



STAFF REPORT
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

**For the Design Review Commission
Meeting of January 6, 2011**

TO: Design Review Commission

FROM: Shena Rojemann, Associate Planner

SUBJECT: A request for an R-1 Design Review Permit to allow the construction of a new two-story single-family residence, located in the Central Area of the City, north of Santa Monica Boulevard at **601 North Crescent Drive. (PL 102 0643).**

Continued from the December 2, 2010 Design Review Commission meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item was reviewed by the Commission as a public hearing item at its September 2, 2010 meeting, its October 4, 2010 meeting, its November 4, 2010 meeting and its December 2, 2010 meeting. . At the December 2, 2010 meeting, the Commission directed that the project be returned for restudy and expressed the following design concerns:

Design Review Commission Requests December 2, 2010 Meeting	Applicant's Response
1. The Commission commented that the plans and renderings were inconsistent and expressed the need for the renderings and plans to accurately reflect each other. Additionally, the floor plans did not match the elevations.	1. The applicant has made multiple improvements to the plans including adjusting the floor plans to accurately align with the proposed elevations.
2. The design felt like a large box with decorations and was lacking detail and overall design.	2. The applicant has redesigned the southern elevation. The applicant has also redesigned the tower element on the roof. This element no longer contains windows and is now centered along the southern façade. The porte cochere has been removed from the front elevation.
3. The southern elevation needs modulation and depth. The middle section of the façade feels awkward.	3. The applicant has redesigned the southern elevation to include more modulation and depth.
4. A single front door is preferred.	4. The front door design (wood double door) is unchanged.

A materials board will be presented at the meeting.

DESIGN ANALYSIS

Pursuant to BHMC Section 10-3.4415, the Design Review Commission may approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the issuance of a building permit in any matter subject to its jurisdiction after considering whether the proposed development complies with the following criteria.

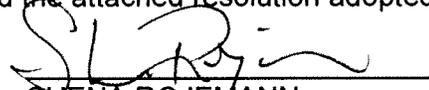
If the Commission chooses to approve the design, the findings contained in Exhibit B must be made verbally at the meeting.

Upon consideration of criteria set forth in BHMC 10-3.4415, The Commission has the following options:

1. Approve the plans as presented;
2. Approve the plans subject to the following and /or other conditions, to bring the plans into conformance with criteria set forth in BHMC 10-3.4415;
3. Disapprove the plans upon detailed findings that certain criteria set forth in BHMC 10-3.4415 are not met; or
4. Return the plans for restudy and resubmittal.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing analysis and pending the information and conclusions that may result from testimony received at the public hearing, if the Commission chooses to approve the project, all findings must be made by the Commission and the attached resolution adopted.



SHENA ROJEMANN
Associate Planner

Attachment(s)

Exhibit A - DRC Findings

Exhibit B – Standard Conditions of Approval

Exhibit C – Approval Resolution of the Commission's consideration

Exhibit A
DRC Findings

If the Commission finds that the project meets the criteria set forth below, the Commission shall make findings to approve the application. When the proposed development does not comply with the criteria, the Commission may impose such conditions it deems necessary to bring the proposed development into conformity with the provisions of this article.

- 1. The proposed development's design exhibits an internally compatible design scheme.***
- 2. Appropriately minimizes the appearance of scale and mass, enhances the garden like quality of the city, and appropriately maximizes the use of required open space within the proposed architectural style.***
- 3. The development will enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.***
- 4. The proposed development is designed to balance the reasonable expectation of development for the owner with the reasonable expectation of privacy of neighbors.***
- 5. The proposed development respects prevailing site design pattern, carefully analyzing the characteristics of the surrounding group of homes, and integrates appropriate features that will ensure harmony between old and new.***

Exhibit B
Standard Conditions of Approval

1. Any approval by the Commission is for design only; the project is subject to all applicable City zoning regulations.
2. Any future modifications to this approval shall be presented to staff for a determination as to whether the change may be approved by staff (minor) or to the Commission for review. Changes made without City approval may be required to be restored to match the City approved plans.
3. Final plans shall include spec sheets for windows to include manufacturer, size and shape.
4. Colored elevations for all construction visible from the street shall be provided with call-outs for each material proposed for verification in the field during construction.
5. A copy of the final conditions of approval per the approved Resolution shall be scanned onto the cover sheet of the final building plans.
6. The proposed landscape plan shall comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance.

Exhibit C

Resolution of Approval for
the Commission's consideration

RESOLUTION NO. DR

RESOLUTION OF THE DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDITIONALLY APPROVING AN R-1 DESIGN REVIEW PERMIT TO ALLOW A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 601 NORTH CRESCENT DRIVE

Hamid Omrani, applicant on behalf of the property owner, has applied for an R-1 Design Review Permit to allow a new single-family residence on a single-family property located in the Central Area of the City. As conditioned, the Project meets all required zoning standards, including height, setbacks, parking, and floor area.

The Design Review Commission of the City of Beverly Hills hereby finds, resolves, and determines as follows:

Section 1. Reviewing Authority.

Pursuant to Section 10-3-4408 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code, no single-family residence located in a Central R-1 Zone shall be erected, constructed, altered, or remodeled unless the elevations and plans for the exterior portions and areas visible from the street are reviewed and approved by the City. The Design Review Commission is the reviewing authority if it has first been determined that the design does not substantially conform to a pure architectural style or has not been designed by a licensed architect. The project was not found to adhere to a pure architectural style, nor was it designed by a licensed architect, therefore, it has been determined that the Design Review Commission shall be the reviewing authority.

Pursuant to Section 10-3-4415 of the Beverly Hills Municipal code, the request for a Design Review Permit may be approved, provided the Design Review Commission makes certain findings as set forth in Section 4: Project Public Hearing/Approved Project Plans.

Section 2. Terms Defined.

The Following Terms	Shall Mean:
"Project Site"	601 North Crescent Drive
"Agent"	Hamid Omrani
"Property Owner"	Behnam Yadegari
"Applicant"	Collectively, the property owner and agent.

Section 3. Project Description.

The lot is currently vacant. The proposed new two-story residence will be developed on the site. Surrounding development consists of one- and two-story single-family homes.

Section 4. Project Public Hearing/Approved Project Plans

The Design Review Commission held a duly noticed public hearing to consider the application. Evidence, both written and oral, was presented and architectural plans addressing the conditions of approval were presented for the Commission's consideration in conjunction with this Resolution.

- A Public Hearing for this project was held on the following date(s):
 - September 2, 2010
 - October 7, 2010
 - November 4, 2010
 - December 2, 2010
 - January 6, 2011
- Architectural plans were conditionally approved by the Commission on January 6, 2011.

Section 5. Environmental Assessment

The Project has been environmentally reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq, hereafter the "Guidelines"), and the City's environmental guidelines. The City has determined that the Project qualifies for a Class 2 Categorical Exemption (replacement or reconstruction of a single-family residence) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15302 of the Guidelines. Therefore, no significant impacts to the environment are anticipated.

Section 6. Findings of the Design Review Commission.

Based upon the evidence presented at the hearing, including the staff report and architectural plans, the Design Review Commission made findings to approve the project as set forth in "Exhibit 1" to this Resolution.

Section 7. Conditions of Approval

Based on the foregoing, the Design Review Commission hereby grants the R-1 Design Review Permit for the Project subject to the conditions set forth in "Exhibit 2" to this Resolution.

Section 8. Certification.

The Secretary of the Design Review Commission shall certify to the passage, approval, and adoption of this resolution, and shall cause this resolution and certification to be entered in the Book of Resolutions of the Design review Commission of the City.

Adopted: January 6, 2010

Susan Strauss
Chair of the Design Review Commission of
the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:

Secretary

Approved as to content:

Jonathan Lait, AICP
City Planner

EXHIBIT 1 OF 2: FINDINGS

Based on its review of the application, documentation, and the testimony heard at the public hearing, the Design Review Commission determined that the proposed Project meets the following 5 criteria in accordance with Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-4415:

1. The project includes high quality materials such as smooth stucco, two-piece mission roof tile, and wood windows and doors. The proposed materials and details are consistent throughout the project's design, thereby creating a uniform design scheme. Based on the project's balanced design and consistent use of materials, it appears to exhibit an internally compatible design scheme.

2. The project incorporates substantial modulation along the facades, contains recessed windows and doors, and contains a dynamic roofline. Because these elements help to reduce the appearance of mass and scale, it is therefore possible to make the required finding. The landscape plan utilizes a variety of landscaping features and mature-sized trees that will contribute to the garden quality of the city and help to soften the appearance of the project.

3. The project utilizes high quality building materials and design, which will help to enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. Additionally, the design follows a consistent, balanced theme, while maintaining an appropriate level of scale, mass, and modulation. Therefore, the project is expected to enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.

4. The project meets the City's current side setback requirements along all property lines. Additionally, the project is located on a corner property, which has only one shared property line. Because the project meets all required setbacks and has only one shared property line, the proposed project creates a balance between the reasonable expectation of development and the reasonable expectation of privacy of neighbors.

5. The project respects prevailing site design by following prevailing setbacks and building orientation found along the adjacent streetscape. Although the project is larger than some of the existing residences on the block, the design has been executed to ensure that scale and massing is controlled, and that the project will be consistent with the surrounding area. Based on its design, the project maximizes floor area without appearing unduly massive and bulky and would be a harmonious addition to the existing neighborhood.

EXHIBIT 2 OF 2: CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

3. Design Review: Any approval by the Commission is for design only; the project is subject to all applicable City zoning regulations.

4. Final Plans: The Applicant shall submit final working drawings to the Director of Community Development for review and approval prior to the issuance of a building permit. The Project shall be built in substantial compliance with the plans approved by the Design Review Commission on January 6, 2011 on file with the Department of Community Development.

5. Future Modifications: Any future modifications to this approval shall be presented to staff for a determination as to whether the change may be approved by staff (minor changes only) or presented to the Commission for review. Changes made without City approval may be required to be restored to match the City approved plans.

6. Windows: Final plans shall include spec sheets for windows and include the name of the manufacturer, size, shape, color and material of each window.

7. Elevations – Material Call-Outs: Colored elevations for all construction visible from the street shall be provided with the final plans. Call-outs for each material shall be provided for verification in the field during construction.

Resolution Scanned on Plans: A copy of the approved Resolution (including the Findings and Conditions of Approval) shall be scanned onto the cover sheet of the approved building plans.

11. Water Efficient Landscaping: The proposed landscape plan shall comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance.

12. Construction Management Plan. Prior to the issuance of building permits, the Applicant shall prepare a construction management plan for review and approval by the Department of Community Development. The plan shall include the location of construction parking, loading and hauling routes and locations, and number of construction employees anticipated on site. All construction-related parking, staging and hauling shall conform to the construction parking and hauling plan submitted to and approved by the Building Official and the City Engineer.

13. Site Maintenance and Contact Information. The Applicant shall maintain the site in an orderly condition prior to commencement of and during construction, including, but not limited to, maintenance of the orderly appearance of existing structures and landscaping on the site, dust suppression for areas cleared by demolition, maintenance of safety barriers and adjacent public sidewalks, and provision of a contact person directly accessible to the public by telephone in the event that the public has any concerns regarding maintenance of the site. The name and telephone number of the contact person shall be transmitted to the Director of Community Development and

the Building Official. In addition, the Applicant shall post the name and telephone number of the contact person on the site in a location readily visible to the general public and approved by the Director of Community Development.

14. Recordation of Covenant. These conditions of approval shall run with the land and shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the life of this approval. This resolution approving the R-1 Design Review Permit shall not become effective until the owner of the Project site records a covenant, satisfactory in form and content to the City Attorney, accepting the conditions of approval set forth in this resolution. The covenant shall include a copy of this resolution as an exhibit. The Covenant shall be recorded prior to issuance of a building permit.

The Applicant shall deliver the executed covenant to the Department of Community Development **within 60 days** of the Design Review Commission decision. At the time that the Applicant delivers the covenant to the City, the Applicant shall also provide the City with all fees necessary to record the document with the County Recorder. If the Applicant fails to deliver the executed covenant within the required 60 days, this resolution approving the R-1 Design Review **shall be null and void** and of no further effect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the director of Community Development may, upon a request by the Applicant, grant a waiver from the 60-day time limit if, at the time of the request, the Director determines that there have been no substantial changes to any federal, state or local law that would affect the R-1 Design Review.

DRC Resolution No.: DR
601 North Crescent Drive

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS.
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS)

I, JONATHAN LAIT, Secretary of the Design Review Commission and City Planner of the City of Beverly Hills, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. DR duly passed, approved, and adopted by the Design Review Commission of said City at a meeting of said Commission on January 6, 2011 and thereafter duly signed by the Secretary of the Design Review Commission, as indicated; and that the Design Review Commission of the City consists of five (5) members and said Resolution was passed by the following vote of said Commission, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

JONATHAN LAIT, AICP
Secretary to the Design Review
Commission/City Planner
City of Beverly Hills, California