



Architectural Commission Report

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Subject: **LOUIS VUITTON OFFICE**
9555 Wilshire Boulevard

Request for approval of a façade remodel and a landscape planter. The Commission will also consider adoption of a Categorical Exemption, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
(PL1308599)

Project agent: Ashok Vanmali – Gruen Associates

Recommendation: Conduct public hearing to discuss the project details and provide the applicant with an approval, as conditioned.

REPORT SUMMARY

The applicant is requesting review and approval of a façade remodel and a landscape planter for a new Louis Vuitton office. The façade remodel includes the following components:

- Light beige smooth plaster facade;
- Brown fabric awnings;
- Storefront system with black aluminum mullions, and;
- Brown fiberglass landscape planter with three 15 gallon Podocarpus Elongatus.

No signage is proposed as part of this project.

DESIGN ANALYSIS

Based on staff's review of the proposed design, the façade configuration and landscaping contribute to a simple design aesthetic. While two existing retail storefronts are proposed for removal as part of the façade remodel, staff has engaged the applicant to maintain the pedestrian-oriented configuration of the space. To that effect, staff recommends conditioning the project to require transparent glazing for the storefront, wrapping the returns of the awnings to the building face, and finalizing the landscape planter details, subject to final review and approval by staff. Such conditions have been included in the draft approval resolution.

ZONING CODE COMPLIANCE

Applications for design review are preliminarily evaluated for compliance with the zoning code. Applicants are encouraged and have the option of requesting a comprehensive review separate and apart from this application. Formal compliance review will occur when a building permit application is filed (plan check). The applicant has been advised that changes during plan check may require revisions and subsequent approval from the Architectural Commission or staff, as appropriate.

Attachment(s):

- A. Detailed Design Description and Materials (Applicant Prepared)
- B. Project Design Plans
- C. DRAFT Approval Resolution

Report Author and Contact Information:

Cindy Gordon, Associate Planner
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cgordon@beverlyhills.org



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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The subject project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – Public Resources Code §§21000 – 21178), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project includes the review of building design, colors and materials to the façade of the building, front yard landscaping or minor low-scaled accessory structures, such as fences or walls. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the subject activity could result in a significant effect on the environment.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND NOTIFICATION

Public notification was not required for this project.



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Attachment A:

Detailed Design Description
and Materials (applicant prepared)

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION / ZONING INFORMATION

A Indicate Requested Application

- Staff Review
 - Three (3) sets of plans required (see Section 6 for plan size requirements).
- Architectural Commission Review
 - Ten (10) sets of plans required (see Section 6 for plan size requirements).
 - Public Notice materials required for Sign Accommodations (see Section 5 for public notice requirements).

B Identify the scope of work (check all that apply):

- New construction
- Façade Remodel ONLY
- Business Identification Sign(s)
Number of signs proposed:
- Building Identification Sign(s)
Number of signs proposed:
- Sign Accommodation (explain reason for the accommodation request below):
Number of signs proposed:
- Other:
- Remodel: Int. & Ext, no floor area added
- Remodel: Int. & Ext, floor area added
- Awning(s): New Recovery
- Open Air Dining: #Tables # Chairs

C Describe the scope of work proposed including materials and finishes:

Facade renovation to significantly clean up the existing condition.
 New stucco facade/ new windows at ground level / two new awnings to replace what is currently there / new planter with a screen tree.

C Identify the Project Zoning (City Zoning Map: <http://gis.beverlyhills.org/UNITEGIS/>)

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> R-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4X | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4-P | <input type="checkbox"/> R-4X2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> RMCP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3A | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-3T-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> C-5 |

E Lot is currently developed with (check all that apply):

- General Office Building
- Retail Building
- Medical Office Building
- Multi-family Building
- Vacant
- Restaurant
- Other (specify below):

F Are any protected trees located on the property? (See the City’s tree removal guidelines at: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/services/building/plans/tree.asp.>)

Yes No

If YES, provide the following information:

Tree Type: Heritage Tree(s) Native Tree(s) Urban Grove

Species:

Quantity/Sizes:

Reason for Removal:

G Has the existing structure been designed by a notable architect or is it identified on any historic resource inventory, including the City of Beverly Historic Resources Survey (Verify with the Planning Division if the property is listed on the City’s survey)?

Yes No If yes, please list Architect’s name:

SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS AND MATERIALS (continues on next page)

A Indicate in the chart below all applicable signage details:

	<u>Type of Sign</u> (i.e. business ID, building ID, parking, etc.)	<u>Dimensions</u> (length x width)	<u>Square Feet</u>	<u>Maximum Area Permitted by Code</u>	<u>Maximum Area Permitted w/ Sign Accommodation</u> (if applicable)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

C List the specific materials and finishes for all of the architectural features proposed in the project (List N/A, not applicable, for features that do not apply.):

FAÇADE (List all material for all portions visible from the street)

Material: Stucco
 Texture /Finish: Smooth
 Color / Transparency: Cream

WINDOWS/DOORS (Include frame, trim, glass, metal, etc.)

Material: Glass with Black Aluminum Mullions
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

ROOF

Material: N/A
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

CHIMNEY(S)

Material: N/A
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

COLUMNS

Material: N/A
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

BALCONIES & RAILINGS

Material: N/A
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

OUTDOOR DINING ELEMENTS (List all material for all outdoor dining elements.)

Material: N/A
 Texture /Finish: N/A
 Color / Transparency: N/A

SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS AND MATERIALS (continued from previous page)

AWNINGS, CANOPIES

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

DOWNSPOUTS / GUTTERS

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

BUSINESS ID SIGN(S)

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

BUILDING ID SIGN(S)

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

PAVED SURFACES

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

FREESTANDING WALLS AND FENCES

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

OTHER DESIGN ELEMENTS

Material: N/A

Texture /Finish: N/A

Color / Transparency: N/A

D Describe the proposed landscape theme, if applicable. Explain how the proposed landscaping complements the proposed style of architecture:

The planter and shrubs proposed are inspired from The Grille's planters next door and help provide an attractive and sophisticated element to the facade where a blank wall is needed to close off the stairway within.

SECTION 4 – DESIGN ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS (for Commission level applications only)

A Clearly identify how your project adheres to each of the required findings of the Architectural Review Commission:

1. **Describe how the proposed building or structure is in conformity with good taste and good design and, in general, contributes to the image of Beverly Hills as a place of beauty, spaciousness, balance, taste, fitness, broad vistas and high quality.**

The simplistic facade is tasteful and elegant while updating the dated and run down existing facades of the current building.
The tall awnings and centrally placed planter relates to the upscale Beverly Hills elegance and will be well maintained by this luxury goods tenant.

2. **Describe how the proposed building or structure indicates the manner in which the structure is reasonably protected against external and internal noise, vibrations, and other factors which may tend to make the environment less desirable.**

The exterior walls have limited windows and additional skylights on the roof to allow in light while not getting overwhelmed with the street noise.

3. **Describe how the proposed building or structure is not, in its exterior design and appearance, of inferior quality such as to cause the nature of the local environment to materially depreciate in appearance and value.**

The proposed design combines the two existing storefronts into a uniform single front with a simple pallet of materials.

4. **Describe how the proposed building or structure is in harmony with the proposed developments on land in the general area, with the general plan for Beverly Hills, and with any precise plans adopted pursuant to the general plan.**

The cream color facade, awnings, and planter is in harmony with many Beverly Hills area hotels, restaurants, and shops.

5. **Describe how the proposed development is in conformity with the standards of the municipal code and other applicable laws insofar as the location and appearance of the buildings and structures are involved.**

The proposed development confirms to the municipal code and other applicable laws, and we have studied many possible facade designs to get to this point and feel it is an excellent combination of the building users needs and the City's suggestions.



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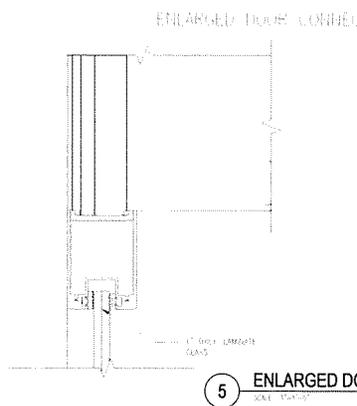
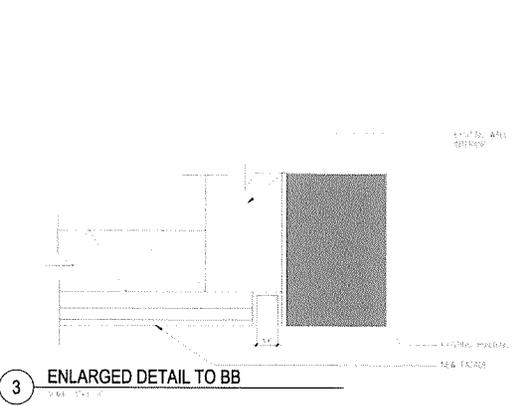
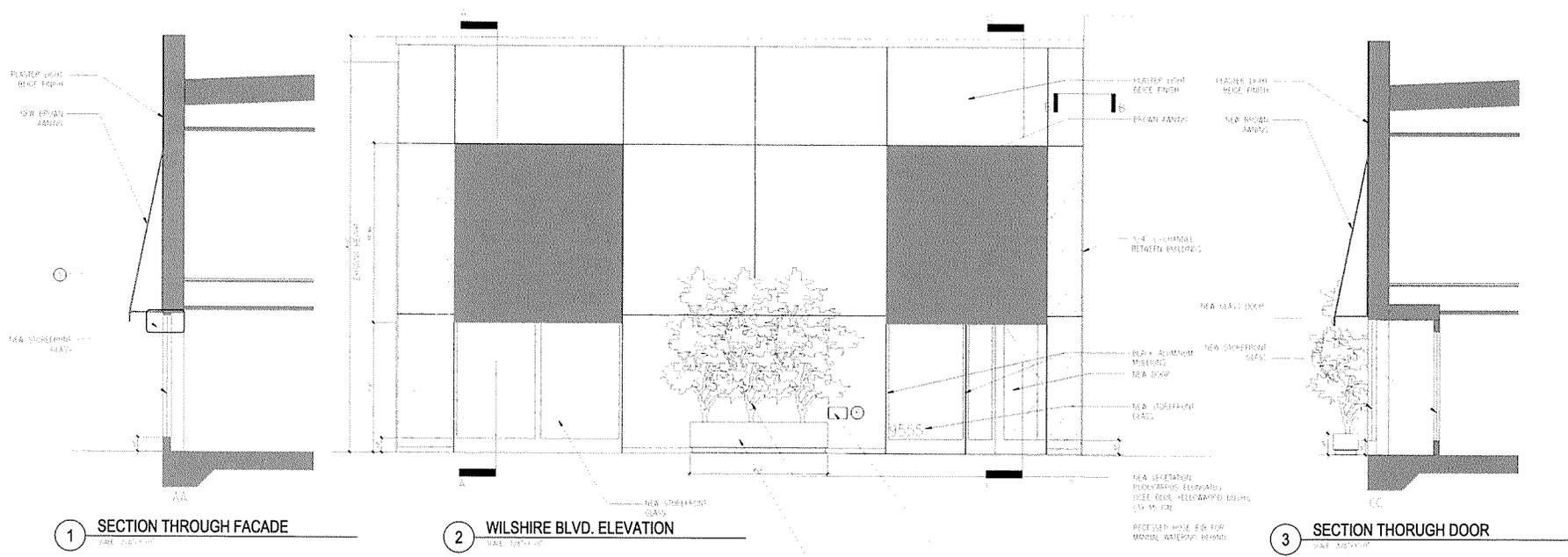
Attachment B:
Project Design Plans



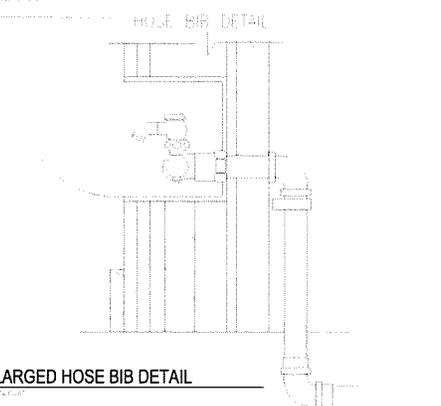
1 EXISTING ELEVATION
SCALE: N/A

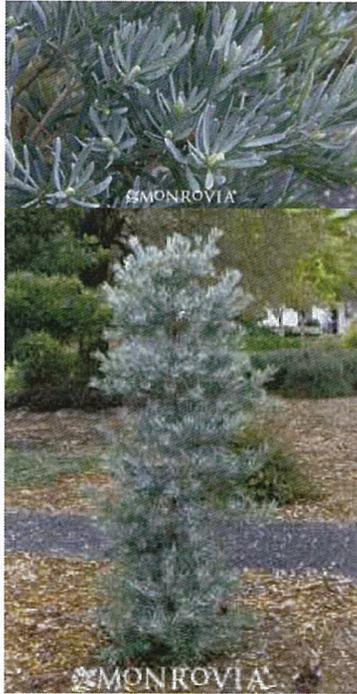


2 PROPOSED ELEVATION
SCALE: N/A



DOOR AND WINDOW SCHEDULE					
DOOR	DOOR SIZE	MATERIAL	DETAIL	COMMENT	
TYPE B	HEAD HT: 7'-0"	GLASS	FRAME: HEAD/SILL: JAMB: -	CENTRAL PANEL W/ 1 PANEL LOCK	
CLS	3'-0" x 7'-0"	GL	MTL		
WINDOW	WINDOW SIZE	MATERIAL	DETAIL	COMMENT	
TYPE A	HEAD HT: 7'-0"	GLASS	FRAME: HEAD/SILL: JAMB: -	1" TWP LAMINATED SECURITY GLASS	
CLS	3'-0" x 7'-0"	GL	MTL		







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Attachment C:

DRAFT Approval Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. AC-XX-13

RESOLUTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDITIONALLY APPROVING AN ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PERMIT TO ALLOW A FAÇADE REMODEL AND LANDSCAPE PLANTER FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9555 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD (PL1308599 – LOUIS VUITTON OFFICE).

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

Section 1. Ashok Vanmali, Gruen Associates, agent, on behalf of the property owner, Joe Mizrahi, Kornwasser & Associates, and the tenant, Louis Vuitton Office (Collectively the “Applicant”), has applied for architectural approval of a façade remodel and landscape planter for the property located at 9555 Wilshire Boulevard.

Section 2. Beverly Hills Municipal Code Article 30, Chapter 3 of Title 10, authorizes the Architectural Commission the authority to approve, approve with conditions or deny design-related aspects of projects located in the city’s commercial and multi-family districts, subject to findings set forth in Beverly Municipal Code Section 10-3-3010.

Section 3. Consistent with Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-3010, this resolution documents the official action of the architectural commission with respect to the project.

Section 4. The subject project has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – Public Resource Code Sections 21000, *et seq.*), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 *et seq.*), and the city’s local CEQA Guidelines. The subject project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section

15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines in that the project includes the review of building design, colors and materials to the façade of the building, landscaping or minor low-scaled accessory structures, such as fences or walls. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the subject activity could result in a significant effect on the environment.

Section 5. The Architectural Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on June 19, 2013 at which time oral and documentary evidence was received concerning the application.

Section 6. Based upon the evidence presented at the hearings, including the staff report(s), oral and written testimony, the Architectural Commission hereby makes the following findings:

A. The plan for the proposed building or structure is in conformity with good taste and good design and, in general, contributes to the image of Beverly Hills as a place of beauty, spaciousness, balance, taste, fitness, broad vistas, and high quality. Specifically the project incorporates an appropriate balance of color, high quality materials and appropriate architectural design principles to reinforce the city's urban form and promote the image of Beverly Hills.

B. The plan for the proposed building or structure indicates the manner in which the structure is reasonably protected against external and internal noise, vibrations, and other factors which may tend to make the environment less desirable. The proposed project is proposed to be constructed using contemporary building materials and practices, and, as conditioned, compliant with all applicable building codes, including standards that protect against unwanted noise and vibrations.

C. Proposed building or structure is not, in its exterior design and appearance, of inferior quality such as to cause the nature of the local environment to materially depreciate in appearance and value. Specifically, the commission has reviewed the design and construction materials proposed for the project, which incorporates contemporary building material of known quality and durability. Moreover, the project design is appropriate to the building and surrounding improvements and is well matched to the selected materials.

D. As conditioned, the proposed building or structure is in harmony with the proposed developments on land in the general area, with the general plan for Beverly Hills, and with any precise plans adopted pursuant to the general plan. The proposed project complies with the applicable goals and policies set forth in the general plan, and, as conditioned, designed in a manner that complies with local ordinances. The overall design is consistent with and appropriate to other improvements in the general vicinity.

E. The proposed development is in conformity with the standards of this code and other applicable laws insofar as the location and appearance of the buildings and structures are involved. As, conditioned, the project will be designed in compliance with all applicable regulations.

F. The proposed development is designed in a manner that protects and preserves those exterior elements of the building which the planning commission found contributed to the determination of the project as a "character contributing building": in accordance with section 10-2-707 of this title. The proposed project does not include a request and has not been determined by the planning commission to be a project that qualifies as a "character contributing building" under section 10-2-707. Therefore, this finding is not applicable to the subject project.

Section 7. Based on the foregoing, the Architectural Commission hereby grants the request defined in this resolution subject to the following conditions:

Project-Specific Conditions

1. The storefront window glazing shall be fully transparent. No translucent or opaque finishes may be applied to the storefront windows.
2. The returns of the awnings shall be fully wrapped to the building face.
3. The final details on the landscape planter shall be returned to staff for final review and approval.

Standard Conditions

1. **Revised Plan Submittal.** For all projects that are approved with project-specific conditions, a revised plan set that has fully incorporated all such conditions shall be submitted to the project planner, both in hard copy format and in electronic format, prior to submitting for the building permit plan check process.
2. **Architectural Approval.** Project approval is for the design-related aspects of the project only. No approval is implied or granted with regard to applicable city zoning or technical codes, which may require review and approval from other city commissions or officials.
3. **Compliance with Municipal Code.** Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall demonstrate compliance with all applicable provisions of the city's municipal code and applicable conditions imposed by any discretionary review approval.
4. **Compliance with Special Conditions.** Any special conditions that require approval by the director of community development, or designee, shall be submitted to the staff liaison to the commission

within fourteen (14) days of approval or prior to submittal of the plan check review application, whichever is greater.

5. **Project Rendering.** Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall incorporate into the building permit set of plans, an updated color rendering of all building facades. The quality and detail of the rendering shall be subject to approval from the director of community development, or designee, and shall include sufficient design information to evaluate project compliance during construction.
6. **Approval Resolution.** A copy of the signed resolution of approval shall be scanned onto the cover sheet(s) of the building permit set of plans.
7. **Substantial Compliance with Approved Plans.** The director of community development, or designee, shall determine if changes to the approved project are in substantial compliance with the commission's action. This determination shall be subject to applicable fees and charges. A substantial modification to the approved project requires approval from the Architectural Commission.
8. **Validity of Permits.** The rights granted by this approval shall remain valid for three (3) years from the date of approval, unless extended pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code Section 10-3-207.

Section 8. The Secretary of the Architectural Commission shall certify to the passage, approval, and adoption of this resolution, and shall cause this resolution and its certification to be entered in the administrative record maintained by the community development department.

Section 9. Decisions of the Architectural Commission may be appealed to the City Council within fourteen (14) days of the final action by filling a written appeal and paying appropriate fees with the City of Beverly Hills City Clerk.

Approved as to Form and Content:

Adopted: June 19, 2013

William Crouch, Commission Secretary
Community Development Department

Zale Richard Rubins, Chair
Architectural Commission