DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 14, 2002

Meeting No. 37

ATTENDEES:
- Edson Armi
- Michael Arntz
- Pamela Burton
- Dom Dal Bello
- Colin Gardner
- Elvin Hatch
- Carol Pasternack
- Barton Phelps
- Rich Williams
- Buzz Yudell

ABSENT:
- Bob Haller
- Everett Kirkelie
- Brian McGuire
- Bruce Tiffney

OTHERS

PRESENT
- Ray Aronson
- Michael Bade
- Daniel Belding
- Lars Bildsten
- Jon Cook
- Julie Cunningham
- Joe Doyle
- Maureen Evans
- David Gonzales
- Michael Graves
- David Gross
- David Inouye
- Ed Johnduff
- Ilze Landfried
- Martie Levy
- Gene Lucas
- Jennifer Metz
- Kotaro Nakamura
- Melba Ortiz
- Mark Proicou
- Ralph Roesling
- Tye Simpson
- Deborah Storm
- Ron Strahl
- Sarah Vaughan
- Dennis Whelan
- Alan Walker
- Jack Wolever

ITEM DESCRIPTION

1. Minutes of May 10, 2002 meeting were approved. The next meeting is confirmed for July 12 and August 23 is the tentative date for the following meeting.

2. Action Item: Kohn Hall Expansion Design Approval

- Michael Graves discussed the layout for the expansion explaining that the enclosure of the courtyard would make it more useful to the institute and pointing out that the amphitheater or hemicycle southeast of the existing building can be used as a gathering space by the campus community at large. The bikepath will be realigned at the building corner to provide sufficient clearance. The pavilion at the end will be the same height as the existing library rotunda.

- Carol Pasternack asked what dictated the angle of the new wing and if it were more acute, would there be better ocean views from the offices. Also, the wing would be farther from
the bikepath. Since there is a lot of traffic noise, Carol thought that the offices and hemicycle might be better served by a more acute angle. Michael Graves pointed out the distance to the offices would be about the same and said that the amphitheater would probably be used in the evening when there is less traffic. At busy traffic times scholars might just use it individually for such activities as reading. Mark Proicou said the angle is the result of trying to provide views through the building and preserving the views from the current offices. The trellis would also be affected by a more acute angle. To deal with the noise, the theater will step down and there will be a water fountain to provide white noise. It was determined that speed bumps would not alleviate noise.

- Elvin Hatch asked why the new tower is hexagonal rather than round and why the amphitheater is so tight to the building. Michael Graves said that there is enough area to walk about the hemicycle, that they liked that it occupies its particular pocket, and that there is a 50' setback and they wanted to get the most space they could. They did not want the tower elements to be alike; they wanted some variety and the director’s office was to have large windows.

- Pamela Burton asked about the relationship to the Nanosystems Project on the north, about how the hemicycle would incorporate an ADA ramp with the water feature and what kind of landscape will fill in the rest of the site. Michael Graves assured everyone that ADA requirements would be part of the design for the fountain. The rest of the site will be landscape to be freer to the rest of the University. He said that what struck him about the CNSI project is the location of the road relative to the facade and that it will be the facade that is the entry to the campus.

- Michael Arntz said that the entrance to the campus has been compromised. He said that he told the CPC that the DRC was withdrawing its recommendation to approve the CNSI project and asked that the CPC go look at the project and determine how to vote on it.

- Carol Pasternack said it was a complicated situation. One of the reasons the relationship was hard to understand was that flags were put up that dealt with the turn-out and therefore at the CPC meeting some people found themselves unable to say they clearly understood what was happening in the area and that they could wholeheartedly support the approval. She has since spent time on the site and has a better understanding of the sight lines from the entry road and believes we have some opportunities to re-engineer the entry. Elvin Hatch said if there were to be a roundabout, it would take your attention from the building.

- Michael Graves suggested the University build a large-scale model so that it can see what people will be looking at from the road. It should be done in enough detail to show the character of the facade and show the relationships of the drop off, the landscape, and the size of the buildings and spaces. Michael Arntz said that the DRC made a mistake by not understanding how the projects were coming together. Michael Graves said that to him the space next to the figure in the plaza does not make a gate.

- Tye Simpson said that the existing Kohn Hall is relentlessly symmetrical and he asked if Michael Graves had looked at alternate ways of adding on to it and what any further addition(s) would look like. Michael Graves said he had never looked at the building as being symmetrical and had always perceived it in the round with elements that are not alike. Only the south side is symmetrical. The scheme presented a year ago is different from the
current one and he considered other schemes such as going to three stories. ITP feels that with these new offices they will have reached capacity for a single institution. They would recommend splitting off areas of study if they were to get any larger so a further additions are unlikely.

- Barton Phelps said the enlarged project has transformed the building into a courtyard garden affair with a kind of richness and practicality that is admirable. He thought the tightness of the hemicycle makes it successful. Buzz Yudell said he really likes the way the project speaks to how the building is inhabited. It has warmth to it, is a compendium of special places and a wonderful gift to the campus. David Gross said that ITP is very pleased with the design and spoke about the various ways it will improve the function and use of the facility. Michael Graves talked about some of the ways they will be refining the design, particularly of the courtyard and the "umbrella". Lars Bildsten said the hemicycle will be a part of the circulation of the building and the courtyard will also become more accessible although security will still be a challenge.

- Ric Williams asked about what concepts Michael Graves has in mind for the landscape. Michael Graves said he likes the present loose arrangement at ITP but that the nature of what Venturi is doing is so dramatically different, he thinks that both landscapes should be looked at again and would probably be best seen in model form. He would not have one landscape architect work on one project and another on the other. Michael Arntz said that it has been required that the two landscape architects coordinate their work.

- Michael Arntz said what has been presented is a beautiful image and he has no problem supporting the design in its entirety. He has heard that the wing blocks some of the view from the MRL. Michael Bade said that he has no comments on the design and that the concern before the Regents is the way that East Gate is to take place. The Regents (Regent Hopkinson is interested in the entrance) have asked the campus to make an informational presentation regarding this whole area in August. Personally he thinks the parking garage is forcing too high a density in the area and so there is not enough design freedom to shape a graceful entrance. He explained that the Regents want to approve the Kohn Hall expansion design because of its significance. He thinks what he has seen is adequate to go forward for design approval of the Kohn Hall project which is not tied to approval of any other project. The Regents just want to see how the East Gate is shaping up. They will not slow down the design process of Kohn Hall.

- Carol Pasternack suggested and it was decided that the committee would look at MRL project which is close to ITP before it acts on the Kohn Hall Expansion approval.

3. **Predesign Consultation: Materials Research Laboratory Infill**

- Ron Strahl explained that the project is to house Mitsubishi Chemical’s Center for Advanced Materials. Feasibility studies indicate there is enough space to fit the program. Ralph Roebling said he would present the beginning stages of their work, which has their ideas about the site, its constraints and opportunities. He discussed the orientation to other buildings on campus, to views, and circulation.

- There was some discussion about views from the building with a photo showing the view to the ocean from the existing stairs and David Gross pointing out that the Bren Building has
blocked all of the original views from the building. The architects said that they have not yet studied sight lines from the proposed infill offices and will be studying sight lines later. They showed proposed floor plans resulting from a program that calls for mostly offices and conference areas (laboratory spaces are already available on the lower level). Although the decks and roof space were not originally designed as expansion space, analysis indicates that the structure is adequate to support the addition. There will be some small structural upgrades (connections) in response to code upgrades from the Northridge Earthquake.

- One of the things the architects are looking at is how to make the existing offices that will lose their windows and become internal offices more pleasant. Ralph Roesling said their task has been to fill in the unused spaces and their conceptual idea is that the base of the building is almost a plinth with a heavier kind of feeling. They think the fill-in could be much lighter, partially transparent and partially translucent.

- It was pointed out that originally the views from the building were not to be from the offices but rather from the interior corridors. The original architect did this to help occupants orient to the landscape (mountains and ocean) from within the building. Elvin Hatch said he thought the only view that would be blocked by the Kohn Hall expansion would be that from the stairway but Joe Doyle said there is a casual meeting space on the second floor that would lose its view but no one at MRL has complained about it.

- Jack Wolever said that he has been asked by Engineering to analyze at the whole access area by the MRL to determine how it ought to be re-planned given all the work that is going on in the area. The DRC will see something on this later. When asked by Pamela Burton if the East Gate work should be a part of this, Jack said it might make sense to use the landscape architect that Michael Graves is using to study the area between Kohn Hall, Engineering and MRL.

- Buzz Yudell said that he like the idea of going lighter as you go up, making it sort of translucent and a lantern of activity. There is a nice opportunity to make the area an interesting passage space, an area of energy and movement. Barton Phelps said that some kind of roof monitors could bring light to the interior offices and get a kind of skyline on the building. The committee was satisfied and agreed that the infill project would be a positive move.

4. **Action Item: Kohn Hall Expansion Design Approval (continuation)**

- Michael Graves pointed out that mechanical equipment on the roof at Kohn Hall will be shielded from view from MRL. Lars Bildsten asked Michael Bade if there are any other landmines for the project and Michael Bade said he found the addition quite charming and that the Regents will also find it charming. The expansion does fall within policy for Regents approval and Jack Wolever will present it.

**ACTION**

The Kohn Hall Expansion design was approved.
5. Update California Nanosystems Institute and Parking Structure

- Jack Wolever said that Martie Levy has been working with Alton and Porter on the intersection and a roundabout. This is the only change since the last DRC meeting. The current thinking is that the roundabout would fold out on the west side to accommodate a bus stop. The folks at Kohn Hall have continued to lobby for a drop off and there have been discussions about how it would work and how close to the building it would need to be. There is no solution yet and it is not part of the CNSI project. Lars Bildsten said that they will lose the drop off in front of Kohn Hall. Since the drop off area is used by the entire east side of campus, not just ITP, there is a need to find a solution that works with the traffic circle.

- Martie Levy, discussing the status of the East Gate project, said it might have been a mistake, but it was thought that Alton & Porter/Venturi could do the East Entrance since they were working on CNSI and it made sense to have it all designed by the same firm. They were given the direction to find a place for vehicular pick up/drop off and for a bus stop and the area was to be landscaped. Regent Hopkinson has conveyed that she would like a gateway feel and that it could be a strong landscape entrance but it must feel like a gateway. Since the formal entrance or arrival point for campus is University Plaza, you would not want visitors to stop at East Gate. There have been traffic studies with Penfield & Smith and they are strongly recommending a roundabout. The challenge is to get the entire program in this one area. We should be receiving a concept plan from Duke Oakley next week.

- Tye Simpson discussed Venturi's plaza design and said it was to be an axial extension not a large plaza or gateway. The area plans called for a greater vista between CNSI and Kohn Hall but Bob Venturi thought this was flawed. He also did not want to emphasize the northeast corner of the building as he did not want it to compete with the ITP rotunda. Tye said therefore he did not expect an open plaza gateway between the buildings and expected that we would get the side of a Venturi building, designed to reflect to the north, with a rhythm across it reinforced by the tree plantings and punctuated by the big wow of the LED.

- When asked if the DRC had made a mistake, Barton Phelps said that for him there have been no new revelations about Venturi's design. The only criticism one could make of the section drawing is that the buildings are not actually parallel and so there was a simplification. He recalled that Kaliski had thought there should be an entry plaza but Venturi's position was that gates don't necessarily line up with entry roads. At the very beginning, people pointed to the NW corner of CNSI as a possible gateway element but there was resistance and what finally came back was simply a notch at that corner justified by programmatic requirements.

- Michael Amtz said it has been downhill since the original scheme with CNSI was where the parking garage is now and the parking was underground. Edson Armii said the University hired one of the world's great architects who has always written the same thing, that architecture is a veneer, architecture is a billboard. He gives us this kind of building and now we are angry. Barton Phelps agreed that Venturi did what he said he would do and there were no surprises. Edson Armii said he thought the whole thing should be turned over to Venturi to design and he should be allowed to do it, to design the plaza as he wants. Then if the DRC does not like it, it can discuss it. Pamela Burton pointed out that landscape could form the entry or gateway and bring some kind of cohesive treatment to the
buildings. The committee agreed that this was a good point and that the landscape could create a sequence of events that holds it all together.

- Jack Wolever reiterated what the CNSI architects and the ITP architects know they need to study and discuss. He suggested that Venturi’s landscape architect could be asked to look at the entire arc around CNSI and Kohn Hall and the entrance. Carol Pastermack said she concurs with Pamela and Michael Graves that we should move forward by looking at landscape for the entire area. She also felt that there is a need to understand how the DRC deals with decisions made previously. For example, the DRC had made a decision to build underground on the CNSI site and to have more open space on the site. For logical economic reasons the decision was changed and the DRC needs to consider how it will deal with this in the future. Ric Williams pointed out that often the DRC is not in the position to make a decision about planning and is presented with a set of “givens” and asked to react and therefore it cannot always see how it things fit together in the bigger picture. Michael Arntz said that it is evident that we are hiring people to do master planning too late. He thought there should have been a model of the entire area of the entrance and buildings.

- Michael Arntz said he told CPC that he is not prepared to say that CPC should go ahead just on the word of the DRC but they should go look at the layout and understand the parameters before they vote on it. Jack Wolever said it was important to note that there was additional information that came after the committee had approved the design. There were markings on the pavement and an overlay on the aerial photo so this is an appropriate time for the committee to consider if it erred and if it wants to change its recommendation or if it wants, in the light of understanding the added information, to confirm its approval of the design.

- Buzz Yudell said he is not concern about Venturi’s design. He said he is uncomfortable with the entry sequence and that the focus, even from a distance, is the elevation of a flat building and he thinks that the roundabout is an opportunity to get a more varied sequential experience. His other concern is the big shift in bulk and density from Kohn Hall. When Kohn Hall gets bigger it will help and a number of issues can be mitigated and addressed by landscape and traffic design. A change in program (rather than a redesign) would be required in to change density.

- It was generally agreed that the CNSI project, with good landscape, might set off or frame Kohn Hall and show it to better advantage that at present when it is obscured by thick planting. Michael Bade said he thought this was a time for the campus to start to deal with increasing density and he agreed that it is important to find a way to organize the landscape to replace the jumble that is there now. He believes that campus can find solutions that work with the density that economic considerations will increasingly place on it.

- Carol said that the choice of the person for the AVC will influence the process in the future. Pamela said she thought that UCSB will find that landscape is critical to the cohesiveness of the campus and there has to be some vehicle for the implementation of the landscape beyond the 5’ area around buildings. Martie Levy said that the campus needs to bring in people for master planning because it does not have a consensus on community standards or guidelines. Altoon & Porter are doing a design for the East Entrance but have not been tasked to develop standards. Lars Bildsten said he would not advise that Graves and Venturi get together to solve the landscape as it would not be productive. Martie said there could be a third party brought on to bring the designs together. Jack Wolever pointed out
that Alton & Porter are already working on East Gate and could be asked to suggest something for the areas that are not covered and then ITP could react to it. Since the landscape plan for CNSI has not been presented or approved and since the Venturi folks know ITP's concerns, it would be good to see what they propose.

**ACTION**

Carol Pasternack moved that the DRC confirm its approval of the built-scape for CNSI and the Parking Garage and that it confirm its continued interest in seeing the development of the landscape for the area. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Michael Arrit said that because this was so important, the CPC should do some homework rather than just take DRC's recommendation. The point was made that it is difficult to understand what is going on from site markings or flags; even trained professionals have difficulty visualizing this way and it was unlikely CPC would go to the area.

- Elvin Hatch said he felt the DRC may have lost some credibility at CPC but it was an enormously important issue and it is now sorted out.

6. **Update: Alumni House**
- Dennis Whelan said there is a preliminary report that indicates that the current site may not be viable. Martie said Tye has made a recommendation to the Executive Director of the Alumni House that the site is not viable and that the two alternatives are to combine something with the Faculty Club or use an area north of Campbell Hall.

7. **Future Meetings – Landscape**
- Ric Williams suggested that time be set aside at some future meetings to discuss further the possibility of coming up with some sort of plan to incorporate landscape into DRC's recommendations. He will work on this and present some kind of recommendation particularly with regard to implementation.

Minutes were prepared by: [Signature]
Ilze Landfried

Date: 2/11/02

Attachments

cc: Committee and Attendees