

University of Colorado Design Review Board Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
Location: Fifth Floor Conference Room, 1800 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado

DRB and Campus Members present:

Mike Winters, Jody Beck, Sarah Brown, Tom Hootman, Laurel Raines, Chris Shears, and d'Andre Willis, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Boulder campus (CU Boulder).

Others in attendance not otherwise noted:

Kori Donaldson, AVP of Budget, Finance, and Capital and ex officio member of the DRB
Linda Money, CU Real Estate Services, CU System employee / DRB notetaker (via Zoom)

Mike Winters, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 9:30 a.m.

9:30 – 10:20 a.m. Study Session/Lunch – Board Only

10:20 – 10:30 a.m. Break/Set Up

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Farrand Hall Renovation – CU Boulder
Conceptual Design (Action Requested)**

Architects/Consultants:

Anderson Mason Dale (AMD)
Swinerton
Wenk Associates
Group14 Engineering

Presenters:

Maria Blair, Swinerton
Greg Dorolek, Wenk Associates
Lauren McNeill, Group14 Engineering
Andy Nielsen, AMD

CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

d'Andre Willis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning
& Design, Campus Architect, Facilities Planning
Lindsay Schumacher, Planner, Planning, Design and
Construction, Facilities Planning

Others Present:

Katie Spicer, AMD

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:

Sean Bazzetta, Planning and Design Intern (online)

Ed von Bleichert, Environmental Operations Manager (online)

Dan Gette, AVC of Student Affairs

Richelle Goedert, Campus Landscape Architect, Facilities Planning

Jon Keiser, Design and Project Management, Housing Facilities (online)

Jennifer O'Neill, Facilities Design & Construction (online)

Description:

Conceptual Design submittal for a comprehensive interior renovation; systems replacement and upgrade, addition of cooling; window/door replacement, exterior repairs, create new accessible entries, upgrade building envelope; site improvements and landscaping renovation of Farrand Hall.

A/E Presentation

The design team presented the concept design, a copy of which is available upon request.

DRB Comments

The DRB appreciated the comprehensive presentation. Specifically, it appreciated the new spaces included in the project, including the redesigned campus courtyards and the proposed functional changes to the interior of the building.

A. Energy and Sustainability

The design team is on track to meet the project energy and sustainability goals. It will provide more details about calculated EUI improvements at a future meeting.

The DRB suggested that the team review the window selection at Hellems as it refines its recommendations. It also recommended further study of the proposed use of spray foam for exterior insulation and suggested that another solution could better protect the integrity of the brick.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

The DRB feedback is organized by courtyard / building entries. The DRB looks forward to a future workshop to continue to discuss the evolving design of the courtyards and building entries.

West Courtyard and Entry

The DRB noted the success of the new main entryway and how the existing staircases will be extended to ground level. It also noted the successful grading plan. The arched pathways and amphitheater steps were appreciated as well as the reduction in height of the courtyards exterior perimeter wall. It recommended additional study of the pathway(s) to the new main entrance and the rooms created alongside the pathway to create an interactive and engaging space.

South Courtyard and Entry

The DRB liked the proposed design. It is appreciated that the design places the outside dining room at the same elevation as the adjacent pedestrian walkway, rather than directing people into a sunken courtyard.

East Courtyard and Entry

The DRB recommended additional study of both alternate 1 and alternate 2. The final design could incorporate aspects of both alternates, simplifying and creating larger seating areas. Reducing the amount of the exterior existing wall was also appreciated.

The DRB supported the idea of relocating the east courtyard entry and adding a vestibule space. It suggested continuing study of the proposed vestibule, including ways to make the vestibule more transparent.

North Courtyard and Entry

The DRB liked the proposed walls and new ADA entrance. It encouraged the design team to continue its negotiations regarding the location or replacement of the 8-yard dumpster.

C. Architecture

The DRB liked the architectural fenestration studies. It recommended additional study of the window material selection (aluminum v. fiberglass), profiles, and sizes. It also suggested that the window glazing should be lighter and should match that used in recent projects, like the renovation of the Fleming Building.

DRB Action

Mike Winters moved to approve the Concept Design submittal for the Farrand Hall Renovation, with the comments noted above. Tom Hootman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

VoleTerra – CU Boulder
Introduction, Concept Design, Schematic Design
(Information/Direction/Action Requested)

Architects/Consultants:

CU Environmental Design (ENVD) Capstone Class

CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

Dr. Zoe Donaldson, Associate Professor (online)

Dr. Caleb Vogt, Research Associate (online)

Remi Daniel, ENVD Student

Ryder Phelps, ENVD Student

d'Andre Willis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning
& Design, Campus Architect, Facilities Planning

Richelle Goedert, Facilities Planner/Landscape Architect,
Facilities Planning

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:
Marcel de Lange, Asst. Clinical Professor, ENVD
Jared Arp, Asst. Teaching Professor, ENVD
Chloe Albright, ENVD Student
Mia Archuleta, ENVD Student
Owen Barton, ENVD Student
Skylar Cahan, ENVD Student
Daniel McInerny, ENVD Student
Matias Merten, ENVD Student
Sasha Weil, ENVD Student
Sean Bazzetta, Planning and Design Intern (online)
Jennifer Scheele Lee, Facilities Planning (online)

Description:
Submittal for review of exterior research facility for voles on East Campus.

Discussion

The student design team and campus staff gave a comprehensive presentation of the VoleTerra information, concept design, and schematic design submittal, a copy of which is available upon request.

DRB Comments

The DRB appreciated the comprehensive and professional presentation and thanked the students and staff for their work on this project.

A. Energy and Sustainability and Architecture

The DRB recommended that the team continue to study the orientation of the building, specifically regarding sun shading/potential solar gain. Additionally, it suggested:

- Further study of whether the windows on the south side of the building can be made operable to take advantage of cross ventilation and whether rooftop ventilation can be added to the office portion of the building.
- Consider whether the materiality in the breezeway should be the same (wrapped) from the building exterior.
- Study whether the deck can be extended (cross axial).
- Study how handrails will be integrated with the stairs and the ramp.
- Review of the code to ensure that the building is located near enough to restrooms.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

The DRB suggested that the team consider whether it can add some sort of landscape finish along the bottom edges of the building. It also emphasized the possibility that some of the landscape will need to be reseeded following construction.

The DRB is interested in reviewing the site and vole paddock fencing with the campus landscape architect at a future meeting.

DRB Action

The DRB would like to review the materiality and final design choices through a future email submittal. No further meetings are required to complete project review.

Sarah Brown moved to approve the combined Information, Concept Design, and Schematic Design submittal for VoleTerra, with the comments noted above. Jody Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

(For assistance with the attachments referenced within this document, please contact Linda Money at (303) 860-6110 or linda.money@cu.edu.)