



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Charlie Hales, Mayor  
Paul L. Scarlett, Director  
Phone: (503) 823-7300  
Fax: (503) 823-5630  
TTY: (503) 823-6868  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

**STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE DESIGN COMMISSION**

CASE FILE: LU 13-129180 DZ – SW 12<sup>th</sup> + Clay Apartments  
Pre-App.: EA 13-102319 PC  
REVIEW BY: Design Commission  
WHEN: Thursday June 6, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.  
WHERE: 1900 SW Fourth Ave., Room 2500A  
Portland, OR 97201

It is important to submit all evidence to the Design Commission. City Council will not accept additional evidence if there is an appeal of this proposal.

**BUREAU OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF: MARK WALHOOD / [MARK.WALHOOD@PORTLANDOREGON.GOV](mailto:MARK.WALHOOD@PORTLANDOREGON.GOV)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Kurt Schultz  
SERA Architects  
338 NW 5th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209

**Purchaser:** Michael Mckenna  
Mactrust, Llc C/O Summit Realty Group LLC  
3831 SW Barbur Blvd  
Portland, OR 97239

**Owner:** Clay Street Associates LLC  
5125 SW Macadam Ave #125  
Portland, OR 97239

**Site Address:** 1500-1520 SW 12TH AVE

**Legal Description:** BLOCK 266 LOT 7&8, PORTLAND  
**Tax Account No.:** R667729640, R667729640  
**State ID No.:** 1S1E04AD 04900, 1S1E04AD 04900  
**Quarter Section:** 3128

**Neighborhood:** Portland Downtown, contact Jennifer Geske at 503-750-9843.  
**Business District:** None  
**District Coalition:** Neighbors West/Northwest, contact Mark Sieber at 503-823-4212.

**Zoning:** **RXd** (Central Residential base zone with Design overlay zone), **Central City plan district**

**Case Type:** **DZ** (Design Review)

**Procedure:** **Type III**, with a public hearing before the Design Commission. The decision of the Design Commission can be appealed to City Council.

**Proposal:** The applicant has proposed the development of a new eight-story apartment building on a quarter block downtown site at SW 12<sup>th</sup> and Clay, on the site of an existing two-story midcentury office building. The project would include 83 market-rate apartments, ground floor lobby, ground floor fitness room and outdoor courtyard, a single loading bay off of SW Clay Street, and long-term bike parking room.

The applicant has revised the proposal slightly since the original application and agency Request for Response document. The number of units has been reduced from 86 to 83, the rooftop deck has been eliminated, and the basement level has been eliminated. An elevator over-run still goes up to the roof, allowing for future rooftop deck access, and the ground floor has been reconfigured to add the fitness room, a bike locker room, and equipment storage areas where apartments were previously located.

The building has an L-shaped plan, with an interior light well/courtyard, and a prominent inset corner entry bay at SW 12<sup>th</sup> & Clay. A large glass canopy extends over the corner pedestrian entry, which itself is pulled back from the street lot lines with a chamfered corner door at the entry lobby. Residential units are found on the balance of the first floor, two of which include recessed entry vestibules along SW 12<sup>th</sup>, except where a single loading bay and trash room are located along the eastern portion of the SW Clay Street frontage, and a long-term bike locker room and fire/water service room along the SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue frontage.

The exterior design takes design inspiration from the classic streetcar-era apartments in the neighborhood, with clear division of the facade into the classical base, shaft and attic/top elements. The primary exterior skin is a red brick, with an off-white brick used at the top two floors ('attic'), and at the chamfered street corner bays above the entry. Rectangular panels under each window are made of painted fiber cement panel, and the upper-story windows are all fiberglass. Projecting shed-roofed fabric awnings are located at street level on both street facades, and a decorative metal railing encloses the entry vestibule for the two street-level units with access onto SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The building top is identified by a projecting metal cornice and stucco parapet, and stucco with metal roofing is also used on rooftop penthouse structure.

The project location and cost trigger a Type III Design Review. No concurrent modifications or adjustments are requested at this time.

**Approval Criteria:** In order to be approved, this proposal must comply with the approval criteria of Title 33, Portland Zoning Code. The applicable approval criteria are:

- *The Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines*

## ANALYSIS

**Site and Vicinity:** The site is a 10,000 square foot parcel at the southeast corner of the intersection of SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Clay Street. The site is developed with a two-story office building originally constructed in 1958. A small surface parking lot for approximately 20 vehicles is located behind the building on the east half of the site, with driveway access onto SW Clay Street. While there is no landscaping in the parking lot itself, there are shrubs and other landscape materials between the building walls and the adjacent sidewalks in both SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW Clay street, except at the corner where a paved building entry walkway is located.

The surrounding area is primarily residential, but also includes significant commercial and residential uses. The remainder of the subject block includes two older apartment buildings to the east, a two-story commercial structure directly to the south, and a surface parking lot

diagonally to the southeast. The entire block across SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west consists of multi-story residential buildings. A half-block residential high-rise is located directly to the north across SW Clay Street, and provides senior housing. Several of the nearby buildings provide group living housing opportunities or housing for the formerly homeless, in addition to both affordable and market-rate apartments. The north edge of the Portland State University campus is located one block to the south along SW Market Street, and there are several churches within a three-block radius, including two in the block immediately northwest of the site.

The surrounding streets are both improved with paved roadways, curbing, and paved public sidewalks. Southwest 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue has two lanes for northbound vehicle traffic, a dedicated bike lane on the west side of the street, and on-street parking on both sides of the street. Southwest Clay Street has two lanes for eastbound vehicle traffic, and on-street parking on both sides of the street. In the City's adopted Transportation System Plan, SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue is both a City Walkway and City Bikeway, and the entire site is within the Downtown Pedestrian District, but neither adjacent street is a transit street.

**Zoning:** The Central Residential (RX) base zone is a highest density multi-dwelling zone in the city. Density is not regulated by the number of dwelling units, but rather by the maximum allowed floor-area per site, which in turn depends on the size of the site. The RX zone is primarily applied in the central city. The Central City plan district implements the Central City Plan and other plans applicable to the Central City area.

**Land Use History:** City records indicate that three prior land use reviews at the site:

- CU 75-87 was a Revocable Permit for continued use of a parking lot on the site, approved by the Hearings Officer;
- DZ 143-85 was an approved Design Review for a remodel of the existing office building; and
- LU 11-181021 DZM is an approved Design Review with Modifications for changes to the surface parking lot on the site.

**Agency Review:** A "Request for Response" was mailed **April 26, 2013**. The following Bureaus have responded:

The *Bureau of Environmental Services* (BES) has reviewed the proposal and responded with informational comments about regulations to be applied during the building permit review process, but without objections to the requested Design Review. Sanitary sewer connections for the project must comply with the city's *Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual*. The proposal must also comply with the requirements of the city's *Stormwater Management Manual*. The BES team has reviewed the submitted stormwater report, and does not object to the specific recommended stormwater management approach. Exhibit E.1 contains staff contact and additional technical information.

The *Development Review Section of Portland Transportation* has reviewed the proposal for potential impacts upon transportation services in the public rights-of-way, and for conformance with adopted policies, street designations, and relevant regulations in Titles 17 and 33. As a condition of building permit approval the applicant will be required to rebuild the sidewalk corridors to current City standards under a separate public works permit. No dedications are required. The Development Review Section of Portland Transportation has no objection to approval of the requested Design Review. Exhibit E.2 contains staff contact and additional information.

The *Water Bureau* has reviewed the proposal and offered comments about the availability of water services and permitting requirements, but offers no objections to the requested Design Review. A Water Bureau review for fixture count along with the required fire flow volumes will be required during the building permit process, and all connection costs will be the responsibility of the applicant. Exhibit E.3 contains staff contact and additional information.

The *Fire Bureau* has reviewed the proposal and notes that a separate building permit is required. The applicant shall meet all applicable Fire Code regulations during the building permit review process, and if the requirements cannot be met there is an appeal path option. Exhibit E.4 contains staff contact and additional information.

The *Site Development Section of the Bureau of Development Services* has reviewed the proposal and provided a response with technical details that are relevant to the permitting process, but no objections or concerns regarding approval of the requested Design Review. A geotechnical report and site-specific seismic hazard study will be required during the building permit review process, and erosion control and other regulations must also be addressed. Exhibit E.5 contains staff contact and additional information.

The *Life Safety Section of the Bureau of Development Services* has reviewed the proposal and provided information about building codes, but no objections or specific recommendations related to the requested Design Review. A separate building permit is required for the project, and the proposal must be designed to meet all applicable building codes and ordinances. Exhibit E.6 contains staff contact and additional information.

The *Urban Forestry Division of Portland Parks and Recreation* has reviewed the proposal and responded with the comment that street trees will be required on all (adjacent) street frontages. Exhibit E.7 is a hard copy print-out of their electronic comments.

**Neighborhood Review:** A Notice of Proposal in Your Neighborhood was mailed on May 16, 2013. No written responses have been received from either the Neighborhood Association or notified property owners in response to the proposal.

## **ZONING CODE APPROVAL CRITERIA**

### **Chapter 33.825 Design Review**

#### **Section 33.825.010 Purpose of Design Review**

Design review ensures that development conserves and enhances the recognized special design values of a site or area. Design review is used to ensure the conservation, enhancement, and continued vitality of the identified scenic, architectural, and cultural values of each design district or area. Design review ensures that certain types of infill development will be compatible with the neighborhood and enhance the area. Design review is also used in certain cases to review public and private projects to ensure that they are of a high design quality.

#### **Section 33.825.055 Design Review Approval Criteria**

A design review application will be approved if the review body finds the applicant to have shown that the proposal complies with the design guidelines for the area.

**Findings:** The site is designated with design overlay zoning (d), therefore the proposal requires Design Review approval. Because of the site's location, the applicable design guidelines are the Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines.

### **Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines**

These guidelines provide the constitutional framework for all design review areas in the Central City.

The Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines and the River District Design Guidelines focus on four general categories. **(A) Portland Personality**, addresses design issues and elements that reinforce and enhance Portland's character. **(B) Pedestrian Emphasis**, addresses design issues and elements that contribute to a successful pedestrian environment. **(C) Project Design**,

addresses specific building characteristics and their relationships to the public environment. **(D) Special Areas**, provides design guidelines for the four special areas of the Central City.

### **Central City Plan Design Goals**

This set of goals are those developed to guide development throughout the Central City. They apply within the River District as well as to the other seven Central City policy areas. The nine goals for design review within the Central City are as follows:

1. Encourage urban design excellence in the Central City;
2. Integrate urban design and preservation of our heritage into the development process;
3. Enhance the character of the Central City's districts;
4. Promote the development of diversity and areas of special character within the Central City;
5. Establish an urban design relationship between the Central City's districts and the Central City as a whole;
6. Provide for a pleasant, rich and diverse pedestrian experience for pedestrians;
7. Provide for the humanization of the Central City through promotion of the arts;
8. Assist in creating a 24-hour Central City which is safe, humane and prosperous;
9. Ensure that new development is at a human scale and that it relates to the scale and desired character of its setting and the Central City as a whole.

*Staff has considered all guidelines and has addressed only those guidelines considered applicable to this project.*

**A1. Integrate the River.** Orient architectural and landscape elements including, but not limited to, lobbies, entries, balconies, terraces, and outdoor areas to the Willamette River and greenway. Develop accessways for pedestrians that provide connections to the Willamette River and greenway.

**Findings:** The project is a full 12 blocks from the Willamette River, in addition to the 550-foot depth of Waterfront Park at the foot of SW Clay Street. Nevertheless, the project includes the potential for a future rooftop terrace amenity that could allow residents a view of the Willamette River. *To the extent that this guideline applies, the guideline is met.*

**A2. Emphasize Portland Themes.** When provided, integrate Portland-related themes with the development's overall design concept.

**Findings:** The quarter block building with a classically-inspired tripartite exterior design is a common theme from Portland's streetcar era (1890-1929). Brick exterior materials, strong horizontal belt coursing, and separating the façade into a base, shaft, and attic/cornice are typical Portland-related themes incorporated into the project. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**A3. Respect the Portland Block Structures.** Maintain and extend the traditional 200-foot block pattern to preserve the Central City's ratio of open space to built space. Where superblocks exist, locate public and/or private rights-of-way in a manner that reflects the 200-foot block pattern, and include landscaping and seating to enhance the pedestrian environment.

**Findings:** The proposed building is located on a typical 200-foot square downtown block. The building extends to the lot line on both streets for the majority of the façade, pulling back slightly at the chamfered corner entry, but embracing the corner with a projecting entry canopy. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**A4. Use Unifying Elements.** Integrate unifying elements and/or develop new features that help unify and connect individual buildings and different areas.

**A5. Enhance, Embellish, and Identify Areas.** Enhance an area by reflecting the local character within the right-of-way. Embellish an area by integrating elements in new development that build on the area's character. Identify an area's special features or qualities by integrating them into new development.

**Findings for A4 and A5:** The proposal uses elements from several nearby buildings, and incorporates architectural themes common to other prominent structures downtown. Red brick is a common material found on the two streetcar-era apartment buildings just to the east on the same block, as well as the apartment building found directly opposite the site to the west across SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The tripartite exterior design, based in classical western architecture, is also utilized on streetcar era apartment buildings and commercial structures nearby and further afield in the central city. The use of ground floor canopies and a prominent glass entry canopy is also typical of grand commercial and apartment buildings in the central city.

The applicant will be required to reconstruct the adjacent public sidewalks to current standards, including accessible corner ramps, street trees, and scoring patterns. *Therefore, these guidelines are met.*

**A7. Establish and Maintain a Sense of Urban Enclosure.** Define public rights-of-way by creating and maintaining a sense of urban enclosure.

**Findings:** The proposal includes primary vertical walls at each of the two street frontages that extend to the street lot line for the full building height, increasing the sense of urbanity and enclosure at this intersection. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**A8. Contribute to a Vibrant Streetscape.** Integrate building setbacks with adjacent sidewalks to increase the space for potential public use. Develop visual and physical connections into buildings' active interior spaces from adjacent sidewalks. Use architectural elements such as atriums, grand entries and large ground-level windows to reveal important interior spaces and activities.

**Findings:** The building has been designed with an L-shaped plan that places the building along the adjacent public streets, with an interior courtyard at the interior of the site. The main entry to the building is at the exterior corner, and is clearly identifiable by the full-height windows and projecting glass entry canopy. Ground floor units along both streets also include generous glazing, providing for views into and out of the building. Two of the units along SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue include separate exterior doors and covered entry vestibules with low gates providing a transitional semi-private zone abutting the sidewalk. The entire pedestrian frontage is provided with brick and punched openings, with overhanging canopies and awnings to improve the streetscape experience. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B1. Reinforce and Enhance the Pedestrian System.** Maintain a convenient access route for pedestrian travel where a public right-of-way exists or has existed. Develop and define the different zones of a sidewalk: building frontage zone, street furniture zone, movement zone, and the curb. Develop pedestrian access routes to supplement the public right-of-way system through superblocks or other large blocks.

**Findings:** Both adjacent public sidewalks will remain and be reconstructed to current city standards with scoring patterns defining the building frontage zone, street furniture zone, movement zone, and the curb. No additional pedestrian connections or historic connections are involved in the proposal. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B2. Protect the Pedestrian.** Protect the pedestrian environment from vehicular movement.

Develop integrated identification, sign, and sidewalk-oriented night-lighting systems that offer safety, interest, and diversity to the pedestrian. Incorporate building equipment, mechanical exhaust routing systems, and/or service areas in a manner that does not detract from the pedestrian environment.

**Findings:** The reconstructed sidewalks, curbing, on-street parking and street trees will provide some measure of protection for pedestrians from passing vehicles. The exterior night lighting techniques include sconce lights near the main entry, and recessed downlights in the exterior ceiling straddling the double main entry doors. There are two locations at grade where mechanical venting systems are located in the pedestrian zone, but these are incorporated into the same window opening patterns found elsewhere, and are for the emergency generator room along SW Clay Street, and the mechanical and fire/water equipment rooms along SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Individual units have exterior PTAC louvers that are well-integrated into the trimmed cement panel areas between the brick openings, below the windows. Unlike a ventilation system for a restaurant or more intense commercial use, these PTAC louvers and the two areas of mechanical louvers should not significantly impact the pedestrian environment. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B3. Bridge Pedestrian Obstacles.** Bridge across barriers and obstacles to pedestrian movement by connecting the pedestrian system with innovative, well-marked crossings and consistent sidewalk designs.

**Findings:** There are no significant barriers or obstacles to pedestrian movement on the site. Both adjacent sidewalks will be reconstructed to current city standards with scoring lines to define the furnishing zone, movement zone, and building frontage zone (at the corner). *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B4. Provide Stopping and Viewing Places.** Provide safe, comfortable places where people can stop, view, socialize and rest. Ensure that these places do not conflict with other sidewalk uses.

**Findings:** The chamfered, inset entry doors at the corner provide a logical and convenient place for pedestrians to stop, view the surroundings, socialize and rest, outside of the main pedestrian movement zone on the abutting streets. Two of the units at ground level along SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue provide covered ‘porch’ areas that provide a semi-private zone for visitors and guests of residents in those apartments. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B6. Develop Weather Protection.** Develop integrated weather protection systems at the sidewalk-level of buildings to mitigate the effects of rain, wind, glare, shadow, reflection, and sunlight on the pedestrian environment.

**Findings:** A large glass canopy is provided at the main corner building entry, and projecting fabric awnings are located on both adjacent streets, as well. Although not continuous, the entire corner is well-covered while still allowing light into the space, and the secondary awnings away from the corner provide some relief from weather-related impacts to the pedestrian environment. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**B7. Integrate Barrier-Free Design.** Integrate access systems for all people with the building’s overall design concept.

**Findings:** All access to the building and the exterior courtyard amenity space, as well as all the internal amenity spaces, are accessible to potential future residents with disabilities, their guests and families. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C1. Enhance View Opportunities.** Orient windows, entrances, balconies and other building

elements to surrounding points of interest and activity. Size and place new buildings to protect existing views and view corridors. Develop building façades that create visual connections to adjacent public spaces.

**Findings:** The primary adjacent points of interest and activity are the nearby sidewalks and streets themselves. The building includes significant ground floor windows offering views from the lobby entry and individual units to the adjacent streetscape. At the main corner building entry, the building is pulled back from the street to create a gracious entry and pedestrian refuge, and large full-height windows are located to signify the public entry point and increase visual connections between inside and out. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C2. Promote Quality and Permanence in Development.** Use design principles and building materials that promote quality and permanence.

**Findings:** The proposal uses building materials and design principles that establish a contextual relationship with nearby structures and well-loved streetcar era buildings throughout downtown. Red brick cladding is common on both new and older apartment buildings in the area, including two buildings just east of the site on the same block. The tripartite, classically-inspired building design draws inspiration from streetcar era buildings in the Central City. Other building materials uses on the project include metal panel, which if applied in a durable way can stand the test of time. Cement panel materials and trim are used sparingly on the façade, within the punched brick openings above and below the vertically-aligned banks of windows. Metal trim details, belt courses and cornice work also have the potential for durability and permanence, as do the glass materials used on the entry canopy. The use of fiber cement panels on the ground floor is also a concern, especially the larger panels with trim pieces, as these may suffer from abuse and damage from pedestrians over time.

However, additional information is required either to show that materials are being used in a durable way, and specific material samples should be provided in some instances. Staff has concerns about the following specific elements, and requests that the applicant bring supplemental, revised, or additional information for the following items:

- **Material Samples** should be provided for the following elements to document their quality and durability: metal panel siding, brick, fiber cement and awning fabric;
- **Enlarged loading door detail**, to clarify dimensions and materials, glazing type, and durability (cut sheet and/or enlarged detail);
- **Enlarged fabric awning frame detail**, showing materials and through-wall attachment method and connection points;
- **Metal panel detail**, to clarify that it is either a backed metal panel, stiffened metal panel, and the gauge of the material (un-backed and higher gauge panels can cause ‘oil-canning’ and warping over time); and
- **12<sup>th</sup> Avenue metal ‘porch’ railings** should have an enlarged detail provided in the drawing set, to show their material and finish.

Although the building design is pleasingly classical in concept, and the materials appear to be of generally a high quality, additional material samples and detail drawings are necessary to show how the proposal meets this guideline. *With additional information and consideration before Design Commission, this guideline can potentially be met, but is not met at this time.*

**C4. Complement the Context of Existing Buildings.** Complement the context of existing buildings by using and adding to the local design vocabulary.

**Findings:** The proposal successfully complements the context of existing buildings in the vicinity through the use of red and cream brick as exterior siding, and by the classical



arrangement of the building into a base, shaft and capital. Projecting street-level awnings, a large glass entry canopy, and street-level windows along both street facades further help the project integrate with the design of adjacent structures. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C5. Design for Coherency.** Integrate the different building and design elements including, but not limited to, construction materials, roofs, entrances, as well as window, door, sign, and lighting systems, to achieve a coherent composition.

**Findings:** Generally, the proposal achieves coherency in design, through the use of quality exterior materials, generous windows, and the classically-inspired tripartite approach to design of the primary facades. The use of the large glass entry canopy at the corner, and the additional street-level awnings are also a successful method of clearly defining the ground floor and entry points to the building. Window patterns and proportions are applied in a consistent and harmonized fashion, reminiscent of Chicago-style windows (e.g. Meier & Frank Co. Building). Lighting is modest and simple on the building exterior, with simple sconce lights straddling the main entry. No signage has been proposed with this application. Generally, the color palette and variety of materials are effectively used to create a harmonious, coherent whole.

However, there are three areas of the design that merit further consideration before Design Commission, and which could be refined to improve the overall coherency of the project. These include the following three areas:

- **‘Attic’ level and cornice at top two floors.** The two-story proportion of the attic level and the projecting horizontal cornice appear proportionately awkward given the eight-story height of the building. Two-story attics are typical of the streetcar-era precedent buildings cited by the applicant in the drawing set, but those buildings range from ten to thirteen stories, where a two-story attic is a better proportional fit. Going to a single-story attic, with perhaps greater vertical emphasis at the cornice level could improve the unity of the design;
- **Inset corner bay and resolution of the indentation at the cornice.** A significant design move is made at the corner with an inset bay on each street façade, rising above the glass entry canopy. However, this indentation is not carried forward into the design of the cornice, and is not a common design technique used on the streetcar era buildings used as design inspiration. This corner inset could benefit from either being (a) more clearly expressed in the cornice at the top of the building with a notched horizontal profile, or (b) treating this corner area more clearly as an extension of the plane and design of the primary building walls; and
- **Ground floor ‘base’ design, materials, and canopy/awning locations.** The two ground floors are treated as a single ‘base’ for the building, with a distinct metal belt course between the two floors. The prominent corner entry canopy, however, is placed immediately above the first floor level, creating an awkward situation at the second floor level above, where the belt course detail terminates into a thicker brick horizontal frieze panel that appears disconnected from the design of the main facades. Also, the corner canopy is considerably lower on the façade than the fabric awnings along SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The ground floor treatment could benefit from further consideration to unify all the various ground floor elements, perhaps by making a more distinct two-story ‘base’ with a common reference point at the second floor level for major architectural features. Staff also has some concern about the use of fiber cement panels and trim at the ground floor, where brick or concrete might be a more durable, appropriate material.

Although the building presents a compelling, attractive appearance with a successful design concept that takes streetcar era classicism into contemporary building design, the three areas above could benefit from further consideration before Design Commission. *Therefore,*

*this guideline is not yet fully met.*

**C7. Design Corners that Build Active Intersections.** Use design elements including, but not limited to, varying building heights, changes in façade plane, large windows, awnings, canopies, marquees, signs and pedestrian entrances to highlight building corners. Locate flexible sidewalk-level retail opportunities at building corners. Locate stairs, elevators, and other upper floor building access points toward the middle of the block.

**Findings:** The building corner is clearly identified through the use of a distinct chamfered corner entry door, projecting glass canopy, and full-height windows. As a fully residential structure, there are few other opportunities for pedestrian access, although two individual unit entries along SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue are located mid-façade. The egress emergency stairs and service doors are located on the far interior edges of the façade, as far as possible from the corner. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C8. Differentiate the Sidewalk-Level of Buildings.** Differentiate the sidewalk-level of the building from the middle and top by using elements including, but not limited to, different exterior materials, awnings, signs, and large windows.

**Findings:** The sidewalk level of the building is differentiated through the use of a chamfered entry corner, large projecting canopy, and additional fabric awnings in several locations. Exterior sconce lighting straddles the main entry doors, and occurs only at the ground floor on the street facades. Full-height windows are used at the corner entry to distinguish this important access point to the building at sidewalk level, distinct from the residential window openings which are of a different scale. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C10. Integrate Encroachments.** Size and place encroachments in the public right-of-way to visually and physically enhance the pedestrian environment. Locate permitted skybridges toward the middle of the block, and where they will be physically unobtrusive. Design skybridges to be visually level and transparent.

**Findings:** Encroachments into the public right-of-way include the entry canopy, the fabric awnings, and the projecting top-floor cornice. These features will visually and physically enhance the pedestrian environment by providing weather protection, a feeling of street enclosure and urbanity, and pedestrian scale for the eight-story building mass. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C11. Integrate Roofs and Use Rooftops.** Integrate roof function, shape, surface materials, and colors with the building's overall design concept. Size and place rooftop mechanical equipment, penthouses, other components, and related screening elements to enhance views of the Central City's skyline, as well as views from other buildings or vantage points. Develop rooftop terraces, gardens, and associated landscaped areas to be effective stormwater management tools.

**Findings:** The rooftop is quite simple in design, but includes an elevator landing and interior lobby to provide for a future rooftop terrace. One mechanical unit is provided in a screened enclosure just south of the main elevator overrun in the center of the roof. Rooftop structures are clad in the same metal panel material used on the end walls of the building. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C12. Integrate Exterior Lighting.** Integrate exterior lighting and its staging or structural components with the building's overall design concept. Use exterior lighting to highlight the building's architecture, being sensitive to its impacts on the skyline at night.

**Findings:** Exterior lighting is extremely limited for this project. Two sconce lights are

located on the brick piers directly adjacent to the chamfered main entry doors, and additional sconce lights are placed on the piers at the interior private courtyard. Two soffited downlights are placed directly adjacent to the main entry doors, and cabled downlights and one landscape uplight are shown in the private courtyard. Being all at the ground level, exterior lighting should have no impact on the night skyline. *Therefore, this guideline is met.*

**C13. Integrate Signs.** Integrate signs and their associated structural components with the building's overall design concept. Size, place, design, and light signs to not dominate the skyline. Signs should have only a minimal presence in the Portland skyline.

**Findings:** No signs are part of this review. The applicant will be allowed to place individual signs up to 32 square feet on the exterior without design review approval, provided all regulations of the sign code are met. *Therefore, this guideline is not applicable.*

## DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Unless specifically required in the approval criteria listed above, this proposal does not have to meet the development standards in order to be approved during this review process. The plans submitted for a building or zoning permit must demonstrate that all development standards of Title 33 can be met, or have received an Adjustment or Modification via a land use review prior to the approval of a building or zoning permit.

## CONCLUSIONS

The design review process exists to promote the conservation, enhancement, and continued vitality of areas of the City with special scenic, architectural or cultural value. The applicant has proposed the construction of an eight-story apartment building on a quarter-block site downtown, on the south portion of the 'West End', near Portland State University. The design of the building is a pleasant departure from the modernist approach being taken with most infill apartments in Portland, and looks back to the classically-inspired design of Portland's streetcar era buildings.

While the design concept and materials being proposed are generally successful, there are a few areas that merit further discussion, and additional details or material samples are required. With resolution of these minor outstanding issues before Design Commission, the proposal can resolve outstanding concerns vis-à-vis the relevant design guidelines and be approved.

## TENTATIVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION

(May be revised upon receipt of new information at any time prior to the Design Commission decision)

While a majority of the approval criteria are met for the proposal, at this time the following design guidelines are not yet fully met:

**C2. Promote Quality and Permanence in Development.** Use design principles and building materials that promote quality and permanence.

**C5. Design for Coherency.** Integrate the different building and design elements including, but not limited to, construction materials, roofs, entrances, as well as window, door, sign, and lighting systems, to achieve a coherent composition.

Areas of concern remaining include the following:

1. Material samples outstanding (metal panel, brick, awning fabric, fiber cement);

2. Design details outstanding (loading door, fabric awning frame, metal panel section/backing/gauge, 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. porch railings);
3. Attic level and cornice at top two floors (proportions, cornice design);
4. Inset corner bay and resolution at cornice (cohesive approach or continue main walls); and
5. Ground floor 'base' design, materials and canopy/awning locations (unified two-story base design).

**Procedural Information.** The application for this land use review was submitted on March 19, 2013, and was determined to be complete on Apr 16, 2013.

*Zoning Code Section 33.700.080* states that Land Use Review applications are reviewed under the regulations in effect at the time the application was submitted, provided that the application is complete at the time of submittal, or complete within 180 days. Therefore this application was reviewed against the Zoning Code in effect on March 19, 2013.

*ORS 227.178* states the City must issue a final decision on Land Use Review applications within 120-days of the application being deemed complete. The 120-day review period may be waived or extended at the request of the applicant. In this case, the applicant did not waive or extend the 120-day review period. Unless further extended by the applicant, **the 120 days will expire on August 15, 2013.**

**Some of the information contained in this report was provided by the applicant.**

As required by Section 33.800.060 of the Portland Zoning Code, the burden of proof is on the applicant to show that the approval criteria are met. The Bureau of Development Services has independently reviewed the information submitted by the applicant and has included this information only where the Bureau of Development Services has determined the information satisfactorily demonstrates compliance with the applicable approval criteria. This report is the recommendation of the Bureau of Development Services with input from other City and public agencies.

**Conditions of Approval.** If approved, this project may be subject to a number of specific conditions, listed above. Compliance with the applicable conditions of approval must be documented in all related permit applications. Plans and drawings submitted during the permitting process must illustrate how applicable conditions of approval are met. Any project elements that are specifically required by conditions of approval must be shown on the plans, and labeled as such.

These conditions of approval run with the land, unless modified by future land use reviews. As used in the conditions, the term "applicant" includes the applicant for this land use review, any person undertaking development pursuant to this land use review, the proprietor of the use or development approved by this land use review, and the current owner and future owners of the property subject to this land use review.

**This report is not a decision. The review body for this proposal is the Design Commission who will make the decision on this case.** This report is a recommendation to the Design Commission by the Bureau of Development Services. The review body may adopt, modify, or reject this recommendation. The Design Commission will make a decision about this proposal at the hearing or will grant a continuance. Your comments to the Design Commission can be mailed c/o the Design Commission, 1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 5000, Portland, OR 97201 or faxed to 503-823-5630.

You will receive mailed notice of the decision if you write a letter received before the hearing or testify at the hearing, or if you are the property owner or applicant. This Staff Report will be posted on the Bureau of Development Services website. Look at [www.portlandonline.com](http://www.portlandonline.com). On the left side of the page use the search box to find Development Services, then click on the Zoning/Land Use section, select Notices and Hearings. Land use review notices are listed by the District Coalition shown at the beginning of this document. You may review the file on this case at the Development Services Building at 1900 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 5000, Portland, OR 97201.

**Appeal of the decision.** The decision of the Design Commission may be appealed to City Council, who will hold a public hearing. If you or anyone else appeals the decision of the Design Commission, only evidence previously presented to the Design Commission will be considered by the City Council.

**Who can appeal:** You may appeal the decision only if you write a letter which is received before the close of the record for the hearing, if you testify at the hearing, or if you are the property owner/applicant. Appeals must be filed within 14 days of the decision. **Appeals must be filed within 14 days of the decision. An appeal fee of \$5,000.00 will be charged (one-half of the BDS application fee, up to a maximum of \$5,000).**

**Appeal Fee Waivers:** Neighborhood associations recognized by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement may qualify for a waiver of the appeal fee provided that the association has standing to appeal. The appeal must contain the signature of the Chair person or other person authorized by the association, confirming the vote to appeal was done in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

Neighborhood associations, who wish to qualify for a fee waiver, must complete the Type III Appeal Fee Waiver Request for Organizations Form and submit it prior to the appeal deadline. The Type III Appeal Fee Waiver Request for Organizations Form contains instructions on how to apply for a fee waiver, including the required vote to appeal.

**Recording the final decision.**

If this Land Use Review is approved the final decision must be recorded with the Multnomah County Recorder. A few days prior to the last day to appeal, the City will mail instructions to the applicant for recording the documents associated with their final land use decision.

- A building or zoning permit will be issued only after the final decision is recorded.

The applicant, builder, or a representative may record the final decision as follows:

- By Mail: Send the two recording sheets (sent in separate mailing) and the final Land Use Review decision with a check made payable to the Multnomah County Recorder to: Multnomah County Recorder, P.O. Box 5007, Portland OR 97208. The recording fee is identified on the recording sheet. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope; OR
- In Person: Bring the two recording sheets (sent in separate mailing) and the final Land Use Review decision with a check made payable to the Multnomah County Recorder to the County Recorder's office located at 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, #158, Portland OR 97214. The recording fee is identified on the recording sheet.

For further information on recording, please call the County Recorder at 503-988-3034  
For further information on your recording documents please call the Bureau of Development Services Land Use Services Division at 503-823-0625.

**Expiration of this approval.** An approval expires three years from the date the final decision is rendered unless a building permit has been issued, or the approved activity has begun.

Where a site has received approval for multiple developments, and a building permit is not issued for all of the approved development within three years of the date of the final decision, a new land use review will be required before a permit will be issued for the remaining development, subject to the Zoning Code in effect at that time.

**Applying for your permits.** A building permit, occupancy permit, or development permit may be required before carrying out an approved project. At the time they apply for a permit, permittees must demonstrate compliance with:

- All conditions imposed herein;
- All applicable development standards, unless specifically exempted as part of this land use review;
- All requirements of the building code; and
- All provisions of the Municipal Code of the City of Portland, and all other applicable ordinances, provisions and regulations of the City.

Planner's Name: Mark Walhood

Date: May 24, 2013

#### **EXHIBITS**

NOT ATTACHED UNLESS INDICATED

- A. Applicant's Statement:
  - 1. Original narrative packet with geotechnical and stormwater report attachments
  - 2. Original plan set – reference only, not approved
  - 3. Supplemental memo provided at time of completeness, received April 16, 2013
  - 4. Revised plan sheets received at completeness – reference only, not approved
  - 5. Revised narrative with basement and rooftop deck removed, received May 14, 2013
  - 6. First revised plan set with basement and rooftop deck removed – reference only, not approved
- B. Zoning Map (attached):
- C. Plans & Drawings:
  - 1. Cover sheet with rendering view from northwest corner (attached)
  - 2. Table of contents
  - 3. Vicinity plan
  - 4. Site photos
  - 5. Precedents
  - 6. Site plan
  - 7. Site utility plan
  - 8. Landscape – overall site plan
  - 9. Landscaped courtyard plant materials and furnishings
  - 10. FAR diagrams
  - 11. Ground floor plan (attached)
  - 12. Level 2-8 floor plan
  - 13. Roof plan
  - 14. West elevation (attached)
  - 15. North elevation (attached)
  - 16. South elevation
  - 17. East elevation
  - 18. Enlarged elevation - north


19. Enlarged elevation – east and loading
  20. Building section north-south
  21. Exterior details – windows and PTAC
  22. Exterior details – cornice and fiber cement
  23. Exterior details – entry canopy
  24. Exterior lighting plan
  25. Materials sheet
  26. Rendering - view from NE
  27. Rendering – view from SW
  28. Rendering – view from SE
  29. Night rendering – view from NW
  30. Mechanical equipment cut sheets
- D. Notification information:
1. Request for response
  2. Posting information and notice as sent to applicant
  3. Applicant's statement certifying posting
  4. Mailing list
  5. Mailed notice
- E. Agency Responses:
1. Bureau of Environmental Services
  2. Development Review Section of Portland Transportation
  3. Water Bureau
  4. Fire Bureau
  5. Site Development Review Section of Bureau of Development Services
  6. Life Safety Section of the Bureau of Development Services
  7. Urban Forestry Division of Portland Parks and Recreation
- F. Letters:
1. *(none received at time of staff report publication)*
- G. Other:
1. Original LUR Application Form and receipt
  2. Request for completeness documents
  3. Incomplete letter from staff to applicant, sent April 11, 2013
  4. Pre-Application Conference Summary Notes, EA 13-102319 PC

**The Bureau of Development Services is committed to providing equal access to information and hearings. Please notify us no less than five business days prior to the event if you need special accommodations. Call 503-823-7300 (TTY 503-823-6868).**



# ZONING

 Site

 Historic Landmark



This site lies within the:  
CENTRAL CITY PLAN DISTRICT  
DOWNTOWN - WEST END

File No.	LU 13-129180 DZ
1/4 Section	3128
Scale	1 inch = 200 feet
State_Id	1S1E04AD 4900
Exhibit	B (Mar 21, 2013)





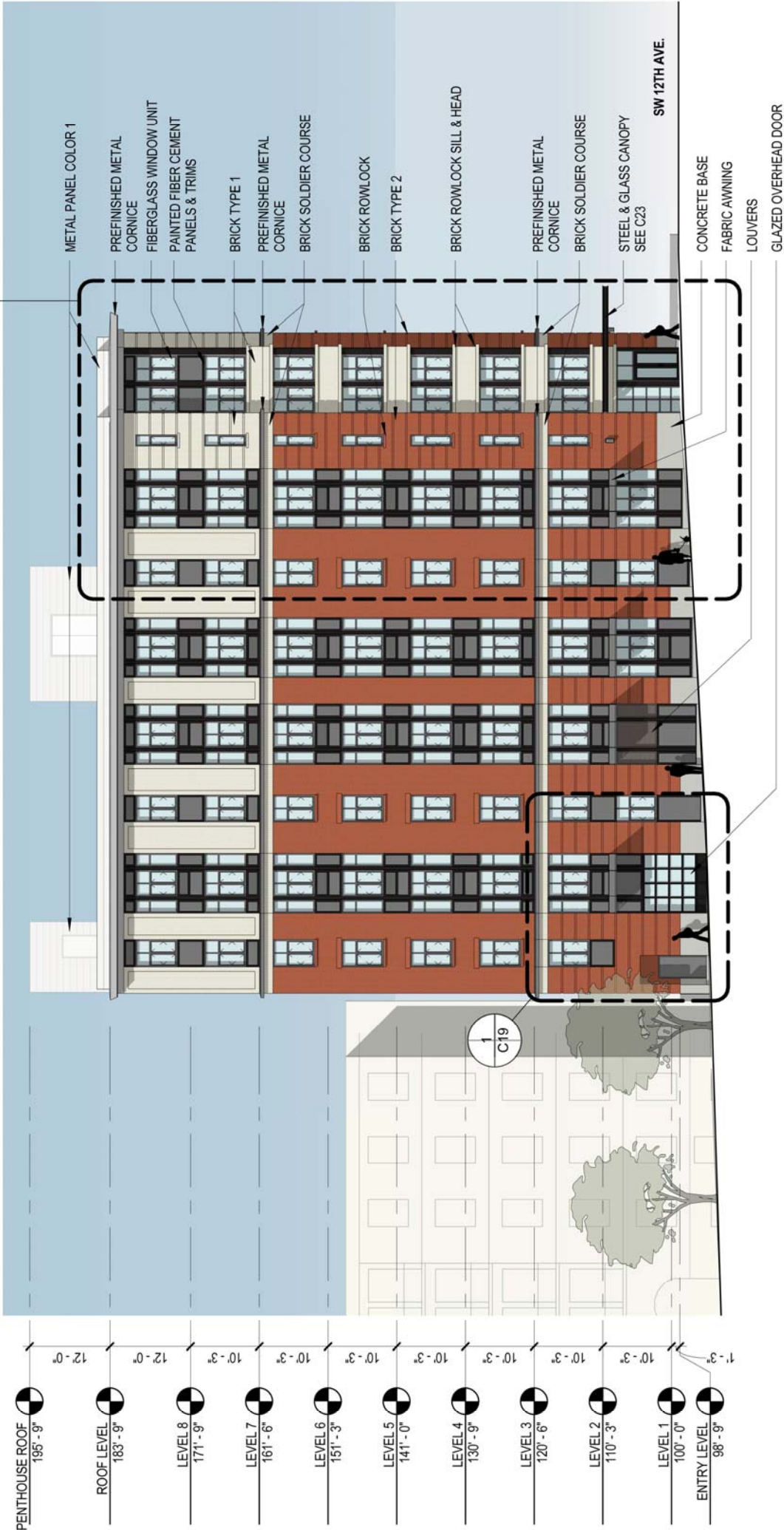
EXTERIOR VIEW FROM NORTHWEST CORNER







1  
C18



1  
C19

