading and shadowing by the buildings.
- The scale of the building and the height of the rooftop features.
- Loss of trees.
- Lack of outdoor space.
- Loss of privacy by the location of the buildings and the location of windows.

PRIORITIES & DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, the Design Review Planner provided the following siting and design guidance. The Planner identified the Citywide Design Guidelines & Neighborhood specific guidelines (as applicable) of highest priority for this project.

STREAMLINE DESIGN GUIDANCE:

1. **Site Planning**. The proposed townhouses are located on the western block front of Franklin Ave E. Pedestrian access has been proposed that provides individual residential entries. Perpendicular vehicle parking has been proposed adjacent to the alley.
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate that color or material changes have been added to the vehicle parking area to reduce the visual impacts of this area and to clarify the pedestrian circulation routes (DC1-C2, DC2-D1, DC4-D2).

2. **Massing Compatibility.**
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate that the height of the stair penthouses does not exceed the minimum requirements of the building code & energy code (CS2-D-5, DC2-A).
   b. The building permit needs to illustrate that the footprint of the stair penthouses have been reduced in size to the area needed for the stair access. The mechanical equipment needs to be relocated to another area of the structure (CS2-D-5, DC2-A2).

3. **Further Treatment of Setbacks.** Setbacks provided at the perimeter of the site should provide usable pedestrian access for residents while also acting as a transition area to adjacent sites.
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate that the landscaping shown in the packet has been carried forward (DC4-D).
   b. The building permit needs to illustrate that low-level landscaping has been utilized and cut-off lighting within the front setback creates private, defensible and safe pedestrian spaces. Focused attention should be provided on the pedestrian pathways and the unit entries (DC4-C).
   c. The building permit needs to illustrate that vertical screening has been added along the side property lines to help mitigate privacy impacts at ground level along the pedestrian pathways (DC1-C2).
4. **Maximize Privacy.** Development must provide privacy for the adjacent structures.
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate how the window locations in the high use living spaces avoid direct line of site into adjacent structure windows and private yards (CS2-D).
5. **Identifiable Residential Entries.** Residential entries are introduction to the site for residents and visitors.
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate that the residential entries create a strong connection to the street and public realm. Additionally, they need to contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood where older structures include street facing residential entries (CS2-A-2, CS2-B-2, CS3).
   b. The building permit needs to illustrate in detail the use of exterior lighting, signage, pavers and landscaping to frame and guide residents and visitors from the street to individual units (PL3-A).
6. **Develop Architectural Concept and Material Palette.** The building permit needs to clearly illustrate that durable materials have been used to enhance the structure; and that the architectural form contributes to the neighborhood context.
   a. The building permit needs to clearly illustrate the patterns, textures, colors, and materials that are used so they add visual interest and break the façades into discrete sections (CS3-A, DC2-B, DC2-C, DC4).
7. **Parking and Service Uses**
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate a design for the surface parking area that can serve as a multiple uses area; for outdoor gatherings or as a sports court (DC1-C-3).
   b. Supply more information at the building permit stage, showing materials used for pervious paving, landscaping, lighting and fencing (DC4-D).

8. **Placement and Screening of Solid Waste and Recycling.** Provide the location of proposed solid waste and recycling storage.
   a. The building permit needs to illustrate how the proposed location for the solid waste and recycling storage is well designed and well screened. These facilities need to

demonstrate that they complement the building aesthetics and do not inhibit good pedestrian circulation. (DC1-C4).

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The priority Citywide and Neighborhood guidelines are summarized below. For the full text please visit the Design Review website.

CONTEXT & SITE

CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.

CS1-B Sunlight and Natural Ventilation

CS1-B-1. Sun and Wind: Take advantage of solar exposure and natural ventilation. Use local wind patterns and solar gain to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation and heating where possible.

CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading: Maximize daylight for interior and exterior spaces and minimize shading on adjacent sites through the placement and/or design of structures on site.

CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.

CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood

CS2-A-1. Sense of Place: Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place. Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence: Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces

CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics: Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street: Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

CS2-C Relationship to the Block

CS2-C-2. Mid-Block Sites: Look to the uses and scales of adjacent buildings for clues about how to design a mid-block building. Continue a strong street-edge and respond to datum lines of adjacent buildings at the first three floors.

CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale

CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning: Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features: Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites: Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood.

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together: Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

CS3-A-2. Contemporary Design: Explore how contemporary designs can contribute to the development of attractive new forms and architectural styles; as expressed through use of new materials or other means.

CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods: In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

PUBLIC LIFE

PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.

PL1-B Walkways and Connections

PL1-B-1. Pedestrian Infrastructure: Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.

PL1-B-3. Pedestrian Amenities: Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered.

PL1-C Outdoor Uses and Activities

PL1-C-1. Selecting Activity Areas: Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.

PL1-C-3. Year-Round Activity: Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety.

PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.

PL2-A Accessibility

PL2-A-1. Access for All: Provide access for people of all abilities in a manner that is fully integrated into the project design. Design entries and other primary access points such that all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through the front door.

PL2-B Safety and Security

PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street: Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.

PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety: Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

PL2-D Wayfinding

PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding: Use design features as a means of wayfinding wherever possible.

PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.

PL3-A Entries

PL3-A-1. Design Objectives: Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

PL3-A-3. Individual Entries: Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements: Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

PL4 Active Transportation: Incorporate design features that facilitate active forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and use of transit.

PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships

PL4-A-1. Serving all Modes of Travel: Provide safe and convenient access points for all modes of travel.

PL4-A-2. Connections to All Modes: Site the primary entry in a location that logically relates to building uses and clearly connects all major points of access.

PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists

PL4-B-1. Early Planning: Consider existing and future bicycle traffic to and through the site early in the process so that access and connections are integrated into the project along with other modes of travel.

PL4-B-2. Bike Facilities: Facilities such as bike racks and storage, bike share stations, shower facilities and lockers for bicyclists should be located to maximize convenience, security, and safety.

PL4-B-3. Bike Connections: Facilitate connections to bicycle trails and infrastructure around and beyond the project.

DESIGN CONCEPT

DC1 Project Uses and Activities: Optimize the arrangement of uses and activities on site.

DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation

DC1-B-1. Access Location and Design: Choose locations for vehicular access, service uses, and delivery areas that minimize conflict between vehicles and non-motorists wherever possible. Emphasize use of the sidewalk for pedestrians, and create safe and attractive conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

DC1-C Parking and Service Uses

DC1-C-2. Visual Impacts: Reduce the visual impacts of parking lots, parking structures, entrances, and related signs and equipment as much as possible.

DC1-C-3. Multiple Uses: Design parking areas to serve multiple uses such as children's play space, outdoor gathering areas, sports courts, woonerf, or common space in multifamily projects.

DC1-C-4. Service Uses: Locate and design service entries, loading docks, and trash receptacles away from pedestrian areas or to a less visible portion of the site to reduce possible impacts of these facilities on building aesthetics and pedestrian circulation.

DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.

DC2-A Massing

DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses: Arrange the mass of the building taking into consideration the characteristics of the site and the proposed uses of the building and its open space.

DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass: Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

DC2-B Architectural and Facade Composition

DC2-B-1. Façade Composition: Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs— considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

DC2-B-2. Blank Walls: Avoid large blank walls along visible façades wherever possible. Where expanses of blank walls, retaining walls, or garage facades are unavoidable, include uses or design treatments at the street level that have human scale and are designed for pedestrians.

DC2-C Secondary Architectural Features

DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest: Add depth to facades where appropriate by incorporating balconies, canopies, awnings, decks, or other secondary elements into the façade design. Add detailing at the street level in order to create interest for the pedestrian and encourage active street life and window shopping (in retail areas).

DC2-C-2. Dual Purpose Elements: Consider architectural features that can be dual purpose— adding depth, texture, and scale as well as serving other project functions.

DC2-C-3. Fit With Neighboring Buildings: Use design elements to achieve a successful fit between a building and its neighbors.

DC2-D Scale and Texture

DC2-D-1. Human Scale: Incorporate architectural features, elements, and details that are of human scale into the building facades, entries, retaining walls, courtyards, and exterior spaces in a manner that is consistent with the overall architectural concept

DC2-D-2. Texture: Design the character of the building, as expressed in the form, scale, and materials, to strive for a fine-grained scale, or "texture," particularly at the street level and other areas where pedestrians predominate.

DC2-E Form and Function

DC2-E-1. Legibility and Flexibility: Strive for a balance between building use legibility and flexibility. Design buildings such that their primary functions and uses can be readily determined from the exterior, making the building easy to access and understand. At the same time, design flexibility into the building so that it may remain useful over time even as specific programmatic needs evolve.

DC3 Open Space Concept: Integrate open space design with the building design so that they complement each other.

DC3-A Building-Open Space Relationship

DC3-A-1. Interior/Exterior Fit: Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.

DC3-B Open Space Uses and Activities

DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs: Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.

DC3-B-2. Matching Uses to Conditions: Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities.

DC3-B-4. Multifamily Open Space: Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction.

DC3-C Design

DC3-C-2. Amenities/Features: Create attractive outdoor spaces suited to the uses envisioned for the project.

DC3-C-3. Support Natural Areas: Create an open space design that retains and enhances onsite natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife.

DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.

DC4-A Building Materials

DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials: Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness: Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle's climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

DC4-B Signage

DC4-B-1. Scale and Character: Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design: Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design, lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

DC4-C Lighting

DC4-C-1. Functions: Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare: Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

DC4-D Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials

DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials: Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials: Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning: Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

DC4-D-4. Place Making: Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

DC4-E Project Assembly and Lifespan

DC4-E-1. Deconstruction: When possible, design the project so that it may be deconstructed at the end of its useful lifetime, with connections and assembly techniques that will allow reuse of materials.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD ADJUSTMENTS

Design Review Staff's recommendation on the requested adjustment(s) will be based upon the adjustment's potential to help the project better meet these design guideline priorities and achieve a better overall design than could be achieved without the adjustment(s).

At the time of Design Guidance, three adjustments were requested (see pages 29 and 31 of the packet). The SDR process allows setbacks to be reduced by a maximum of 50% through an adjustment.

Adjustments Requested:

1. An interior separation between the structures at 7'-6" for a central segment of façade that is less than 10' in width for two facing façades that are 30' to 31' in width.
2. Side Setback reduced (south side only) to 4'-4" for the eastern structure. The western structure is compliant (see page 29 of the packet).

All other setbacks are compliant.

3. Adjustment Requested: South Facade Length - 72'-3"

Max. Facade Length Allowed: 109'-8" x 65% = 71.3'

Proposed North facade: Compliant at 71.25'

STAFF DIRECTION

At the conclusion of the Design Guidance, the DPD Staff recommended the project should move forward to building permit application in response to the Design Guidance provided.

1. Please be aware that this report is an assessment on how the project is meeting the intent of the Design Guidelines. This review does not include a full zoning review. Zoning review will occur when the MUP plans and/or building permit is submitted. If needed and where applicable, SDR adjustments may be requested in response to zoning corrections.
2. All requested adjustments must be clearly documented in the building permit plans.
3. Your building permit application shall include a narrative response to the guidance provided in this report. Colored elevations, a colored landscape plan and material details shall also be included in the building permit application.
4. If applicable, please prepare your Master Use Permit for SEPA review with a thorough zoning analysis listing the 23.45 and SMC 23.54 code section criteria, showing both required and proposed information (include page number where you graphically show compliance). You may want to review Tip 201 (http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/cams/CamList.aspx) and may also want to review the MUP information here: http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/permits/permittypes/mupoverview/default.htm