



MEMORANDUM

TO: Vienna Town Council

FROM: Roy Baldwin, Chair, Board of Architectural Review

DATE: September 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Work Session on Patrick Henry Library and Parking Garage

On September 1, 2022, the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) held a work session to hear a presentation from Fairfax County staff on the draft Concept Design for the new Patrick Henry Library and Parking Garage. Also in attendance were the two lead architects from RRMM Architects, the firm hired by the County to design the building. There was a very active discussion, with many questions and comments. Though no BAR vote was taken that would reflect a unified position, this memorandum provides comments of BAR members made to Fairfax County staff and RRMM. We would like to share these comments with you, for your deliberations.

There are two attachments to this memorandum. First is a document that Paul Layer, Architect, BAR member, used in a presentation that he made during the work session. The document originated from prior Vienna surveys. The points that he made in that presentation are reflected in the comments, below.

The second attachment consists of two images from a Diagrammatic Streetscape Plan Studies exercise conducted in 2019. They are images that address a line of discussion during the work session, which is the treatment of the sidewalks around the building.

Comments from BAR Members:

Of the three options of brick color presented, the brown is the closest to what would be good, though the rose color of the new police station would be even more sympatico.
The current library should be referred to, in the presentation, as the existing library. The original library is on the Town Green.
Add design elements to protect pedestrians, such as bollards and planters, in the courtyard.
The design doesn't look like small town Vienna. Red brick looks too industrial.
Courtyard trellis is more reminiscent of the Metro Station at Tysons Corner, which is fine there but not in Vienna.
Break up the massing - possibly use different brick color for garage.

Garage is lacking architecturally. Reflect the library main building architecture and use other devices to break up massing. Architecture between front façade and parking garage are significantly inconsistent.
Integrate parking garage into design - looks like it's not meant to sit next to the library
Include pedestrian entrance to the library from Center St
In response to a question of whether the glass would provide acoustic privacy, architects said that double glass will be used, at minimum, and that they are exploring triple glass, which would also help with LEED certification.
Follow new buildings that are modern, but have small town Vienna feel
Use elements from Town Hall, New Police Dept, and current Library
Use New Police Dept for inspiration
Cube Smart on Mill Street...was a big box, but utilized filigree, different color bricks and brick modulation. Applicant followed BAR's request to adopt design features from important Town buildings and Town's history
Left side of building with drive garage entrance - image on slide shows greenery that won't be there because it will be a drive aisle and parking. Suggest putting a line of trees in tree grates on edge of property. Consider making them substantial height to fill the space. Used example of Falls Church tree canopy that goes above two stories
At pedestrian level, there needs to be greater study to yield an enriched pedestrian environment, with design incorporating hardscape, landscaping and accessories...use a landscape architect. The design should also serve to reduce the appearance of the massing of the building. (attachment images are examples)
Asked about how utilized the 125 library parking spots are expected to be - County expects full utilization.
Enriched pedestrian environment, more effort on the pedestrian level
In response to many surveys, it has become apparent that Vienna residents appreciate modulated roof forms, i.e, a mixture of sloped and flat roof forms that provide an underlying residential feel that may be reminiscent of the residential nature of Vienna.
Sloped areas (roofs) may help with garage and, in particular, the stair towers.
Recommend rustification and banding, which will break up the flat monolithic surfaces and add texture and shadowing to an otherwise plain surface.
Wanted to make sure that the signature bricks will remain on sidewalk
Possibly use a brick-banded sidewalk rather than traditional brick sidewalk (difficulty walking on brick sidewalk)
Recommend that the sidewalk be done in flush dry laid bricks on concrete that will yield a flat surface, rather than using brick and mortar.
Work with DPW - can walking portion of sidewalk be wider? Refer to "Preferred Image" and sidewalk studies (attached)
Emphasize indigenous architectural qualities of Vienna Parking garage doesn't seem to me to be too high, or massive especially since it will be shielded from view on the Maple Ave side by the library building and from Vienna ES side by lots of tall trees. Its impact can be mitigated by more design work

CC: Vienna Board of Architectural Review
David Levy, Director of Planning and Zoning
Sharmaine Abaied, Planner, Staff Liaison to the BAR
Yaska Camacho, Clerk to the BAR

Vienna Early References



Illustrated by John C. Brown
 Fig. 25-8
 1874 Map of Maple Avenue

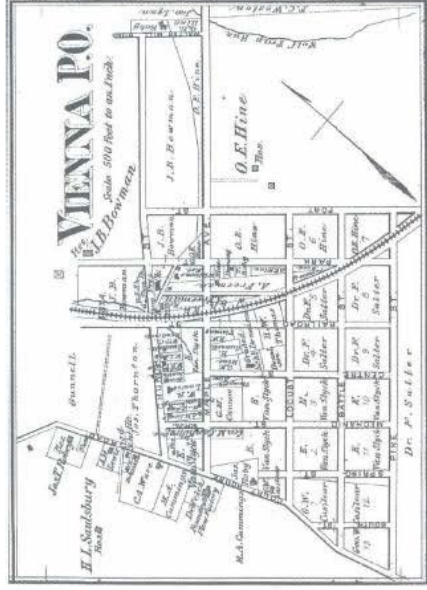


Fig. 25-11
 G.M. Hepburn Map of Vienna 1879



Maple Avenue



Church Street



Fig. 29-40
 A scene on Maple Avenue, W., about 1958. In the foreground, the 'Shops' sign on the left, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wene. DeLaur's home and barn are to the right. Jakes Shopping Center now occupies the site of the home and barn, and the Maple Professional Park is to the left.



1949



1962



Fig. 29-28



Fig. 29-30



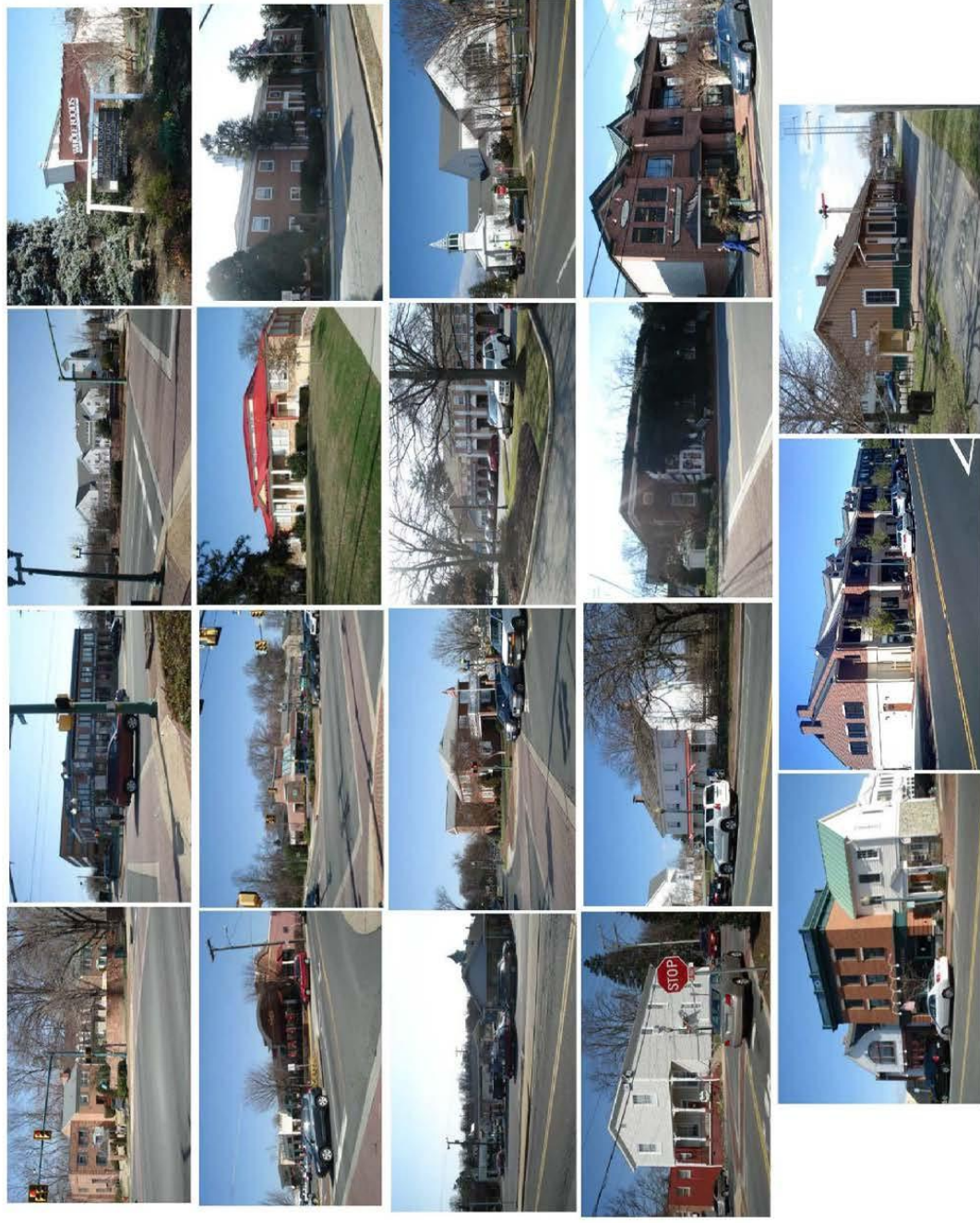
Fig. 29-31



Fig. 29-32
 Freshner Building—1930s.

Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hauer

Reference Photos



Preferred Images



(Average score of 3 stars or more, in descending order)





















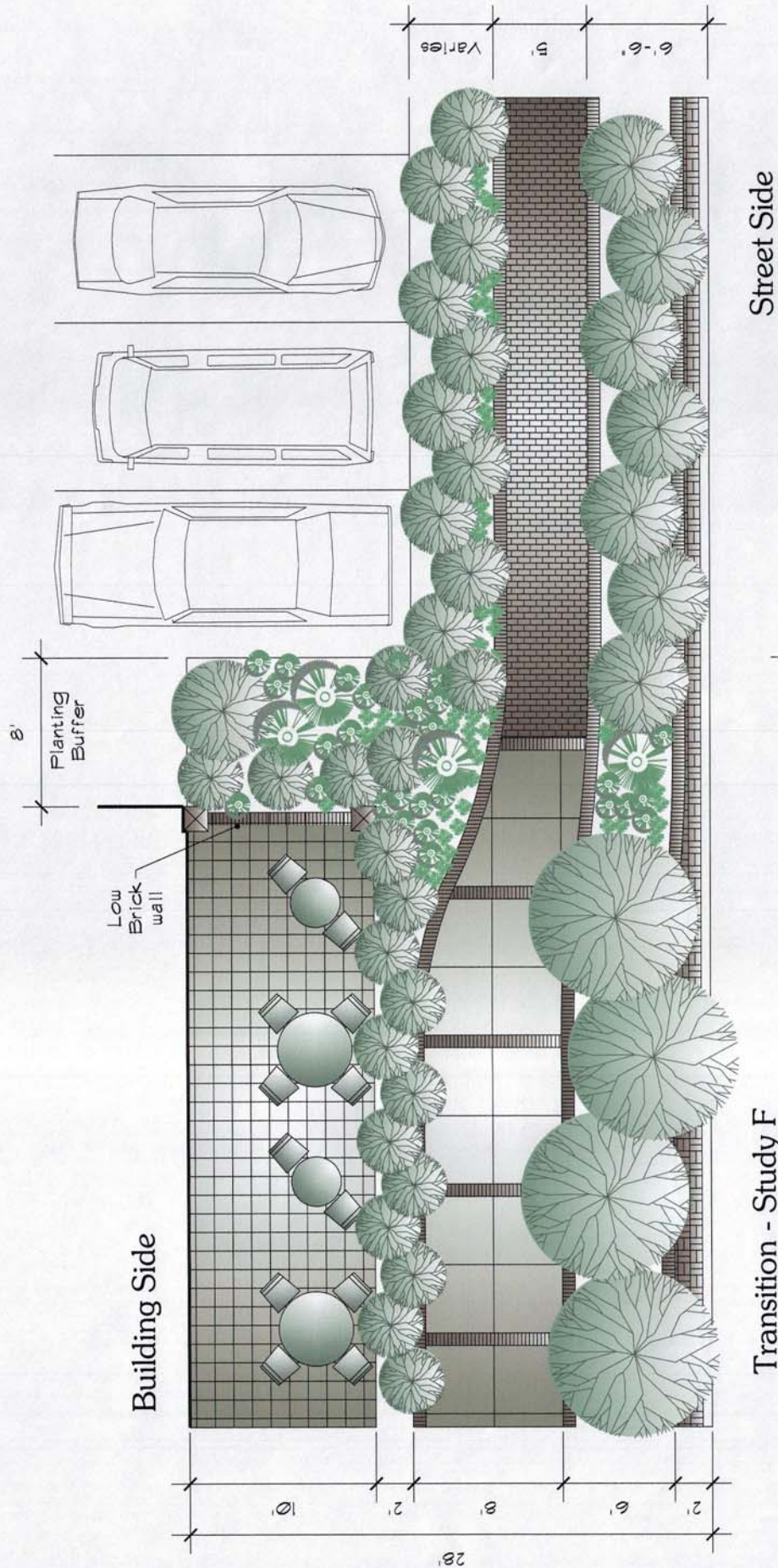








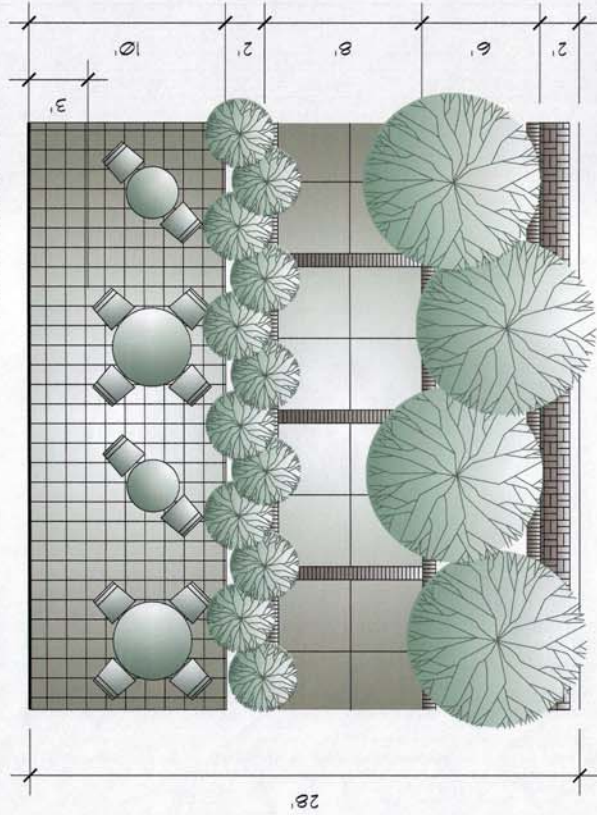




Diagrammatic Streetscape Plan Studies: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Issue date: Review, 04.24.2019

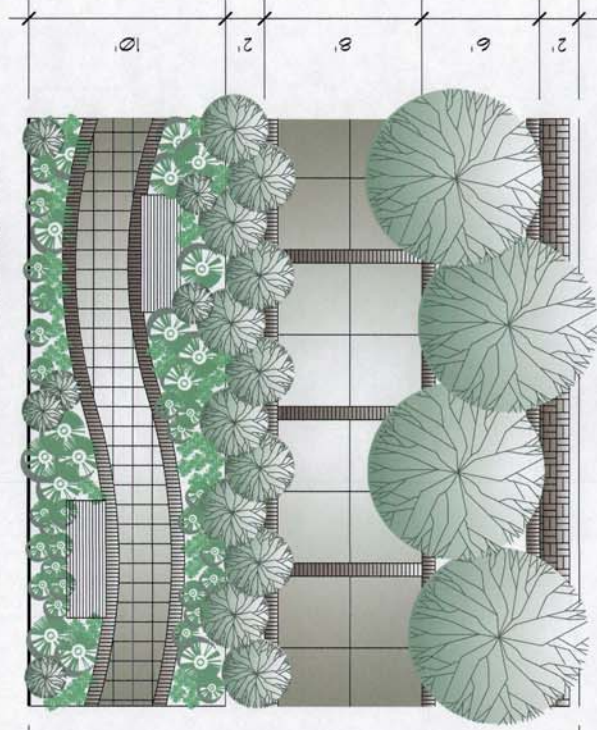
Building Side



Study A

Street Side

Building Side



Study B

Street Side

Diagrammatic Streetscape Plan Studies: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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