



# City of Seattle

Department of Construction and Inspections  
Nathan Torgelson, Director



## DESIGN GUIDANCE STREAMLINED DESIGN REVIEW

Project Number: 3026713

Address: 2010 E Jansen Court

Applicant: Matt Hutchins, CAST Architecture

Date of Report: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

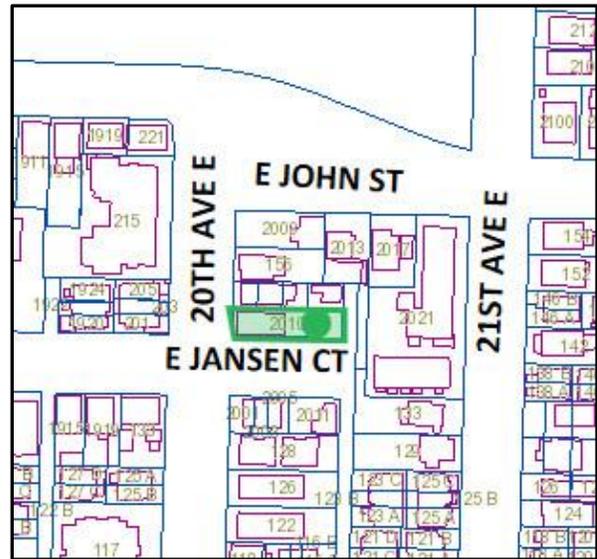
SDCI Staff: Brandon Cummings, Land Use Planner

### SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Lowrise 3

Nearby Zones: (North) LR3  
(South) LR3  
(East) LR3  
(West) LR3

Lot Area: 3,600 sq. ft.



### Current Development:

The development site is comprised of one parcel, located at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and E Jansen Court. Existing residential structures are currently on site (Triplex and Single Family Residence). The Single Family Residence will be demolished as part of this proposal.

### Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

The development site is located in the Miller Park neighborhood, characterized by a mix of single-family homes and small multifamily developments in the immediate vicinity. Commercial activity in this area is located primarily along E Madison Street. In general, the Miller Park

neighborhood consists of small, tightly knit lots that support finely scaled houses, duplexes, and small apartment buildings.

**Access:**

The Miller Park location of the development site makes it easily accessible to vehicles traveling along E Madison Street, a main thoroughfare connecting the neighborhood to Downtown, Capitol Hill, and Madison Park. There is an alley adjacent to this site. Several metro bus stops, primarily located on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, E Madison Street, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East are located within a ¼ mile of the development site and provide access to many areas of the city including Downtown, the University District, the Central District, and the North Beacon Hill. There is also a strong network of existing sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, connecting the development site to the numerous metro bus stops.

**Environmentally Critical Areas:**

No Environmentally Critical Areas are present on site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Streamlined Design Review for a 4-story apartment building with 10 small efficiency dwelling units. One dwelling unit to be demolished. Existing multi-family structure to remain.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public comments were received:

- Concerned with the increase in vehicular traffic and the lack of off street parking proposed and the strain that will place on limited on street parking options.
- Concerned with the impact of construction vehicles on the adjacent alley and E Jansen Court.
- Concerned with potential impacts to the neighborhood (congestion, deterioration of infrastructure, loss of vegetation, etc.)

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the project number: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

The purpose of the streamlined design review process is for SDCI to receive comments from the public, identify concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable citywide and neighborhood design guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design and siting alternatives. Concerns with off-street parking and bicycle storage are addressed under the City’s zoning code and are not part of this review.

**PRIORITIES & SDCI STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, 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.

1. **Massing:** SDCI Staff supports the proposed massing and layout of the apartment building which is separated from the remaining triplex by a landscaped amenity area and utilizes an exterior stair to break up the massing of the proposal. Continue to explore how the massing of the structure relates to the surrounding neighborhood context and develop a design that alleviates potential impacts on adjacent properties. **(CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites, DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses)**
  - a. Staff supports retaining the existing structure at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and E Jansen Court to provide a transition from the larger massing in the rear of the site to a structure whose height, bulk, and scale is more in line with the traditional neighborhood context. Staff also supports the strong street edge created by locating the proposed structure in line with the existing triplex and primarily oriented towards E Jansen Court. **(CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence, CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street, CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together)**
  - b. Staff supports breaking up the proposed apartment building into two distinct masses, minimizing the overall bulk of the structure and to increasing access to light and air for the units. **(CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading, CS2-C-3. Full Block Sites, DC2-A. Massing)**
  - c. Staff is concerned with the parapet on the apartment building as currently proposed as it accentuates the overall height of the proposal. Develop a design that steps the parapet back along E Jansen Court to minimize the perceived height of the structure. **(DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass)**
2. **Façade Composition and Architectural Context:**
  - a. Staff supports the use of massing modulation and bay windows to provide depth and visual interest to the building façades. The proposed fenestration pattern and plane changes also create well-proportioned façades with clear composition. Staff also supports the use of material changes to reinforce shifts in the massing. **(DC2-B-1. Façade Composition, DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest)**
  - b. Staff supports the proposed material palette consisting of charcoal brick, black steel trim windows, metal siding, and metal railing. Attention to detail in the application of these materials is extremely important, as the success of the proposed massing and façade composition is contingent on high quality assembly. **(DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials)**
  - c. Staff reviewed the composition and material application of the north façade and recommends extending the 4” horizontal metal siding to cover a greater portion of the façade. Doing so minimizes the blank wall condition and establishes a proportion

similar to the south façade and contrasts with the east and west façades where the 12” horizontal metal siding is more prevalent. **(DC2-B-1. Façade Composition)**

- 3. Pedestrian Circulation and Wayfinding:** Staff supports enhancing the design of the pedestrian ramp and exterior stair on site and integrating them with secure transitional spaces, wayfinding elements, and easily identifiable entries to create a safe and welcoming experience.
  - a. Staff supports the proposed in-wall path lighting and wall sconces in the exterior stairwell to illuminate the proposed walkways and primary entries to the units. Utilize this lighting to reinforce other wayfinding elements to make navigating the development site easier while providing an added sense of security. **(PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety, PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding)**
  - b. Staff is concerned with the proposed access to the basement level as currently designed. Enhance the design of this pathway to include additional wayfinding elements to complement the proposed lighting to make this area easily identifiable. **(PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding, PL3-A-1. Design Objectives)**
- 4. Landscaping and Amenity Areas:** Staff supports the proposed location of the common amenity areas in front of the existing triplex, between the two structures, and along the alley at the ground level as they provide an opportunity to fit into a larger network of open space in the neighborhood and allow for interaction with the public realm. Develop a design for the amenity areas that meet the needs of the intended users and provide space for resident interaction. The landscape plans also shows plantings proposed in the public right of way and outside of the property lines. Contact the Seattle Department of Transportation for their requirements and provide their response with the plan set. **(PL1-A. Network of Open Spaces, DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs, DC3-B-4. Multifamily Open Space)**
- 5. Window Well Location and Privacy:** Staff is concerned with the proposed location of the window wells and their relationship to the ground level amenity areas. Staff supports the terraced design as currently proposed and how the landscaping is integrated into other landscaped areas on site. Explore design options to increase privacy to these subterranean units and provide a buffer from the amenity areas. Include detailed graphics in the plan set to illustrate the design. **(PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential)**
- 6. Recycling and Waste Enclosures:** Staff is concerned with the proposed location of the recycling and waste enclosures which is adjacent to the alley and rear amenity area. Develop a design that incorporates screening elements to screen and buffer the enclosures from the adjacent properties and amenity area. **(DC1-C-4. Service Uses)**

## 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-A Energy Use**

**CS1-A-1. Energy Choices:** At the earliest phase of project development, examine how energy choices may influence building form, siting, and orientation, and factor in the findings when making siting and design decisions.

#### **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.

**CS1-B-3. Managing Solar Gain:** Manage direct sunlight falling on south and west facing facades through shading devices and existing or newly planted trees.

#### **CS1-C Topography**

**CS1-C-1. Land Form:** Use natural topography and desirable landforms to inform project design.

**CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes:** Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

#### **CS1-D Plants and Habitat**

**CS1-D-1. On-Site Features:** Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider relocating significant trees and vegetation if retention is not feasible.

**CS1-D-2. Off-Site Features:** Provide opportunities through design to connect to off-site habitats such as riparian corridors or existing urban forest corridors. Promote continuous habitat, where possible, and increase interconnected corridors of urban forest and habitat where possible.

#### **CS1-E Water**

**CS1-E-1. Natural Water Features:** If the site includes any natural water features, consider ways to incorporate them into project design, where feasible

**CS1-E-2. Adding Interest with Project Drainage:** Use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements.

**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-B-3. Character of Open Space:** Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

## **CS2-C Relationship to the Block**

**CS2-C-1. Corner Sites:** Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

**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-C-3. Full Block Sites:** Break up long facades of full-block buildings to avoid a monolithic presence. Provide detail and human scale at street-level, and include repeating elements to add variety and rhythm to the façade and overall building design.

## **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-3. Zone Transitions:** For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

**CS2-D-4. Massing Choices:** Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

**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-3. Established Neighborhoods:** In existing neighborhoods with a well-defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings.

**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.

### **CS3-B Local History and Culture**

**CS3-B-1. Placemaking:** Explore the history of the site and neighborhood as a potential placemaking opportunity. Look for historical and cultural significance, using neighborhood groups and archives as resources.

**CS3-B-2. Historical/Cultural References:** Reuse existing structures on the site where feasible as a means of incorporating historical or cultural elements into the new project.

## **PUBLIC LIFE**

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

#### **PL1-A Network of Open Spaces**

**PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space:** Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

**PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life:** Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

#### **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-2. Pedestrian Volumes:** Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.

**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-2. Informal Community Uses:** In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer's markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.

**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-A-2. Access Challenges:** Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other challenges.

**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-B-3. Street-Level Transparency:** Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

**PL2-C Weather Protection**

**PL2-C-1. Locations and Coverage:** Overhead weather protection is encouraged and should be located at or near uses that generate pedestrian activity such as entries, retail uses, and transit stops.

**PL2-C-2. Design Integration:** Integrate weather protection, gutters and downspouts into the design of the structure as a whole, and ensure that it also relates well to neighboring buildings in design, coverage, or other features.

**PL2-C-3. People-Friendly Spaces:** Create an artful and people-friendly space beneath building.

**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-2. Common Entries:** Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

**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.

**PL3-B Residential Edges**

**PL3-B-1. Security and Privacy:** Provide security and privacy for residential buildings through the use of a buffer or semi-private space between the development and the street or neighboring buildings.

**PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential:** Privacy and security issues are particularly important in buildings with ground-level housing, both at entries and where windows are located overlooking the street.

**PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses:** Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

**PL3-B-4. Interaction:** Provide opportunities for interaction among residents and neighbors.

**PL3-C Retail Edges**

**PL3-C-1. Porous Edge:** Engage passersby with opportunities to interact visually with the building interior using glazing and transparency. Create multiple entries where possible and make a physical and visual connection between people on the sidewalk and retail activities in the building.

**PL3-C-2. Visibility:** Maximize visibility into the building interior and merchandise displays. Consider fully operational glazed wall-sized doors that can be completely opened to the street, increased height in lobbies, and/or special lighting for displays.

**PL3-C-3. Ancillary Activities:** Allow space for activities such as sidewalk vending, seating, and restaurant dining to occur. Consider setting structures back from the street or incorporating space in the project design into which retail uses can extend.

**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.

**PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit**

**PL4-C-1. Influence on Project Design:** Identify how a transit stop (planned or built) adjacent to or near the site may influence project design, provide opportunities for placemaking.

**PL4-C-2. On-site Transit Stops:** If a transit stop is located onsite, design project-related pedestrian improvements and amenities so that they complement any amenities provided for transit riders.

**PL4-C-3. Transit Connections:** Where no transit stops are on or adjacent to the site, identify where the nearest transit stops and pedestrian routes are and include design features and connections within the project design as appropriate.

## DESIGN CONCEPT

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

#### DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses

**DC1-A-1. Visibility:** Locate uses and services frequently used by the public in visible or prominent areas, such as at entries or along the street front.

**DC1-A-2. Gathering Places:** Maximize the use of any interior or exterior gathering spaces.

**DC1-A-3. Flexibility:** Build in flexibility so the building can adapt over time to evolving needs, such as the ability to change residential space to commercial space as needed.

**DC1-A-4. Views and Connections:** Locate interior uses and activities to take advantage of views and physical connections to exterior spaces and uses.

#### 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-B-2. Facilities for Alternative Transportation:** Locate facilities for alternative transportation in prominent locations that are convenient and readily accessible to expected users.

#### DC1-C Parking and Service Uses

**DC1-C-1. Below-Grade Parking:** Locate parking below grade wherever possible. Where a surface parking lot is the only alternative, locate the parking in rear or side yards, or on lower or less visible portions of the site.

**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-3. Connections to Other Open Space:** Site and design project-related open spaces to connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate.

**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-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space:** Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

**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 decision on the requested adjustments 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 adjustments.

At the time of Design Guidance, the following adjustments were requested:

- 1. Façade Length (SMC 23.45.527.B):** The Code requires the maximum combined length of all portions of façades within 15 feet of a lot line that is neither a rear lot line nor a street or alley lot line shall not exceed 65 percent of the length of that lot line. The applicant proposes a 10% increase in allowable façade length (78’ to 85.8’) along the north side lot line.

SDCI staff supports this adjustment as the increase in façade length allows for retention of the existing triplex and a separation of the proposed massing into two distinct forms along the right of way, locating majority of the massing towards an interior lot line. This minimizes the overall bulk of the structure and increases access to light and air for the units. The impacts from the increased façade length are mitigated by the massing modulation and articulation in the north and south façades, which are reinforced by changes in materials.

**(CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading, DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest)**

- 2. Side Setback (SMC 23.45.518 Table A):** The Code requires an average side yard setback of 7 feet and a minimum side yard setback of 5 feet. The applicant proposes an average side yard

setback of 3.5 feet (50% reduction) and a minimum side yard setback of 3.5 feet (30% reduction) along the south lot line.

SDCI staff supports this adjustment as it allows for a strong street edge created by locating the proposed structure in line with the existing triplex and primarily oriented towards E Jansen Court. The existing structure has a 3 foot setback. Any code compliant proposal would require the proposed project to set back significantly from the property line. The adjustment also allows the structure to adequately respond to the neighboring context and make a strong connection with the public realm. Any potential impact from the reduced side yard setback are mitigated by the five feet of right of way from the property line to the sidewalk and elevated first floor. **(CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street, CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together)**

- 3. Amenity Area (SMC 23.45.522):** The Code requires an amenity area equal to 25% of the lot area with a minimum of 50% at ground level. The applicant proposes to reduce the required amenity area by 10% from 900 to 810 sq. ft.

SDCI staff support for this adjustment is contingent on the development of a design for the ground level amenity areas that meet the needs of the intended users and provide space for resident interaction. Staff acknowledges the development code doesn't allow the existing amenity area along 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East (305 sq. ft.) to count towards the amenity space requirement but recommends this area is integrated into the open space design concept for the entire site. **(PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space, DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs)**

## **STAFF DIRECTION**

**At the conclusion of the Design Guidance, the SDCI 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. 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>
3. Along with your building permit application, please include a narrative response to the guidance provided in this report.

4. All requested adjustments must be clearly documented in the building permit plans.