University of Colorado
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University of Colorado Design Review Board
Amended Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Room P28-1206, Education 2 North Building, CU Anschutz Medical Campus, 13120 East 19th Avenue, Aurora, 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 note taker
Emily Parker, Sr. Budget, Planning, and Policy Analyst, Office of the VP for Budget & Finance

Mike Winters, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 9:35 a.m.

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. **Study Session/Administrative Matters – Board Only**

The DRB reviewed administrative matters and items on the agenda prior to convening the public portion of the meeting.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Chemistry and Applied Math Building – *CU Boulder***
Conceptual Design (Action Requested)

Architects/Consultants:
- ZGF
- James Corner Field Operations
- Group 14 Engineering

Presenters:
- Braulio Baptista, Design Partner, ZGF
- Justin Brooks, Lead Designer, ZGF
- Arathi Gowda, Principal, Sustainability, ZGF
- Karli Molter, Senior Associate, Field Operations
- Sarah Weidner Astheimer, Principal, Field Operations

CU Boulder Campus Presenter:
- d'Andre Willis, Director of Planning/Campus Architect, Facilities Planning, CU Boulder

Others Present:
Sadie Cline, ZGF
Meghan Lane, Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Lauren McNeill, Group 14 Engineering (via Zoom)
Gera Feigon, ZGF (via Zoom)

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:
Richelle Goedert, Facilities Planning
Wayne Northcutt, Facilities Planning
Zach Tupper, Academic Resources

Description:
Conceptual Design submittal for a new 147,000 GSF Chemistry and Applied Mathematics (CHAP) academic/ research building on the Business Field (a 4-acre recreational field on Main Campus)

A/E Presentation

The design team gave a comprehensive presentation of the submittal package, a copy of which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

DRB Comments

A. Energy and Sustainability

- The DRB appreciates how the team is approaching sustainability.
    - It's apparent that the project is very integrated in terms of energy use and sustainability.

- Include studies at Schematic Design ("SD") illustrating the potential for load reduction and energy use.

- Ongoing discussions regarding variable ventilation rates are encouraged. This is an opportunity to make improvements in energy consumption – building users will need to learn to be comfortable with variable ventilation as a responsible and appropriate solution.

- Continue to prioritize passive strategies, including the continued development of the concept of splitting and stepping the massing for light and air to create as much benefit as possible from the biophilic quality of the spaces.

- At SD, include additional daylight modeling beyond the current solar studies. Make the modeling a little more refined to vet the design team's ideas.

- The transition from energy and heat gain or loss for each one of the elevations and how the performance drives the design of the building is very exciting.
    - The directional orientation of the building provides a unique opportunity.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

The DRB recommends further study of the following:

- Water use
  - Refining circulation patterns and paths and reducing water go hand-in-hand.
  - If possible, do not plan for irrigated turf in the tree lawns. Planting lawn only in areas where it will be used is best in terms of water conservation.
- Site circulation
  - Review the pedestrian circulation around the oval, further studying the desire lines of pedestrian traffic and the locations of the proposed paths.
  - Simplifying these paths may decrease the amount of irrigated lawn, especially in the pointed corners.
- The interstitial space between the interior and exterior of the building
  - Where the oval has been placed compared to the building leaves a lot of leftover, undesigned space that could be used to transition into and out of the building.
  - Review the landscaping on the west side of the Koelbel and Rustandy Buildings for examples of front porch gathering areas that are inviting and which function as transition spaces.
  - Further develop the spaces adjacent to the building.
  - Further develop the terrace space. It should relate more to and feel more like an expansion of the building.
    - Can the terrace be more open and inviting?
    - Think about ways to add a second point of access so there is more than one entry into and out of the terrace area.

- Outdoor spaces should be layered in and out from the building.

- Concerning the large lawn space to the west of the building, consider making the oval less formal.

- Study the location of the trees west of the building to determine the best way to provide as much shade as possible to the building and the spaces under the building.

- For SD, include detailed illustrations showing the sun study at the west arcade and site shading capacities, site lighting, and drainage with the slopes across the site.

C. Architecture

- The DRB is comfortable with the building location on the site.

- The biggest challenge for the building is that the program is quite large resulting in a building that is larger than the context of the surrounding buildings.
  - The size of the building is challenging in part because it is isolated from other buildings. All four sides will be felt and seen.

- The stepping is good at the south side.
  - At SD, include additional studies showing the building massing at the north

- Study how the building architectural articulation and design relates to other buildings on campus.

- Breaking the penthouse up to create two sections of the main building is better.
    - Continue to study breaking down the massing, study wrapping the penthouse section around and down on the north side.
    - To break up the large, sheer wall on the north end, look at ways to take the form along Regents Dr. and push it out a little more to the north and then down to the loading dock so the north end is broken up a little more and is expressed in the elevation.
    - Step down and layer the north end like the vertical strata of the Flatirons as suggested in the meeting.

- Investigate and show options for roof forms from pitched roofs to flat roofs.
    - Consider (and illustrate) the roof forms from a pedestrian level.

- Re-consider the model design for the building without a basement. The upper length results in a building that feels less massive.
    - It may provide enough length to step down at the south end of the building and is more resolved at the north end.

- Study rotating some of the wings to create a more clearly identifiable entrance, also as discussed during the presentation.

- Include an animation at SD showing the approach to the building from Regents Drive to provide a feeling for what the building is like along the north and eastern edges.

- Include studies on the fenestration and other architectural features that tie the building back into the campus.

DRB Action

Mike Winters moved to approve the Conceptual Design submittal for the Chemistry and Applied Math Building, including the comments noted above. Chris Shears seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

12:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Lunch, General Overview and Tour of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus**
CU Anschutz Medical Campus Presenter:
André Vite, AIA, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning and Design

Over the lunch break, André Vite provided a general overview of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus after which, the DRB took a tour of the campus.

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