



RECOMMENDATION OF THE NORTHEAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Record Number: 3041273-LU
Address: 700 NE 45th St
Applicant: Jodi Patterson O'Hare for Weinstein A+U
Date of Meeting: May 13, 2023
Board Members Present: Katherine Liss, Chair, Stuart Herrera-Enzuate, Todd Lee, Dan Say
Board Members Absent: Shabazz Abdulkadir, Kayleigh Schickler, Ben Doehr
SDCI Staff Present: Joseph Hurley and Annie Hillier

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Seattle Mixed – University 95-320 (M1) [SM-U 95/320 (M1)]

Nearby Zones: (North) Midrise (MR), (South) SM-U 95/320 (M1), (East) SM-U 95/320 (M1), (West) SM-U 95/320 (M1)

Lot Area: 14,229 sq. ft.

Current Development:

The subject site is currently developed with a one-story commercial structure built in 1955 and a surface parking lot. A Tier 1 Cork oak tree and two Tier 4 Strawberry trees are present near the south property line. The site is generally rectangular in shape excluding the beveled southwest corner. The site slopes downward northeast to south approximately eight feet.



### **Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:**

The subject site is located at the northeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and NE 45<sup>th</sup> St near the western edge of the University District Urban Center. A six-story multifamily residential structure is adjacent to the north. A one-story restaurant and a four-story multifamily residential structure are across the alley to the east, and a surface parking lot is across NE 45<sup>th</sup> St to the south. An onramp for Interstate 5 north is to the west of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. This intersection is a gateway to the University District neighborhood. Principal arterial NE 45<sup>th</sup> St provides east-west circulation across the University District, intercepting community hub NE University Way, or “The Ave,” one third of a mile to the east, and the largely residential Wallingford neighborhood to the west of Interstate 5. The immediate vicinity is largely developed with mixed-use residential and commercial, multifamily residential, retail, service, and parking uses. The University of Washington campus begins one half mile to the east and extends southeast. Nearby public spaces include University Playground and the University Branch of The Seattle Public Library.

This site is located in a transitional area, with a single-family residential area to the north of NE 47<sup>th</sup> St and multi-family residences and commercial uses extending to the south and east. Structures in the immediate area vary widely in age, height, massing, and detail, ranging from older low-rise commercial establishments to high-rise developments. The neighborhood features a variety of architectural styles, with no one style dominating. Newer contemporary developments recurrently have defined one- or two-story podiums with large glazing, awnings, and masonry materials at the street level which respond to the designs of older low-rise structures. The upper massing is commonly organized into vertical bays and often includes balconies and cementitious fiber cement materials. Conditions at the street edge vary. Stretches of strong street edge are disrupted by surface parking lots and setbacks. Mature street trees contribute to a residential character.

The area was rezoned from Neighborhood Commercial 3-65 to Seattle Mixed – University District 95-320 (M1) on 4/1/17. The University District has experienced a development trend in recent years in which older, lowrise developments have been replaced by midrise and highrise residential structures. Multiple projects in the vicinity are currently in review or under construction for proposed development, including 4525 9<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, 4522 Roosevelt Way NE, 1013 NE 45<sup>th</sup> St, 4512 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, and 1107 NE 45<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Access:**

Vehicle access is proposed from the alley to the east. Pedestrian access is proposed from NE 45<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Environmentally Critical Areas:**

No mapped environmentally critical areas are located on the subject site.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Land Use Application to allow an 8-story, 29-unit apartment building. No parking proposed. Early Design Guidance conducted under 3041176-EG.

The design packet includes information presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the record number at this website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx>

Any recording of the Board meeting is available in the project file. This meeting report summarizes the meeting and is not a meeting transcript.

## **EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE – NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Support Concept 3 which preserves the Heritage Tree. Consider a covenant to preserve the location of the tree as a future planting area, should the tree die during the life of the project.
- Support for SDOT comment regarding wider planting strip on west for larger street trees.

SDCI also summarized design related comments received in writing prior to the meeting:

- Strongly opposed to Concept 2, which includes the removal of the Cork tree, a Seattle Heritage Tree.
- Noted that the Cork tree present on site is the only distinctive tree in the area and, as an evergreen oak, it helps to keep this Gateway to the U District green during all seasons.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments:

- Both 7th Ave NE and NE 45th St are in the Pedestrian Master Plan Priority Investment Network and have existing bicycle sharrows.
- NE 45th St is in the Transit Master Plan as a Frequent Transit Network and in the Freight Master Plan as a designated Minor Freight street.
- An 8 foot setback is required on NE 45th St and shown in the EDG packet.
- A minimum 8 foot sidewalk and minimum 5.5 foot planting strip with street trees are required on NE 45th St and shown in the EDG packet.
- SDOT supports the proposed design for the NE 45th St frontage as it includes Urban Village right of way standards to encourage comfortable and accessible pedestrian circulation.
- SDOT strongly encourages the project to move the curb line on 7th Ave NE west along the frontage to match up with the existing curb bulb at the intersection of 7th & 45th. This would create space for a new planting strip with street trees, provide a buffer from traffic, and allow for larger street trees with greater canopy coverage on the frontage. This wider planting strip for street trees on 7th would reduce noise from I-5 and provide a more pleasant view for the future residents. Moving the curb out would also narrow the roadway, which can reduce vehicle speeds, reduce collision rates, and facilitate a more comfortable experience for people crossing 7th Ave NE or waiting at the existing bus shelter.
- If the project is unable to move the curb on 7th Ave, street trees will be required to be planted in a continuous 5 foot setback from the 7th Ave right-of-way on the development site. The building would not be allowed to extend over the area of this setback at any height.

Seattle Public Utilities offered the following comments:

- The project must submit the Solid Waste Storage and Access Checklist for Designers and site plans that detail solid waste storage and access.
- Solid waste collection will occur off the alley.
- SPU supports the project using 2 cubic yard uncompacted dumpsters for residential and commercial solid waste.
- SPU highly encourages the project to plan on-floor access to all three solid waste streams: garbage, recycle, and food/yard waste.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design.

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

#### PRIORITIES & BOARD GUIDANCE

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.

- 1. Response to Context; Gateway Sites; and Massing:** The Board unanimously supported Concept 3 and its response to the surrounding architectural and urban context. The Board emphasized the project's significant role in placemaking and gateway creation on this challenging site adjacent to I-5 and agreed that the preferred scheme (Concept 3) had the potential to both fit with existing context and create a sense of gateway with building massing and setbacks at the corner that create compositional relief and legible open space around the existing Heritage Tree. (CS3, DC3, CS2-3)
  - a. The Board also felt that the massing of Concept 3 is effective at responding to the site as a Gateway location, as the setback at the location of the Heritage Tree and the specific orientation of the massing create an open plaza with a distinct, yet welcoming, identity. (CS2-3-a, CS2-C-1)
  - b. The Board appreciated the simplicity of the "H" massing design of Concept 3 and noted that this massing and orientation should successfully limit privacy concerns on the adjacent site to the north, given the way it breaks up the facade length. (CS2-D-5, CS2-A-2)
  - c. The Board requested more specific information be provided in the Recommendation packet, describing how the Concept 3 design relates to the adjacent sites to the north and east, including window locations and programming at the ground level. (CS2-D-5)
  - d. The Board supported Concept 3's shift in massing to the north that allows for the preservation of the Heritage Tree, but they noted that additional information in the Recommendation packet would be useful to understand the design impact of the reduced upper-level setback on natural light to the adjacent building to the north. (CS1-1-a, CS1-B-2)

2. **Facade Concept:** The Board acknowledged that at this stage (EDG), it is a bit early to comment on the facade design concept. However, they encouraged the applicant to provide more information on the following topics in the Recommendation meeting packet:
  - a. The Board requested additional study of the blank facade at the south elevations shown on page 48 of the EDG packet, noting that this is a prominent facade that will be visible from many vantage points. The Board suggested evaluating additional windows, glazing, different materials, secondary massing moves, and artwork, to showcase this as a gateway to the U-District, while also keeping the interior programming in mind. (DC2-2-g, DC2-2-l, DC2-B-1, DC2-B-2)
  - b. The Board also added that additional information should be provided for the north and east facades, including materials, cladding and window details and other secondary architectural features that will add depth and texture and visual interest to the facade and help mitigate scale. (DC2-A.2, DC2-C, DC2-D)
  - c. The Board requested the use of high-quality materials. (DC4-1-1, PL3-1-a)
  
3. **Site Circulation and Ground Plane:** The Board appreciated the interplay between the public and private realms of the plaza, and the use of the Heritage Tree as an opportunity to create a series of landscaped areas. The Board also contemplated how the residential lounge on the ground floor will interact with, and possibly spill out onto, the exterior space. The Board supported development of a design for this area that creates street-level activation. (DC1-1-a)
  - a. The Board expressed concern regarding the integration of the building with the street level, particularly the sidewalk's relationship to the lower-level residential spaces. The Board requested information in the Recommendation packet that clearly demonstrates the building's relationship with 7th Avenue, adjacent buildings, and the route for cyclists. (PL3-2, CS2-B, CS2-2)
  - b. The Board requested complete details on the bike route between the street and the building, including whether bikes will use the main entry. (PL4-1-c, PL4-B-1)
  - c. The Board requested cross-section drawings at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, to help visualize the transition from the public sidewalk area to the residential units. (PL3-2-c)
  - d. The Board encouraged extensive plantings to create a full-feeling landscape at the southwest corner, as opposed to below-grade or "sunken down" plantings, in order to increase visibility from the sidewalk or street. (DC4-D-4)
  - e. Overall, the Board emphasized the importance of landscaping and site design that contribute positively to the area's visual appeal and functional usability. (PL1, DC3, CS2-B, CS2-2)
  
4. **Lighting and Signage:**
  - a. The Board emphasized the importance of thoughtful lighting and signage placement, ensuring harmony with the overall architectural design.

## RECOMMENDATION – MAY 13, 2024

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at the Recommendation Meeting, and no design related comments were received in writing prior to the meeting.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments:

- The project frontages on NE 45th St and 7th Ave NE are required to meet the minimum standards of a 6" curb, 6' sidewalk, and 5.5' planting strip with street trees.
- ADA compliant curb and companion ramps are required at intersections adjacent to project site corners. The project needs to confirm whether the existing ADA curb ramp crossing 7th Ave NE from the project site corner is compliant or not.
- The crosswalk crossing NE 45th St at the project site corner has been closed and an ADA curb ramp is not required at this location.
- A 3' right-of-way setback is required on the 7th Ave NE frontage. It is unclear whether this is shown in the project packet.
- SDOT supports the departure request from overhead weather protection standards on NE 45th St in order to preserve the existing street trees.
- This project may require a Street Improvement Permit given the scope of work in the right of way.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design.

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

### 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 recommendations.

- 1. Massing and Response to Context:** The Board agreed that the Recommendation materials adequately addressed the issues that had been identified at EDG, including the relationship to adjacent sites to the north and east, and the impact of a reduced upper-level setback at the north property line.
  - a. The Board recommended approval of the massing, particularly as it relates to the adjacent building to the north, agreeing that the entirely opaque north facade was an appropriate response to privacy concerns. The Board noted that the massing break at the courtyard and separation between the two buildings would help to mitigate the visual impact of the blank wall condition created by the opaque north facade. (CS2-D-5, CS2-A-2)

2. **Facades and Design Concept:** The Board supported the window placement and overall facade composition and materials as presented in the Packet and recommended approval of this aspect of the design.
  - a. The Board expressed concern that the white panels, particularly on the south facade, could streak and require cleaning, but heard from the applicant that this high-quality cladding material (Swisspearl or similar) had performed well on previous projects with minimal maintenance, and agreed to recommend its approval. (DC4-1-1, PL3-1-a)
  - b. The Board recommended approval of the overall facade design, agreeing that the combination of the restrained south elevation with the more heavily glazed and detailed east and west facades would result in a composition of appropriate distinction at this University District Gateway. (DC2-2-g, DC2-2-l, DC2-B-1, DC2-B-2)
  - c. The Board appreciated the strong shadows created on the south facade at the limited window openings, and noted that the varying relief between windows, corrugated panels, and white cladding created depth, shadow and texture in the east and west facades that clearly met the intent of the Design Guidelines. The Board recommended a condition that the exterior materials and details be maintained as shown in the Recommendation Packet. (DC2-A.2, DC2-C, DC2-D)
  
3. **Site Circulation and Ground Plane:** The Board agreed that the design adequately addressed the issues identified at EDG, including delineation of the bike route, the design of the pedestrian realm, and building integration at the street level. The Board made several recommendations regarding the landscape plans for the interior courtyard and the street frontages.
  - a. The Board noted that there was no need for the extensive hardscape in the north courtyard since it is not accessible to the residents and the applicant stated that the design intent is to provide a visual buffer between buildings. The Board therefore recommended a condition to increase the number of plantings provided in the north courtyard. (DC3-B-2, DC4-D-1)
  - b. The Board expressed concern that the 2-foot wide planting areas along the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE sidewalk and along the NE 45<sup>th</sup> St sidewalk adjacent to the patio may not support the growth depicted in the renderings, particularly the vines. The Board recommended a condition that the applicant study these planting areas to ensure there is enough soil volume and planting depth, and noted that revisions to the landscape walls or patio may be necessary. The Board encouraged the creation of a robust landscape design and limiting hardscaping by integrating bioretention planters where possible. (DC4-D-1)
  
4. **Lighting and Signage:** The Board recommended approval of the signage plan and made several suggestions for lighting.
  - a. The Board suggested that the applicant consult with an arborist to ensure that uplighting the Cork Oak will not negatively impact its health. (DC4-C-2)
  - b. The Board suggested that the sconce lights outside of individual units at the alley and the street edge be controlled by the residents of those units, and that they revisit the lighting plan and controls for the interior courtyard to avoid glare or light spillage to the adjacent units. (DC4-C-2)

## DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on the requested departures was based on their potential to help the project better meet these design guideline priorities and achieve a better overall project design than could be achieved without the departures.

At the time of the Recommendation meeting, the following departure(s) were requested:

1. **Upper-level Setback Requirements (SMC 23.48.645.B.3):** For a lot in the SM-U 95-320 zone that abuts a lot in a MR zone, portions of any structure above 65 feet in height are required to set back a minimum of 15 feet from the abutting lot line. The applicant proposes a 1'-9" setback, or a departure of 13"-3", for portions of the structure above 65 feet in height along the north property line.

The Board recommended approval of the departure because the resulting design enhances the design concept and the north courtyard and facades are designed to respond to the adjacent property, better meeting the intent of Design Guidelines DC2 Architectural Concept and CS2-D-5 Respect for Adjacent Sites.

2. **Floor area ratio in SM-U zones (23.48.620):** The Code limits floor area in SM-U 95-320 zones as shown in Table C for 23.48.620 and allows for a design review departure as follows: Additional Floor Area Ratio (SMC 23.41.012.B.10.b): Departures of up to an additional 0.5 FAR may be granted if the applicant demonstrates that: 1) The departure is needed to protect a tree that is located on the lot that is either an exceptional tree, as defined in Section 25.11.130, or a tree greater than 2 feet in diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground; and 2) Avoiding development in the tree protection area will reduce the total development capacity of the site. The applicant proposes an additional 0.5 FAR with preservation of the Tier 1 Cork Oak tree on site.

The Board recommended approval of the departure with design that preserves the Tier 1 Cork oak tree at the southwest corner of the site, because the resulting design better meets the intent of Design Guidelines DC2 Architectural Concept and DC3 Open Space Concept.

3. **Overhead Weather Protection (SMC 23.48.640.F):** Continuous overhead weather protection, provided by such features as canopies, awnings, marquees, and arcades, is required along at least 60 percent of the street frontage of a structure. The applicant proposes no weather protection over the sidewalk along 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE or NE 45<sup>th</sup> St.

The Board recognized support for this from the Seattle Department of Transportation. The Board agreed with the applicant's design rationale for this departure, which allows for preservation of the Tier 1 Cork oak tree at the southwest corner, a large open plaza at the south edge of the property, and usable residential outdoor spaces with landscape buffers along 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. The Board recommended approval of the departure because the resulting design better meets the intent of Design Guidelines DC3 Open Space Concept and DC2 Architectural Concept.



## **DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES**

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by the Board as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and 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.

#### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **CS1-1 Plan for Daylight & Trees**

**CS1-1-a. Building Massing & Upper Level Step-Backs:** Arrange building massing and use upper-level step-backs to increase solar access into ground floors, shared amenity spaces, streets, and the public realm, especially on narrow rights-of-way such as University Way NE. Use two-story or mezzanine layouts for residential or live-work units at or below-grade to increase daylight access to those units.

**CS1-1-b. Recessed or Sunken Living Space:** Avoid recessed or sunken living space, and minimize the distance that units are located below grade to provide direct access to daylight and air from above-grade windows for each unit.

**CS1-1-c. Trees:** Incorporate new and existing trees. Site the buildings and design building massing to preserve and incorporate existing mature trees, especially on slopes; this is especially relevant in the Ravenna Springs character area. Where removal is unavoidable, configure open space to accommodate large canopy trees that replace those removed.

**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 facade 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.

## **University Supplemental Guidance:**

### **CS2-1 Character Areas & Corridor Character Areas**

**CS2-1-a. Cowen Park Corners:** Use lush landscaping to carry the experience of Cowen Park down the north end of University Way NE. Incorporate generous sidewalks and seating areas.

**CS2-1-b. University Park South & 17th Ave Boulevard:** Reinforce the existing pattern of generous front setbacks. Incorporate occupiable amenity spaces into front setbacks with areas for large shade trees and landscaping. Take cues from the design, scale, and character of historic buildings, including: grand entries; sloped roofs; the use of brick, masonry, and wood; vertical window proportions; and a high degree of architectural detailing.

**CS2-1-c. Ravenna Springs:** Design projects to create and reinforce the quality of a cohesive neighborhood with massing that is broken into multiple buildings, individual unit entries, ground-related housing, highly permeable blocks with walkways and open spaces, and a high degree of landscaping and pedestrian amenities.

**CS2-1-d. University Village & 25th Ave NE:** Prioritize active edges and direct pedestrian connections to 25th Ave NE and the Burke Gilman Trail. Development along 25th Ave NE should create an active, engaging building edge for pedestrians and create protected sidewalks by utilizing planter strips with lush landscaping.

**CS2-1-e. The U District Core & The Ave:** Express an urban character that is distinct to the U District and prioritize the pedestrian experience with human-scaled design and a high degree of visual interest. Foster an eclectic mix of businesses and architectural styles.

1. Reflect historic platting patterns by articulating and/or modulating buildings and design styles at 20-40 foot intervals.
2. Use upper-level step-backs that respond to predominant and historic datums in context.
3. Incorporate balconies or terraces in buildings with residential uses to contribute to passive surveillance and visual interest.
4. Use lush, layered landscaping at street level, especially in residential areas south of NE 43rd St.

### **CS2-2 Neighborhood Context**

**CS2-2-a. Contribute to Community Character:** To enhance the eclectic character of the University District, plan and include elements that are easily customizable for tenants and businesses to individualize storefronts, kickplates, and streetscapes through paint colors, materials, lighting, signage, awning design, seating, or other pedestrian amenities. Use these features to express 20-40 foot storefront modules.

**CS2-2-b. Provide Zone Transitions:** When a project site abuts a zone with a height limit that is two stories shorter than the project site, provide upper-level setbacks that create a sensitive transition to the less intensive zone.

**CS2-2-c. Activate Parks & Open Space:** In development adjacent to open space and parks, activate the building edges by incorporating active uses, small public plazas or seating areas for ground-floor uses, as well as balconies or terraces at upper floors. Design adjacent projects to act as a deferential backdrop, with refined building facades that help frame the open space, or incorporate artistic features that complement the function of the open space and create an “outdoor room.”

### **CS2-3 Gateways & Placemaking Corners**

**CS2-3-a. Special Site Features:** For new buildings located on a corner, including, but not limited to the corner locations identified in Map 3 of the full Guidelines, consider providing special building elements distinguishable from the rest of the building such as a tower, corner

articulation or bay windows. Consider a special site feature such as diagonal orientation and entry, a sculpture, a courtyard, or other device. Corner entries should be set back to allow pedestrian flow and good visibility at the intersection.

**CS2-3-b. Gateways:** Gateways identified on Map A are significant “entry” points in the U District Neighborhood.

1. Express a sense of arrival to a distinct area with distinctive forms, prominent massing, unique design concepts, and the highest attention to design quality.
2. Create pedestrian accommodating entries with wider sidewalks, significant landscaping features, public plazas, active uses, and art.

**CS2-3-c. Placemaking Corners:** Placemaking Corners identified on Map A are key nodes and pedestrian activity areas within the U District Neighborhood.

1. Design projects as part of a composition with the adjacent corner-facing sites to frame the space and balance strong spatial edges with adequate space for movement and activity, including small plazas, seating, and public art.
2. Incorporate special paving and surface treatments; art installations; seating; kiosks.

### **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.

### **University Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **CS3-1 University District Architectural Character**

**CS3-1-a. Architectural Styles:** Foster the eclectic mix of architectural styles and forms on the block and throughout the neighborhood while maintaining articulated base designs that are pedestrian-oriented. Repetition of architectural forms and character, whether visually adjacent or within the U District, is strongly discouraged.

**CS3-1-b. Predominant Styles:** Complement and continue predominant styles or materials when the immediate context of a site is comprised of buildings or a collection of buildings with local significance or identifiable architectural styles or similar materials.

**CS3-1-c. Historic Patterns:** Articulate building forms and facades to respond to historic platting patterns to create compatibility between contemporary architecture and existing development .

**CS3-1-d. Horizontal and Vertical Patterns:** Respond to nearby predominant horizontal and vertical patterns and datum lines, and take cues from design elements in older structures such as campus gothic style, punched windows, texture-rich materials, and thoughtful detailing.

**CS3-2 Adaptive Reuse & Preservation**

**CS3-2-a. Existing Structures & Facades:** Preserve or rehabilitate existing structures or facades, especially those with architectural merit, local significance, and/or quality materials including brick.

**CS3-2-b. Repurpose Materials:** Creatively repurpose materials, signage, and other physical pieces from existing development into new projects to create a connection with the neighborhood’s past and contribute to a sense of place.

**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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**PL1-1 Networks & Connections to Community Open Space**

**PL1-1-a. Engage the Public Realm:** Include open space at grade that physically or visually engages the public realm: Options include plazas, public courtyards, play areas, gardens, and ground level patios.

**PL1-1-b. Green Streets & Green Spines:** Projects located on Green Streets and within the U District Green Spines: Include multiple types of publicly-accessible open spaces and private amenity spaces that address the public realm including: balconies and unit patios, pocket plazas, strategic setbacks at grade for seating areas and play areas, and upper-level setbacks with terraces or patios.

**PL1-1-c. Burke-Gilman Trail:** For projects adjacent to the Burke-Gilman Trail, provide physical and visual connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Design trail-facing facades with active uses, including retail, amenity space, and unit stoops or patios.

**PL1-1-d. Alleyways:** Treat all alleyways as potential pedestrian routes: Incorporate windows, entries, art, lighting, and active uses on alley-facing facades to activate and improve safety in alleys.

**PL1-2 Shared Alleys & Mid-Block Pedestrian Connections**

**PL1-2-a. Pedestrian-Priority Network:** Reinforce existing movement patterns and introduce connections that weave a pedestrian-priority network throughout the neighborhood with mid-block pedestrian pathways and shared alleys.

**PL1-2-b. Connect Street to Alley:** East-west mid-block pedestrian connections from the street to alley are strongly encouraged on blocks within the “Mid-block Pedestrian Pathway Priority Area.” Projects within the approximate middle third of the block are the preferred location for mid-block pedestrian connections.

**PL1-2-c. Activate Second “Fronts”:** Design facades adjacent to mid-block pedestrian connections and shared alleys as a second “front” with activating uses:

1. Locate active ground-level uses along shared alleys and pedestrian pathways, including secondary entrances for businesses and individual unit entries separated by grade or setbacks for residential uses.
2. Avoid long blank walls. Where unavoidable due to service uses, treat blank walls with artwork, interesting materials, lighting, and/or architectural features.

**PL1-2-d. People-Friendly Spaces:** Create usable, safe, people-friendly spaces:

1. Include upper-level balconies or terraces so that occupiable spaces overlook shared alleys and mid-block connections.
2. Strive for clear sightlines. Where mid-block connections do not cross the right-of-way or do not align across an alley or street, provide a focal point and wayfinding features at the visual terminus.
3. Incorporate secondary spaces for impromptu gatherings, play opportunities, outdoor seating, and bike racks.

**PL1-2-e. Signage & Wayfinding:** Create consistent signage & incorporate wayfinding elements:

1. Install wayfinding elements on street and alley facades to highlight entrances to alleys and midblock crossings including special architectural treatments, creative signage, ground treatments, lighting, and facade design. Strive for continuity of design features throughout the neighborhood.
2. Incorporate street furniture, art installations, creative paving, paint patterns or lighting throughout shared alleys and mid-block connections.

**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.

### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **PL3-1 Entries**

**PL3-1-a. Prominent Design:** Design prominent, accommodating entries with vertical emphasis and intricate architectural interest at a variety of scales. Use high-quality materials and detailing to create an identifiable entrance and welcoming experience for visitors and users.

**PL3-1-b. Grade Separations:** Avoid grade separations at retail entries: Step building floor plates along sloped sites to avoid raised or below-grade entries for commercial along the sidewalk.

**PL3-1-c. Courtyard Entries:** Courtyard entries should be physically and visually accessible from the street. Units facing the courtyard should have a porch, stoop, or deck associated with the dwelling unit to support community interaction. Any fences or gates should be set back from the sidewalk to incorporate a semi-public transitional space.

#### **PL3-2 Ground-Level Residential Design**

**PL3-2-a. Articulate Units:** Articulate individual dwelling units and provide usable stoops or patios for street-facing residential units. Include architectural detailing that expresses a residential use, such as contrasting trim, hardware, awnings, mailboxes, address numbers, and appropriately scaled materials. Provide opportunities for personalization.

**PL3-2-b. Rowhouse-Style:** Use rowhouse-style units at the base of residential structures to transition to the pedestrian sidewalk and street; they provide large windows, entries, patios and other activating features.

**PL3-2-c. Buffer Space:** Provide adequate buffer space as a transition from the sidewalk to residential uses for visual connection and passive surveillance of the public realm. Raise units slightly above grade or provide an adequate setback. Use buffers of low walls, planters, and layered landscaping; avoid tall fences and patios below grade.

**PL3-2-d. Shared Space:** Where direct-unit entries are challenging due to a site's physical constraints, include a generous main entry with occupiable shared space or forecourt to create a "front porch" for residents. Provide ample space for bicycles, seating, furniture, and planters.

#### **PL3-3 Mixed Use Corridors & Commercial Frontages**

**PL3-3-a. Street Wall:** Maintain a well-defined street wall on mixed-use corridors to create an urban character. Incorporate strategic setbacks at corners and entries for seating, usable open space, and landscaping.

**PL3-3-b. Human-Scaled Experience:** Provide frequent entrances, expressed breaks, and architectural interest at regular intervals of 20-30 feet (regardless of uses/ tenants occupying ground-level spaces) to create a human-scaled experience and accommodate the presence or appearance of small storefronts. Add unique features to long sections of storefront systems.

**PL3-3-c. Residential Entries & Signage:** Residential entries for upper-floor residential uses and residential signage should not dominate the street frontage over commercial uses.

**PL3-3-d. Non-Activating Uses:** Minimize the size and presence of residential lobbies and other non-activating uses to maintain the commercial intensity and viability of mixed-use corridors.



**PL3-3-e. Edge:** Design a porous, engaging edge for all commercial uses at street-level. Include operable windows at all levels of the building and especially at the street level to maximize permeability and activate the streetscape. Design street-level facades that open to or near sidewalk level allowing uses to spill out, and provide areas for outdoor seating.

**PL3-3-f. Adaptability:** Design live-work units and all other non-commercial spaces for conversion to street-accessed commercial uses over the life of a building. Provide a direct path to the entry from the sidewalk, transitional areas that can be used as outdoor seating, awnings, and pavement treatments. Avoid or minimize tall, structural sills that would inhibit future storefront flexibility. Use recessed entries and non-permanent solutions for privacy for residential uses, such as movable planters. Unit layout should separate living spaces from work space, to provide appropriate privacy for living spaces.

**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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**PL4-1 Bicycle Circulation & Parking**

**PL4-1-a. Efficient & Secure Parking:** Design bicycle parking for efficiency and security. Bicycle use and parking should be encouraged to promote a healthy and active neighborhood and to support local businesses. Bicycle racks should be plentiful, and either be from the Seattle Department of Transportation's bike parking program or be an approved rack of similar "inverted U" or "staple style".

**PL4-1-b. Placemaking:** Integrate design features into bicycle facilities that enhance placemaking, such as having a uniform color for bike racks within the U District or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

**PL4-1-c. Convenient Location:** Locate bicycle parking and bicycle racks in convenient locations for residents and temporary users with easy access, weather protection, and minimal grade changes. Provide direct routes from bicycle lanes to bicycle parking in garages or bicycle racks, and provide signage that directs bicyclists to these facilities. When bicycle parking is located indoors, minimize obstructions, and consider using sliding or automatic doors.

**PL4-2 Connections and Facilities for Transit**

**PL4-2-a. Connections to Light-Rail:** Ensure convenient connections to the light-rail station for development near the station or other high-volume transit stops. This might include voluntary setbacks to afford widened sidewalks, chamfered building corners, and/or recessed entries to facilitate higher pedestrian volumes near the stations.

**PL4-2-b. Integrated Waiting Areas:** Integrate waiting areas for transit and vehicle pick-up into the building design, rather than adjacent to the street, where possible and with approval of agencies. Include shelters, large canopies, lean bars, and benches.

**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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC1-1 Activating Uses**

**DC1-1-a. Street Frontages:** Maximize active uses along street frontages and minimize the amount of frontage dedicated to lobby/lounges, office, and leasing spaces - uses which can be located elsewhere in the building. Provide a high frequency of entries for both commercial and residential uses.

**DC1-1-b. Commercial Spaces:** Group commercial spaces (or live-work) at corners and clusters at street level rather than fragmenting them between lobbies and other ground-floor uses.

**DC1-1-c. Passive Surveillance:** Where residential uses face on-site or public open spaces, parks, or access drive, balance privacy layering with passive surveillance by incorporating stoops, patios, and balconies, lighting. Minimize garage frontages at these locations.

**DC1-2 Visual and Safety Impacts**

**DC1-2-a. Service Entries & Trash Receptacles:** Locate service entries and trash receptacles within the building, mid-block along shared alleys and away from pedestrian crossings or gathering spots at mid-block connections.

**DC1-2-b. High-Quality Materials:** Use high quality materials and finishes for all service screening and garage doors with artful treatments and architectural detailing that reinforces the design concept and contributes to visual interest at street level.

**DC1-2-c. Above Grade Parking:** Wrap any above grade parking with active uses to minimize 'dead facades'. Design any above-grade parking with a high degree of architectural detailing consistent with the non-vehicle design, possibly integrating changing displays or community artwork.

**DC1-3 Shared Open Spaces**

**DC2-3-a. Access Drives:** If access drives are provided on site, design them as shared space for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to move slowly and safely. Include entries, windows, landscaping, and opportunities for personalization. Curbless drive aisles are desirable.

**DC2-3-b. Layout:** Design the layout of the open space and surrounding uses intentionally to function as shared community space. Include landscaping, pedestrian amenities, lighting, and paving treatments that clearly delineate paths from gathering areas.

**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. Facade 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 facades 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 facade 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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC2-1 Massing & Reducing Bulk and Scale**

**DC2-1-a. Response to Context:** Design building massing and form to express an intentional and original response to the context, streetscape and all guidelines, not merely a reflection of the code-allowable building envelope.

**DC2-1-b. Large Buildings:** Reduce the bulk and scale of large buildings: A large building should be legible as a series of discrete forms at multiple scales to reduce perceived bulk, create interest, and help users understand how the building is occupied.

1. Break up larger development into multiple buildings and smaller masses with pass-throughs and pathways
2. Alternatively, give the impression of multiple, smaller-scale buildings by employing different facade treatments at intervals that complement the context by articulating the building at regular intervals
3. Employ purposeful modulation that is meaningful to the overall composition and building proportion, or that expresses individual units or modules. Avoid over-modulation. Changes in color and material should typically be accompanied by a legible change in plane and/or design language.
4. Opt for distinctive and sculptural forms and elements, especially in highly visible locations or corners.

**DC2-1-c. Building Base:** Design the building base to create a solid and “grounded” form that transitions to a human-scale at the street. The height of the base/podium should be proportional to and substantial enough to “anchor” the upper massing.

**DC2-1-d. Upper-Level Step-Backs:** Use upper-level step-backs to maintain a human scale along the street and respond to historic datums.

**DC2-1-e. Addressing the Public Realm:** Ensure that building massing does not dominate the public realm: Setbacks along the sidewalk should be open to the sky. Where overhangs create usable open space at grade, provide an adequate ceiling height—generally at least two stories—with lighting and design detail to create a welcoming space.

**DC2-1-f. Stairs & Elevator Cores:** Locate vertical stair and elevator cores internally to minimize height impacts to the street. Stair cores visible to the street should be designed as a prominent feature with a high degree of transparency.

## **DC2-2 Architectural Concept & Facade Composition**

**DC2-2-a. Context-Sensitive Approach:** Embrace contemporary design through distinctive, elegant forms that demonstrate a context-sensitive approach to massing and facade design.

**DC2-2-b. Mix Styles:** Create a finely-grained mix of complementary buildings and architectural styles on a block, taking cues from established patterns such as frequent entries, the use of brick and other highly-articulated materials.

**DC2-2-c. Cohesive Design:** Reinforce the massing and design concept with a deliberate palette that limits the number of materials, colors, and fenestration patterns to achieve design cohesion.

**DC2-2-d. Base Materials:** Use brick, stone or other high-quality, durable, and non-monolithic materials as the predominant base material to reinforce a strong base massing.

**DC2-2-e. Color Application:** Employ a restrained and purposeful application of bold or high-contrast colors and moments of whimsy to contribute to the eclectic character of the University District, without overwhelming the streetscape.

**DC2-2-f. Roof Lines:** Provide architectural interest with legible roof lines or the top of the structure that is clearly distinguishable from the facade walls.

**DC2-2-g. Large Masses:** Avoid expanses of large panels with minimal detailing, and do not rely on the use of colored cladding alone to provide visual interest: Break down large masses or facades by 1) using quality materials that provide relief and interest through shadow lines, depth of fenestration, and detailing, and 2) delineating a base, middle, and top with architectural detailing and massing.

**DC2-2-h. Detailing:** Intentionally detail joints, reveals, and fasteners to articulate and reinforce the design concept.

**DC2-2-i. Depth:** Incorporate depth into building facades, especially those with minimal modulation and boxy massing. Integrate facade depth and shadow casting detail, including projecting elements, setbacks and expression of window reveals, to give visual richness and interest. Recessed windows of 6-8 inches are preferable to window trims or fins applied to flush windows.

## **DC2-3 Pedestrian-Scaled Streetscape Design**

**DC2-3-a. Visual Interest:** Design facades to a human-scaled rhythm and proportion and avoid monotonous repetition of the storefront or module by providing points of interest every 15-30 feet. Layer a hierarchical arrangement of articulation and detailing at a variety of scales to express a high degree of quality and visual interest by including features such as articulated mullions, setbacks, patios, intricate architectural detailing, art, light fixtures, entries, planters, and window groupings.

**DC2-3-b. Retaining Walls:** Limit the height and use of retaining walls along streets, open spaces, and in other areas of the public realm. Use stepped terraces as a preferred solution to resolve grade differences.

## **DC2-4 Service & Mechanical Elements**

**DC2-4-a. Design Concept:** Intentionally design wall venting for commercial uses and other screening for mechanical equipment on the roof or affixed to the building into the overall design concept.

**DC2-4-b. Facade Design:** Integrate building service elements, such as drainage pipes, grilles, screens, vents, louvres, and garage entry doors into the overall facade design, and use these features as opportunities to provide artful or unique applications.

## **DC2-5 Blank Walls**

**DC2-5-a. Materials & Expression:** Finish visible walls and rooftops with quality materials or artistic expressions that reinforce the design concept, avoiding simplistic treatments of cladding with only color changes.

**DC2-5-b. Visual Scale & Interest:** On party walls visible from streets, provide visual scale and interest with murals or other legible artistic or architectural expressions, including joint patterns, plane changes, and/or proportions that break down the scale of large walls.

## **DC2-6 Tall Buildings**

**DC2-6-a. Response to Context:** Integrate and transition to a surrounding fabric of differing heights; relate to existing visual datums, the street wall and parcel patterns. Respond to prominent nearby sites and/or sites with axial focus or distant visibility, such as waterfronts, public view corridors, street ends.

**DC2-6-b. Tall Form Placement, Spacing & Orientation:** Locate the tall forms to optimize the following: minimize shadow impacts on public parks, plazas and places; maximize tower spacing to adjacent structures; afford light and air to the streets, pedestrians and public realm; and minimize impacts to nearby existing and future planned occupants.

**DC2-6-c. Tall Form Design:** Avoid long slabs and big, unmodulated boxy forms, which cast bigger shadows and lack scale or visual interest. Consider curved, angled, shifting and/or carved yet coherent forms. Shape and orient tall floorplates based on context, nearby opportunities and design concepts, not simply to maximize internal efficiencies. Modulation should be up-sized to match the longer, taller view distances.

**DC2-6-d. Intermediate Scales:** To mediate the extra height/scale, add legible, multi-story intermediate scale elements: floor groupings, gaskets, off-sets, projections, sky terraces, layering, or other legible modulations to the middle of tall forms. Avoid a single repeated extrusion from building base to top.

**DC2-6-e. Shape & Design All Sides:** Because towers are visible from many viewpoints/distances, intentionally shape the form and design all sides (even party walls), responding to differing site patterns and context relationships. Accordingly, not all sides may have the same forms or display identical cladding.

**DC2-6-f. Adjusted Base Scale:** To mediate the form's added height, design a 1-3 story base scale, and/or highly legible base demarcation to transition to the ground and mark the 'street room' proportion. Tall buildings require several scale readings, and the otherwise typical single-story ground floor appears squashed by the added mass above.

**DC2-6-g. Ground Floor Uses:** Include identifiable primary entrances-scaled to the tall form - and provide multiple entries. Include genuinely activating uses or grade-related residences to activate all streets.

**DC2-6-h. Facade Depth & Articulation:** Use plane changes, depth, shadow, and texture to provide human scale and interest and to break up the larger facade areas of tall buildings, especially in the base/lower 100 feet. Compose fenestration and material dimensions to be legible and richly detailed from long distances.

**DC2-6-i. Quality & 6th Elevations:** Intentionally design and employ quality materials and detailing, including on all soffits, balconies, exterior ceilings and other surfaces seen from below, including lighting, vents, etc.

**DC2-6-j. Transition to the Sky & Skyline Composition:** Create an intentional, designed terminus to the tall form and enhance the skyline (not a simple flat 'cut-off'). Integrate all rooftop elements and uses into the overall design, including mechanical screens, maintenance equipment, amenity spaces and lighting. Applicants should design and show how the tall buildings will contribute to the overall skyline profile and variety of forms.

**DC2-6-k. Architectural Presence:** Consider citywide visual appearance when designing tall buildings, both as an individual structure and as a collection with other tall buildings, as these will be visible from many vantage points throughout Seattle.

**DC2-6-l. Landmarks & Wayfinding:** Design tall buildings with memorable massing and forms, to serve as landmarks that enhance a sense of place and contribute to wayfinding in the U District.

**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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC3-1 Open Space Organization & Site Layout**

**DC3-1-a. Arrangement:** Design outdoor amenity areas, open space, and pedestrian pathways to be a focal point and organizing element within the development, break up large sites, and foster permeability. Arrange buildings on site to consolidate open space areas into designed, usable shared spaces or places for large trees instead of “leftover” spaces or drive lanes.

**DC3-1-b. Pedestrian Routes:** Extend pedestrian routes from entry courtyards or forecourts all the way through a project site to improve pedestrian walkability.

**DC3-1-c. Street Orientation:** Arrange residential development, especially townhouse and rowhouses, to orient units towards the street. Where units are oriented towards internal pathways or access drives, design these shared pathways that prioritize the pedestrian experience with paving, landscaping, lighting, stoops, and human-scaled design features.

**DC3-2**



**DC3-2-a. Private Amenity Spaces:** Provide a variety of types of outdoor private amenity space instead of only locating private amenity space on rooftops. Include usable patios, terraces, and balconies; opt for usable projecting or recessed balconies instead of flush railings.

**DC3-2-b. Play Areas:** Design shared play areas for children with sightlines to units.

**DC3-2-c. Privacy:** Design courtyards to incorporate layered planting and trees that provide privacy to units surrounding the courtyard as well as users.

### **DC3-3**

**DC3-3-a. Welcoming Design:** Design open spaces at street-level to be welcoming: Semi-public spaces such as forecourts should engage the street and act as a “front porch” for residents. Minimize the use of gates, or visual and physical barriers, especially those adjacent to the street. Any necessary fences or gates should be set far back from the street to create a semi-public transitional space.

**DC3-3-b. Community Interaction:** Open space design and location should support lively community interaction rather than passive space within a development, as well as the larger University District community.

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

### **DC4-A Exterior Elements and Finishes**

**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 facade 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.

#### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **DC4-1 Durable, High-Quality Exterior Materials**

**DC4-1-a. Durable & Permanent:** Use materials that provide and evoke durability and permanence: Avoid thin materials that do not age well in Seattle’s climate, including those that deform or warp, weather quickly, or require paint as a finish. Use materials in locations that have a durability appropriate for an urban application, especially near grade.

**DC4-1-b. Brick & Masonry:** Brick or other masonry units are the preferred materials, especially for podiums and the first 30-50 feet from grade.

**DC4-1-c. Texture & Complexity:** Use materials with inherent texture and complexity: Limit the use of large panels or materials that require few joints, reveals, or minimal detailing. Use materials that provide purposeful transitions and reinforce the design concept and building proportions.

**DC4-1-d. Technology & Innovation:** Utilize emerging technology and innovative materials that inspire inventive forms, applications, and design concepts.

**DC4-1-e. Sustainability:** Consider the life cycle impacts of materials, and choose those that are renewable, recyclable, reusable, responsibly sourced, and have minimal impacts to human and environmental health.

##### **DC4-2 Hardscaping & Landscaping**

**DC4-2-a. Placemaking:** Incorporate artistic, historical, and U District-unique elements into landscape materials to define spaces and contribute to placemaking, including mosaics, wayfinding elements, reused materials, and lighting.

**DC4-2-b. Fine-Grained Texture:** Use hardscape materials that contribute a fine-grained texture through joint patterns, scoring, or inherent material qualities. Avoid areas with minimal texture, especially in areas with pedestrian traffic.

**DC4-2-c. Delineate Uses:** Use pavers and ground treatments to delineate uses, including building entries and seating areas within the public right of way.

**DC4-2-d. Green Walls:** Integrate purposeful green walls into the construction and design of the building and landscape to avoid appearing “tacked on” as an afterthought. To maximize plant survival and potential for success, provide permanent irrigation and choose locations with appropriate growth conditions.

#### **BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations summarized above were based on the design review packet dated May 13, 2024, and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the May 13, 2024 Design Recommendation meeting. After considering the site and context, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the four Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design and departures with the following conditions.

1. Maintain the exterior materials and assembly details as shown in the Recommendation Packet. (DC2-2-g, DC2-2-l, DC2-B-1, DC2-B-2, DC2-A.2, DC2-C, DC2-D)
2. Increase the number of plantings in the north interior courtyard. (DC3-B-2, DC4-D-1)

3. Study the planting areas along the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE sidewalk and the NE 45<sup>th</sup> St sidewalk to ensure soil volume and depth is sufficient to support the robust landscape depicted in the Recommendation Packet. (DC4-D-1)