DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: August 23, 2002

Meeting No. 38

ATTENDEES:  
Colin Gardner  
Bob Haller  
Everett Kirkelie  
George Persteiner  
Barton Phelps  
Ric Williams  
Buzz Yudell

ABSENT:  
Edson Armi  
Michael Arntz  
Pamela Burton  
Dom Dal Bello  
Elvin Hatch  
Brian McGuire  
Carol Pasternack  
Bruce Tiffney

OTHERS PRESENT  
Ray Aronson  
Michael Bade  
Barry Berkus  
Emilio Casanueva  
Frank Castanha  
Jon Cook  
Julie Cunningham  
Steve Davie  
Joe Doyle  
Maureen Evans  
Yolanda Garcia  
Paul Gawronik  
David Gonzales  
David Gross  
Yoniie Harris  
Ilze Landfried

Martie Levy  
Celeste Manolas  
Jennifer Metz  
Pat Mosher  
Kotaro Nakamura  
Mark Nocciolo  
Ralph Roesling  
Scott Smith  
Patricia Sonnio  
Peter Steiner  
Deborah Storm  
Ron Strahl  
Phil Suding  
Bob Sundberg  
Dennis Whelan  
Alan Walker  
Chuck Woodburn

ITEM DESCRIPTION

1. Minutes of June 14, 2002 meeting were approved. The next meeting is confirmed for September 20, 2002.

2. Predesign Consultation: Student Resources Building
   - Scott Smith of Sasaki Assoc. Architects discussed the site in relation to Pardall Corridor and Isla Vista. He said that the various programmed spaces that need to be very public have begun to suggest an arrangement for the building that dissolves walls and makes spaces very visible and easily accessible. Pardall Corridor is a kind of main street and suggests that storefront type of spaces along it would be appropriate and would relate to the retail aspects of Isla Vista.
3. Conceptual Design Consultation: East Gate

- Martie Levy outlined the history of the project concluding that Phil Suding has been hired to develop a concept for the east entrance to campus that is sensitive to the environment and announces that it is the arrival point for an academic institution of high stature. Martie said that the UC Regent interested in the project and is a member of the Regents Design Review Committee has said she wants a real gate, not just a virtual gate and that no one building should be the gateway. The Regent does not want CNSI to dominate the entrance and she would like canopy trees planted to somewhat lessen the impact of the building. She would like some overhead element at East Gate.
- Phil Suding said he would like to get DRC input as a part of his design process. He showed a short video of the approach to campus and pointed out how the topography enhances the sense of arrival. He pointed out the trees that will be removed for CNSI and said that he too would welcome the opportunity to have canopy tree there.

- Michael Bade pointed out that the Regent is not the sole voice or even the generator of opinion on the regents review committee. Phil said he has kept all of the work done by the traffic engineers except that he has widened the median. He characterized the first scheme as formal treatment with palm trees arranged in rows, almost like soldiers up the hill. He tried to enhance the view out over the bluff to the ocean from a circular space and had a pair of columns (10' square, 20' tall) with wing walls for identity signage as gate elements. At the traffic circle he thought he would identify each of the two circulation branches with a different color, maybe gold and blue to serve as wayfinding devices to get people to Visitor's Center or University Plaza, the real entrance to campus or to where they can drop off people and/or stop. Martie said that the reaction of the Chancellor and the Regent was that palms connote a resort rather than a place of higher learning.

- Phil characterized his other scheme as more natural, less formal with groups of canopy trees creating shadow on the road to break up the paving. He also proposed stamped concrete as a traffic calming device. He said the concept was to give a sense of compression then release and then another compression and release. The idea of bridging the north and east bluffs fits well into this more natural scheme, possibly using the oaks of the north bluff to blend into the plantings on the east bluff. Phil also said he has done some studies using pergolas as the overhead elements for this scheme. Martie said a signage program has not yet been developed for the area and Buzz Yudell said he thought it very important that signage and wayfinding be studied in parallel with the gateway design.

- Barton Phelps said the video was very helpful. He suggested that you need to structure the criteria for judgement carefully. The terrain makes the approach to campus a unique, powerful experience so that a gate is not so important. He thought the naturalistic approach with some kind of pause or unique structure was on the right track.

- Jon Cook said that there are many different kinds of palms to choose from and the choice of trees could use further discussion. The difficulty if getting large trees that will survive exposure to salt water was discussed. Martie also reminded everyone that pedestrians would need to get to an identifying element for photo ops at graduation, etc. Dennis Whelan said we have long needed a pedestrian access from Goleta Beach to campus and he would request the campus palette of materials (campus block, tile) be used.

- Buzz Yudell said that, even with the traffic calming devices, because of the speed of traffic, Phil might want to study a longer grove or some other devices to give a longer sense of transition. As the entry sequence is a kinesthetic experience and Phil study how to emphasize the feel of a break in two directions. There might also be some differentiation between the mountain view and the ocean view to bring out the sense of the very special location of East Gate. He asked that Phil consider the sequence from the campus and that there be a sense of departure also.

- Phil asked about what the committee thought should happen in the center of the traffic circle. Barton suggested suppressing the centrality and letting the radiating, vector quality
be felt. Michael Bade suggested not putting trees in the center but having a void that you would feel you were arriving into. Maybe a mound in the center would let people know it is something they need to drive around but they feel they have arrived in an outdoor room. Then the various landscapes and views around it would widen the totality of the experience. David Gross suggest a round metal sign and Phil said he been thinking of directional signage. Barton Phelps suggested these ideas could be tuned up so that you design some kind of sculptural iconic element would be appropriate to the space.

4. Conceptual Design Consultation: Materials Research Laboratory Infill

- The Ralph Roesling showed views from the building and the previous fill in scheme. Their current concept grabs some space with an addition coming out toward the service road and leaves open space at the ground level and leaves existing decks at the third level. The addition allows for some mountain views to the northwest and some views to the southeast. An entry would be established at the side of the building with a stair going up. Because the first level will be up so high, with careful landscaping, they should be able to get a feel of airiness under the addition.

- Buzz Yudell and Barton Phelps liked the direction the design is going but Barton was concerned that there would be enough money for what looked like would need to be very sophisticated construction. Ralph said they have beefed up the budget on some items such as the curtain wall to cover this. Michael Bade said he liked the scheme but cautioned against moment frame building.

- Ric Williams asked whether there was anything in the addition that is a connection to the curved roof like of the building. Ralph said they have concluded that the best thing is to do is to leave the curve as the main hierarchy in the roof and let the addition be quiet. They are hoping however that the addition will give more presence to the building and that the skew will give it some dynamic interest.

- Buzz said it was a wonderfully thoughtful sensitive scheme that harmonizes but does not mimic the existing building. It has a terrific quality of light and will be a powerful small jewel of a building. He liked the exposed stair and suggested they work on creating some sitting areas or other attractions to activate the space under the addition and make it feel animated.

- Dennis Whelan wondered how capturing views and creating a separate identity became part of the design criteria. He questioned whether it is appropriate to have glass walls and to have a skew that breaks the campus grid. He pointed out the need to remove a large tree in order to get a view. Joe Doyle said the original plan was always to have a second identity and that the current building was designed to capture some specific ocean views which the expanded Kohn Hall will take away. Barton suggested that the skew might not be perceivable and is the kind of optical correction that often happens on campuses. Colin Gardner pointed out that CNSI and Kohn Hall have wings that are on the diagonal and Buzz agreed that in this case the diagonal works and is quite sophisticated. Ron Strahl reminded everyone that the area along this service road is currently being studied and the tree that Dennis is talking about will be considered by the study.
Buzz encouraged the architects to vet out any bugs regarding cost so that the high aspirations and sophisticated design of the building can be realized and Ric reminded them to make sure there are adequate funds for landscaping.

5. **Action Item: Site Approval Alumni House**

- Ron Strahl reviewed how wetland delineation resulted in the loss of the Alumni House building site by the Lagoon and briefly discussed six alternate sites. The site most attractive to the Alumni Association was Lot 12.

- Barry Berkus said that they still see the Alumni House as a place where young people, both new students and returnees, can be introduced to the history and accomplishments of the University. Although they were disappointed in losing the site on commencement green they are interested in the opportunities presented by being in the core of campus.

- Barry said they are aware that the project must put back any parking spaces taken, that there is a myriad of architectural forms is the area, that there is a arrival/destination area by the site, that it is on a major corridor of the campus. He showed views from about 35' above the site. He believes that Building 402 can be removed and the ticketing function taken into the Alumni Building. Therefore the project can pick up parking spaces in that area and the current thought is to raise the Alumni House 6'9' above grade to accommodate parking underneath and take advantage of views. It would create a frame for the entrance to the University and its main entry would be on that axis. He would tie it to Campbell Hall, possibly with a bridge that would span the bike path and drop down to Campbell.

- Buzz Yudell thought that it is a good planning move to get an important building on this site to give the plaza a sense of edge. He expects that in the short to medium term it will be a challenge to animate the building and give it liveliness since it will be surrounded by parking lots.

- Barry said there would be a visual front as you come down Mesa Road but he expects the actual entry to be off the plaza with some kind grand stair. He also said he would like to do something that relates to the unique architecture of Campbell. He expects to get approximately 50 parking spaces under the building and to rework the surface lot so that it is more efficient. He expects to maintain mountain views from within campus. In response to Dennis Whelan's desire that the building knit together the palette of materials of the surrounding buildings, Barry said that he thought the building should reflect the character of the university but should have the feeling of a home, a place to sit. There is a possibility of putting some of the texture in the base and engaging the street, probably with ticketing and some kind of passage that would take you out to Campbell at grade. He thinks he can introduce a lot of elements that tie to existing functions on the campus and create an entrance icon. Getting views is important and he would like to get an indoor/outdoor observation area in the building.

- Colin Gardner pointed out that the west entrance is close to where events take place while this location is remote from the Ucen and he wondered if the site reinforces the divide between current students and past students. Barry said he would like to see the campus be knit together better than it has been in the past; he would like to see places where people can stop as they walk. The building would have a catering kitchen that could serve the Campbell which is a very active area. The building would also relate to Cheadle, which
gets heavy student traffic. The food function would not be major and would be used mostly for conferences and small events.

- Barry said they are writing the program as they do the building and it should be flexible enough to get an interesting building with a lot of outreach uses that will tell a great story of the University. He is not planning a Santa Barbara Mediterranean building because it it a different site. He is interested in something that has gable forms that say “house” but he would also want to weave it into the buildings around the site. He sees a contemporary building that is an icon for the campus.

**ACTION**

The Lot 12 site was approved for the Alumni House project.

6. **Action Item: Site and Design Approval, Dance Studio**

- Celeste Manolas said that the hybrid idea for a building that recycles parts of the existing Dance Studio is a result of various studies and ideas from the department. The dance floor and the structure bed will be reused and other parts will be designed to suit the site by the Events Center. The skin wall will create an overhang entry and has been changed to a horizontal pattern to respond to the Events Center exterior.

- The siting is driven by the required 40' setback from the Events Center and ADA requirements. They have tried to lower the existing wall to scale down the building and they have added two layers to screen vents and give the building more of a finished look all the way around it. The skin will create a covered entry/courtyard plaza effect which is lacking at the current site. The 74 bike parking spaces that will be taken away can be accommodated in another lot to which the bike racks can be relocated.

- Barton Phelps said it seemed a good fit on the site. The 40' setback is a UBC requirement (non-rated wall) and a large eucalyptus tree must be removed. David Gonzales said that although funds are limited, they will try to replace the lost tree with something significant. Since it will be a permanent building, Jennifer Metz pointed out that the Coastal Commission will direct that it be landscaped.

- Colors are to be golden and a warm grey/green. Buzz Yudell said that the project could be considered an example of site repair as it makes the site friendly and inviting. The committee agreed that the architects have got a lot of leverage out of the project and it is a very good project.

**ACTION**

The site and project design were approved.
7. Design Approval: Recladding of Campbell Hall and Engineering 2
   - Emilio Casaneuva explained that recladding means painting and repairing exterior leaks. He said that on Engineering 2, they are taking the colors of the neighbor, Kohn Hall and doing bands to much like Michael Graves did to bring out the horizontal lines of the building. Buzz Yudell asked if the color would extend into the building opening but Emilio said that there was no place to end it so it is only a small 3” return. Buzz said it would be unfortunate to keep reinforcing that there is not much to the building except surface. Barton wondered if more of the color from the Graves building could be used and more could be done with color than just two bands. The blond color and more of the terra cotta, maybe up to the second floor, might be interesting. It was requested that the building be presented in the round and that some variations be shown. Ric Williams asked if Michael Graves had been consulted if it would be an issue if his colors were to be tweaked/duplicated on a neighboring building. The schedule will allow for this to be brought back at the next meeting.

   - For the cement roof at Campbell Hall, Emilio proposed a terra cotta color, the same roof color seen on 80% of campus buildings. The block would be cleaned and sealed but otherwise would remain as is. George Pernsteiner asked if changing the color of a signature building would open a can of worms. Emilio said the users and Arts and Lectures were in favor of it. Buzz said it looks like you are trying to simulate tile and it is a signature building because it is a folded plate building, an expression of structure, rather than skin, so that simulating tile diminishes the architectural integrity of the building. Barton said he thought that painting the eave/rake edge and the beam that goes back to the wall would enhance the architectural expression. The roof needs to be painted for maintenance reasons, (to obscure the mold that grows on it) but it cannot be painted too dark because heat gain might cause the existing air conditioning to be insufficient.

   - It was decided that this project should come back with alternatives, possibly dark khaki or green and should include a version with colored eaves. Emilio also asked for an opinion regarding developing a plaza in front of Campbell Hall. It was suggested that the development of a public space between the Alumni House and Campbell would come with Alumni House but that in general it would be good to look at enhancing the area.

Minutes were prepared by:
Ilze Landfried

Date 9/10/02

Attachments

cc: Committee and Attendees