

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 8, 2016

Meeting No.: 231

Project: Arlington Elementary School

Phase: Discussion #2

Location: West Rodgers and Narcissus Avenues

PRESENTATION:

Architect Meredith Sullivan and Landscape Architect Brian Reetz, representing Design Collective, presented revisions to the design of the Arlington Elementary School. Changes to the building design included:

1. Improved interior circulation,
2. A cognitive reorganization of spaces along clear circulation routes,
3. An axial location of a new stair tower, and,
4. A two-story addition along the south side of the existing building which will expand the ground floor cafeteria and provide additional natural light.

Proposed changes to site and landscape design included:

1. A more formal organization of interconnected “exterior rooms” (play areas, lawns, recreation fields, gardens)
2. A strong, formal circulation system connecting building to site, and
3. A landscape palette which reinforces the formal circulation system and the interconnected outdoor rooms.

PANEL COMMENTS:

In general, the Panel was pleased with the design revisions proposed. The Panel did offer the following comments in an effort to continue to advance the design:

Site/Landscape:

1. Provide a continuous sidewalk along Narcissus Avenue adjacent to the E.C.D.C. drop off and parking lot,
2. Provide a sidewalk at the end of Beaufort Avenue connecting to the school campus circulation system,
3. Consider shifting the auto drop off area along West Rogers Avenue to the east and away from the strong pedestrian entry axis; and,

4. Consider providing opportunities or “instructional moments” where the circulation, landscape and spatial organization is less formal. This suggested “loosening” of the rigid formality of the site plan may be best achieved on the south side of the campus adjacent to the open space and recreation field.

ARCHITECTURE/BUILDING DESIGN:

1. Reconsider the scale and design of the new stair tower so that it is less heroic and more sympathetic/differential to the existing historic building. Perhaps the tower is lower and the scale of windows and fenestration is more fine-grained.
2. Re-conceptualize the façade of the linear two-story addition on the south side of the existing building so it is more a mediating “transitional” element between the tradition punch window grid of the existing building and the more contemporary expression of strip windows in the E.C.D.C. addition.
3. Restudy and resolve the relationship of the circulation link and the two-story addition adjacent to the service area. The roof and massing in this area appears overly complicated and self-referential.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion only.

Attendees:

Meredith Sullivan, J. Leonard, Paul Drummond, Emily Lodato, Brian Reetz – DCI

Charlie Ravenna – CSP

Michael McBride – BCPS

Derk Jeffrey – Stantec

Mssrs. Bowden, Burns*, and Ms. Ilieva – UDARP

Tom Stosur, Anthony Cataldo, Christina Hartsfield, Matthew DeSantis, Wolde Ararsa, Mary-Colleen Buettner – Dept. of Planning