

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

October 02, 2019

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2019-298  
**ADDRESS:** 111 SOLEDAD ST  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 909 BLK LOT 17  
**ZONING:** D, H, RIO-3  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 1  
**DISTRICT:** Main/Military Plaza Historic District  
**APPLICANT:** Ashley Farrimond/Kaufman & Killen, Inc.  
**OWNER:** RIVERVIEW TOWER PRTNR LTD  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Exterior modifications, fenestration modifications, site work, lighting and signage  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** September 13, 2019  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** November 12, 2019  
**CASE MANAGER:** Edward Hall  
**REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to:

1. Construct a new roof structure above the twentieth floor and penthouse levels to conceal mechanical equipment, modify the east and south facades, perform fenestration modifications, construct a new roof and structure for a rooftop bar, construct a new roof at the existing low elevator penthouse, modify the existing façade to articulate vertical circulation at the elevator, construct a new roof system above the proposed rooftop patio, construct a new roof at the office entrance, construct a new roof and pavers at the existing third floor balcony, and construct a new canopy at the street entrance.
2. Modify the existing sidewalk to feature a vehicular access point to accommodate valet parking
3. Install up and down lighting on various architectural elements including at the building's base, capital, roof deck and street canopies.
4. Install a channel letter wall sign to read "AC Hotels" to face east to feature 10' – 0" in height and 10' – 0" in width for a total size of 100 square feet.
5. Install an illuminated channel letter wall sign to read "AC Hotel, Element Hotel By Marriott" to face west.
6. Install two (2) hotel entrance signs at the pedestrian level on Soledad to feature 2' – 0" in height and 2' – 0" in width for a total size of four (4) square feet each. The proposed signs will be back lit with acrylic faces and metal frames.
7. Install an illuminated channel letter canopy sign on Soledad to read "AC San Antonio" to feature 2' – 0" in height and 24' – 0" in width for a total size of forty-eight (48) square feet.
8. Install a painted metal logo sign on Soledad at the hotel's secondary entrance to feature a 4' – 0" in height and 4' – 0" in width for a total size of sixteen (16) square feet. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel.
9. Install a wall sign at the corner of Soledad and E Commerce to feature a total size of sixty (60) square feet. The proposed sign will be applied to both the south and east elevations. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel.
10. Install a blade sign at the street level on Soledad to feature 4' – 0" in width and 10' – 0" in height for a total size of eighty (80) square feet, counting both sides. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel.
11. Install street level bar signage to read "14 ½ Rooftop Bar" to feature an overall height of 2' – 0" and an overall width of 10' – 0" for a total size of twenty (20) square feet.
12. Install an illuminated channel letter sign on the canopy element on E Commerce facing Main Plaza to read "AC Hotel San Antonio" to feature an overall height of 1' – 0" and an overall width of 23' – 0" for a total size of twenty-three (23) square feet.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-672. – Neighborhood Wide Design Standards

(a) Pedestrian Circulation. Pedestrian access shall be provided among properties to integrate neighborhoods.

(1) Provide sidewalks that link with existing sidewalks on adjoining properties. If no sidewalk currently exists on an adjoining property, the applicant will have discretion in the placement of the sidewalk provided the following criteria are met:

A. Provide a sidewalk connection from one (1) side of the applicant's property to the other, parallel to the public right-of way, on the street sides of the property in all river improvement overlay districts

B. Provide a connection from the street level sidewalk to the Riverwalk at cross streets and bridges and other designated access points. This requirement may be waived if there is already a public connection from the street level to the Riverwalk.

C. In order to preserve the rural character of "RIO-6," the HPO, in coordination with the development services department, may waive the requirement of sidewalks.

- In "RIO-3," the width of the pathway along the river shall match those widths established in the historic Hugman drawings. If there are no sidewalks in the Hugman drawings, the path will not exceed eight (8) feet in width.

(2) Link the various functions and spaces on a site with sidewalks in a coordinated system.

Provide pedestrian sidewalks between buildings, parking areas and built features such as outdoor plazas and courtyards.

(3) Paving materials. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall use visually and texturally different materials than those used for parking spaces and automobile traffic.

A. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall be either:

- i. Broom-finished, scored, sandblasted or dyed concrete;
- ii. Rough or honed finished stone;
- iii. Brick or concrete pavers; or
- iv. Other materials that meet the performance standards of the above materials.

B. Asphalt is permitted for pedestrian pathways that also are designated as multi-use paths by the City of San Antonio. The public works department will maintain the designated multi-use path locations.

(4) Street Connections to River. Retain the interesting and unique situations where streets dead-end at the river, creating both visual and physical access to the river for the public.

(5) Pedestrian Access Along the Riverwalk Pathway Shall Not Be Blocked.

A. Queuing is prohibited on the Riverwalk pathway.

B. Hostess stations shall be located away from the Riverwalk pathway so as to not inhibit pedestrian flow on the Riverwalk pathway. That is, the hostess station shall not be located in such a manner to cause a patron who has stopped at the hostess stand to be standing on the Riverwalk pathway. Pedestrian flow shall be considered "inhibited" if a pedestrian walking along the pathway has to swerve, dodge, change direction or come to a complete stop to avoid a patron engaged at the hostess stand.

C. Tables and chairs shall be located a sufficient distance from the Riverwalk pathway so that normal dining and service shall not inhibit the flow of pedestrian traffic. See inhibited definition in subsection B. above.

(b) Automobile Access and Parking. Automobile circulation should be efficient, and conflicts with pedestrians minimized. Entry points for automobiles should be clearly defined and connections to auto circulation on adjoining properties are encouraged to facilitate access and reduce traffic on abutting public streets.

(1) Curb Cuts.

A. Limit curb cuts to two (2) on parking areas or structures facing only one (1) street, and one (1) for each additional street face. The prohibition of additional curb cuts may be waived by the HDRC where the intent of the standards are clearly met and specific site circulation patterns require an additional curb cut, such as on long parcels or at nodes.

B. Curb cuts may be no larger than twenty-five (25) feet zero (0) inches. Continuous curb cuts are prohibited.

C. Sharing curb cuts between adjacent properties, such as providing cross property access easements, is permitted.

(2) Location of Parking Areas. Automobile parking in new developments must be balanced with the requirements of active environments. Large expanses of surface parking lots have a negative impact on street activity and the

pedestrian experience. New commercial and residential structures can accommodate parking needs and contribute to a pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

A. Locate parking areas, that is any off-street, ground level surface used to park cars or any parking structure, toward the interior of the site or to the side or rear of a building.

B. The extent of parking area that may be located along the street edge or riverside shall be limited to a percentage of the lot line as per Table 672-1 as measured in a lineal direction parallel to the lot line. All parking within a thirty-foot setback from the above mentioned lot line shall comply with the requirements of the table. Where parking is located on corner sites only one (1) lot line has to meet the requirements of the table.

C. Parking lots should be avoided as a primary land use. Parking lots as a primary use are prohibited in RIO-3 and for all properties that fall within one hundred (100) feet of the river right-of-way in all RIO districts.

(3) Screen or Buffer Parking Areas From View of Public Streets, the River or Adjacent Residential Uses. (see Figure 672-2). Parking lots shall be screened with a landscape buffer as per the illustrations of bufferyards and Table 510-2 if the parking area meets one (1) of the following conditions:

A. Within a fifty-foot setback from the edge of the river ROW use, at a minimum, type E; or

B. Within a twenty-foot setback from a property line adjacent to a street use, at a minimum, type B; or

C. Within a twenty-foot setback of commercial or industrial property that abuts a residential property use, at a minimum, type C.

(4) Parking Structures Shall Be Compatible With Buildings in the Surrounding Area. Parking garages should have retail space on the ground floor of a parking structure provided the retail space has at least fifty (50) percent of its linear street frontage as display windows. Parking structures may be made visually appealing with a mural or public art component approved by the HDRC on the parking structure. A parking garage will be considered compatible if:

A. It does not vary in height by more than thirty (30) percent from another building on the same block face; and

B. It uses materials that can be found on other buildings within the block face, or in the block face across the street.

(5) Parking Structures Shall Provide Clearly Defined Pedestrian Access. Pedestrian entrances and exits shall be accentuated with directional signage, lighting or architectural features so that pedestrians can readily discern the appropriate path of travel to avoid pedestrian/auto conflicts.

(6) Parking lots, structures, and hardscape shall not drain directly into the river without installation of appropriate water quality best management practices (WQ BMPs). Acequias shall not be used for any type of drainage.

(c) Views. The river's course (both natural and manmade), and San Antonio's street pattern, creates unique views of certain properties from the public ROW. These properties often occur at prominent curves in the river or where a street changes direction and a property appears to be a terminus at the end of a street.

(1) Architectural Focal Point. When a property is situated in such a manner as to appear to be the terminus at the end of the street or at a prominent curve in the river, the building shall incorporate into its design an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. (see Figure 672-3) An architectural feature will be considered to be a focal point through any of the following methods, but not limited to:

A. Additional height.

B. Creation of a tower.

C. Variation in roof shape.

D. Change of color or materials.

E. Addition of a design enhancement feature such as:

i. Embellished entrance areas.

ii. Articulated corners, especially when entrance is at corner, rounded or chamfered corners ease the transitions from one street facade to the adjoining facade.

iii. Recessed or projecting balconies and entrances.

Billboards, advertising and signage are expressly prohibited as appropriate focal points.

## UDC Section 35-673. – Site Design Standards

(a) Solar Access. The intent of providing and maintaining solar access to the San Antonio River is to protect the river's specific ecoclimate. The river has a special microclimate of natural and planted vegetation that requires certain levels and balanced amounts of sunlight, space and water. Development must be designed to respect and protect those natural requirements, keeping them in balance and not crowding or altering them so that vegetation does not receive more or less space and water, but particularly sunlight, than is required for normal expected growth.

(1) Building Massing to Provide Solar Access to the River. Building massing shall be so designed as to provide direct sunlight to vegetation in the river channel as defined:

A. The area to be measured for solar access shall be a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge or from the river's edge to the building face, whichever is lesser, parallel to the river for the length of the property.

B. The solar calculations shall be measured exclusive to the applicant's property; that is, shades and shadows of other buildings shall not be included in the calculations. The solar calculations shall only measure the impact of new construction and additions. The shading impact of historic buildings on the site may be excluded from the calculations.

C. The defined area shall receive a minimum of 5.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the winter solstice, and 7.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the summer solstice.

D. Those properties located on the south side of the river (whose north face is adjacent to the river) shall only be required to measure the sunlight in the 30-foot setback on the opposite bank of the river.

E. Those properties within the river improvement overlay district not directly adjacent to the river are still subject to the provisions of this section. To determine the solar access effect of these buildings on the river the applicant must measure the nearest point to the river of an area defined by a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge, parallel to the river for the length of their property that would be affected by their building. For those buildings on the south side of the river, the 30-foot setback shall be measured only on the opposite bank.

F. However, in those cases where the above conditions cannot be met due to the natural configuration of the river, existing street patterns, or existing buildings, the HDRC may approve a buildings mass and height as allowed by table 674-2.

G. If there is a conflict with this section and another section of this chapter this section shall prevail.

(2) Prohibition of Structures, Buildings, Roofs or Skywalks Over the River Channel. No structure, building, roof or skywalk may be constructed over the river channel, or by-pass channel with the exception of structures for flood control purposes, open air pedestrian bridges at ground or river level, and street bridges. The river channel is the natural course of the river as modified for flood control purposes and the Pershing-Catalpa ditch.

(b) Building Orientation. Buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Consideration to both the street and riverside should be given. The placement of a building on a site should therefore be considered within the context of the block, as well as how the structure will support the broader design goals for the area.

(1) Two or More Buildings on a Site.

A. Cluster buildings to create active open spaces such as courtyards along the street and river edges. Site plazas and courtyards, if possible, so that they are shaded in the summer and are sunny in the winter.

(2) Primary and Secondary Entrances

A. Orient a building's primary entrance toward the street with subordinate entrances located on the riverside and/or the interior of the property. On a major thoroughfare street it is acceptable to provide the primary entrance through a common courtyard and then to a street.

B. The primary entrance shall be distinguished by architectural features such as, but not limited to: an entry portal; change in material or color; change in scale of other openings; addition of columns, lintels or canopies.

C. Secondary entrances shall have architectural features that are subordinate to the primary entrance in scale and detail. For purposes of this division subordinate means that the entrance is smaller in height and width, and has fewer or simpler architectural elements.

(c) Topography and Drainage. The natural contours of occasional hillsides and riverbanks contribute to the distinct character of the San Antonio River and shall be considered in site designs for new development. Site plans shall minimize the need for cut and fill. It should be considered as an opportunity for positive enhancements through the creative use of terraces and retaining walls.

(1) Visual Impacts of Cut and Fill. Divide a grade change of more than ten (10) vertical feet into a series of benches and terraces. Terrace steep slopes following site contours. When creating site benches, using sloped "transitional areas" as part of the required landscaping is appropriate.

(2) Minimize the Potential for Erosion at the Riverbank. Grade slopes at a stable angle not to exceed four to one (4:1) and provide plant material that will stabilize the soil such as vigorous ground covers, vines or turf planting that are native and noninvasive species as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department. Use of stabilizing materials such as geo-web or geo-grid is permitted as long as plant material is used to conceal the grid.

Use of terraced walls is permitted when there is a slope of more than four to one (4:1).



(3) Retaining Walls. Limit the height of a retaining wall to less than six (6) feet. If the retaining wall must exceed six (6) feet, a series of six-foot terrace walls is acceptable. Walls at dams and locks are excluded from this requirement. If in the opinion of the historic preservation officer a higher wall is consistent with the adopted conceptual plan of the river, a higher wall (not to exceed twelve (12) feet) is allowed. Materials used for the walls may include limestone, stucco, brick, clay, tile, timber, or textured concrete. (see Figure 673-2)

(4) Enhance or Incorporate Acequias Into The Landscape Design and Drainage Scheme of the Site. Where archeological evidence indicates a site contains or has contained a Spanish colonial acequia, incorporate the original path of the acequia as a natural drainageway or a landscape feature of the site by including it as part of the open space plan, and a feature of the landscape design.

(5) Design of Stormwater Management Facilities to be a Landscape Amenity. Where above ground stormwater management facilities are required, such facilities shall be multi-purpose amenities. For example, water quality features can be included as part of the site landscaping and detention facilities can be included as part of a hardscape patio. Using an open concrete basin as a detention pond is prohibited.

(6) Walls and Fences at Detention Areas.

A. When the topography of the site exceeds a four to one (4:1) slope and it becomes necessary to use a masonry wall as part of the detention area, use a textured surface and incorporate plant materials, from the plant list maintained by the parks department, that will drape over the edge to soften the appearance of the structure.

B. The use of solid board or chain link fence with or without slats is prohibited. A welded wire, tubular steel, wrought iron or garden loop is permitted.

(7) Roof Drainage into the River.

A. All roof drainage and other run-off drainage shall conform to public works department standards so that they \ drain into sewer and storm drains rather than the river. Drainage of this type shall not be piped into the river unless the outlet is below the normal waterline of the river at normal flow rates.

B. All downspouts or gutters draining water from roofs or parapets shall be extended underground under walks and patios to the San Antonio River's edge or stormwater detention facility so that such drainage will not erode or otherwise damage the Riverwalk, landscaping or river retaining walls.

C. All piping and air-conditioning wastewater systems shall be kept in good repair. Water to be drained purposely from these systems, after being tested and adjudged free from pollution, shall be drained in the same manner prescribed in subsection (7)A. above.

(d) Riverside Setbacks. Riverside setbacks for both buildings and accessory structures are established to reinforce the defined character of the specific river improvement overlay district and help to define an edge at the river pathway that is varied according to the relationship of the river and the street. In the more urban areas, buildings should align closer to the river edge, while in more rural areas the buildings should be set farther away.

(1)Minimum setback requirements are per the following Table 673-1.

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Riverside Setback	20 FT	15 FT	0 FT	20 FT	50 ft	100 FT

(2)Designation of a development node district provides for a minimum riverside setback of zero (0) feet.

(e)Landscape Design. Lush and varied landscapes are part of the tradition of the San Antonio River. These design standards apply to landscaping within an individual site. Additional standards follow that provide more specific standards for the public pathway along the river and street edges.

(1)Provide Variety in Landscape Design. Provide variety in the landscape experience along the river by varying landscape designs between properties. No more than seventy-five (75) percent of the landscape materials, including plants, shall be the same as those on adjacent properties. (see Figure 673-4).

(2) Planting Requirements in Open Space Abutting the River. On publicly-owned land leased by the adjoining property owner, if applicable, and/or within privately owned setbacks adjacent to the river, a minimum percentage of the open space, excluding building footprint, lease space under bridges and parking requirements, are required to be planted according to Table 673-2.

A. Planting requirements in RIO-4, RIO-5, and RIO-6 should continue the restoration landscape efforts along the river banks. Planting in these RIO districts is to be less formal so as to maintain the rural setting of the river.

B. In "RIO-3," if existing conditions don't meet the standards as set out in Table 673-2, the owner or lessee will not have to remove paving to add landscaping in order to meet the standards until there is a substantial remodeling of the outdoor area. Substantial remodeling will include replacement of seventy-five (75) percent of

the paving materials, or replacement of balcony and stair structures.

(f) Plant Materials. A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio area to create unique vegetation ecosystems. Along the route of the San Antonio River, the soil conditions vary greatly from the northern boundary near Hildebrand to the city limits near Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Mission Espada) and therefore native and indigenous plants will vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

(1) Incorporate Existing Vegetation. Extend the use of landscape materials, including plants, shrubs and trees that are used in the public areas of the river onto adjacent private areas to form a cohesive design.

(2) Use indigenous and noninvasive species characteristic of the specific site as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department or the Unified Development Code Plant List found in Appendix E. In "RIO-3," plantings of tropical and semi-tropical plants with perennial background is permitted.

(3) Install Trees to Provide Shade and to Separate Pedestrians From Automobile Traffic. Install street trees along the property line or in the ROW abutting all streets according to minimum requirement standards established in subsection 35-512(b), except where this conflicts with existing downtown Tri-Party improvements in "RIO-3." In "RIO-3" the owner has the option of placing trees at the property line, or along the street edge.

(g) Paving Materials. An important San Antonio landscape tradition is the use of decorative surfaces for paving and other landscape structures. Paving materials and patterns should be carefully chosen to preserve and enhance the pedestrian experience.

(1) Vary Walkway, Patio and Courtyard Paving to Add Visual Interest on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River. Pervious paving is encouraged where feasible and appropriate to the site.

A. A maximum of six hundred (600) square feet is allowed for a single paving material before the paving material must be divided or separated with a paving material that is different in texture, pattern, color or material. A separation using a different material must be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide, the full width of the pathway.

B. A maximum of one hundred (100) lineal feet is allowed in a walkway before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-2," "RIO-3," and "RIO-4." A maximum of five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet is allowed before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-1," "RIO-5" and "RIO-6." The change of material at five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet will define and delineate one-tenth-mile markers.

C. In "RIO-3," the Riverwalk pathway shall be delineated by using a separate material that is clearly distinguished from the adjacent patio paving materials. If the historic Hugman drawings indicate a sidewalk width and pattern on the site, that paving pattern and material shall be replicated.

(h) Site Walls and Fences. Site walls and fences are used to help divide spaces, screen unsightly objects and provide privacy. However, the character of the San Antonio River is such that walls shall not be erected in such a way as to block views of the river from public spaces.

(1) Use of Site Walls to Define Outdoor Spaces.

A. Use of low scale walls (twenty-four (24) inches to forty-eight (48) inches) to divide space, create a variety in landscaping and define edges is permitted.

B. Solid walls (up to seventy-two (72) inches) are permitted to: screen mechanical equipment, garbage receptacles and other unsightly areas; and provide privacy at the back of lots up to the front building face.

(2) Site Wall and Fence Materials.

A. On properties abutting the river, site walls and fence materials may be constructed of: stone, block, tile, stucco, wrought iron, tubular steel, welded wire or a combination of masonry and metal, cedar posts and welded wire or garden loop or other materials having similar characteristics. All other properties, not abutting the river may use the above listed materials plus wood fencing.

B. All chain link fences are prohibited for properties abutting the river. For properties that do not abut the river chain link is only allowed in the rear yard if not readily visible from the right-of-way. Barbed wire, razor wire, and concertina are prohibited in all RIO districts.

(i) Street Furnishings. Street furnishings are exterior amenities, including but not limited to, tables, chairs, umbrellas, landscape pots, wait stations, valet stations, bicycle racks, planters, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, waste receptacles and similar items that help to define pedestrian use areas. Handcrafted street furnishings are particularly important in San Antonio, and therefore this tradition of craftsmanship and of providing street furniture is encouraged.

(1) Prohibited Street Furnishings in Riverwalk Area. The following street furnishings are prohibited within the publicly owned portion of the Riverwalk area, whether or not the property is leased, and on the exterior of the riverside of buildings directly adjacent to the publicly owned portion of the river:

A. Vending machines.

- B. Automatic teller machines.
- C. Pay phones.
- D. Photo booths.
- E. Automated machines such as, but not limited to, penny crunching machines, blood pressure machines, fortune-telling machines, video games, animated characters and other machines that are internally illuminated, or have moving parts, or make noise, or have flashing lights.
- F. Inanimate figures such as horses, kangaroos, bears, gorillas, mannequins or any such animal, cartoon or human figure. This section does not affect public art as defined in Appendix "A" of this chapter.
- G. Monitors (i.e., television screens, computer screens).
- H. Speakers.

(2) Street Furnishing Materials.

- A. Street furnishings shall be made of wood, metal, stone, terra cotta, cast stone, hand-sculpted concrete, or solid surfacing material, such as Corian or Surell.
- B. Inexpensive plastic resin furnishings are prohibited.

(3) Advertising on Street Furnishings.

- A. No commercial logos, trademarks, decals, product names whether specific or generic, or names of businesses and organizations shall be allowed on street furnishings.
- B. Product or business advertising is prohibited on all street furnishings.
- C. Notwithstanding the restrictions above, applications may be approved for purposes of donor or non-profit recognition.

(4) Street furnishings, such as tables and chairs may not be stored (other than overnight storage) in such a way as to be visible from the river pathway.

(j) Lighting. Site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. It should help define activity areas and provide interest at night. At the same time, lighting should facilitate safe and convenient circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Overspill of light and light pollution should be avoided.

(1) Site Lighting. Site lighting shall be shielded by permanent attachments to light fixtures so that the light sources are not visible from a public way and any offsite glare is prevented.

- A. Site lighting shall include illumination of parking areas, buildings, pedestrian routes, dining areas, design features and public ways.
- B. Outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall have average ambient light levels of between one (1) and three (3) foot-candles with a minimum of 0.5-foot candles and a maximum of six (6) foot-candles at any point measured on the ground plane. Interior spaces visible from the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level shall use light sources with no more than the equivalent lumens of a one hundred-watt incandescent bulb. Exterior balconies, porches and canopies adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall use light sources with the equivalent lumens of a sixty-watt incandescent bulb with average ambient light levels no greater than the lumen output of a one hundred-watt incandescent light bulb as long as average foot candle standards are not exceeded. Accent lighting of landscape or building features including specimen plants, gates, entries, water features, art work, stairs, and ramps may exceed these standards by a multiple of 2.5. Recreational fields and activity areas that require higher light levels shall be screened from the river hike and bike pathways with a landscape buffer.
- C. Exterior light fixtures that use the equivalent of more than one hundred-watt incandescent bulbs shall not emit a significant amount of the fixture's total output above a vertical cut-off angle of ninety (90) degrees. Any structural part of the fixture providing this cut-off angle must be permanently affixed.
- D. Lighting spillover to the publicly owned areas of the river or across property lines shall not exceed one-half (½) of one (1) foot-candle measured at any point ten (10) feet beyond the property line.

(2) Provide Lighting for Pedestrian Ways That is Low Scaled for Walking. The position of a lamp in a pedestrian-way light shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground.

(3) Light Temperature and Color.

- A. Light temperature and color shall be between 2500° K and 3500° K with a color rendition index (CRI) of eighty (80) or higher, respectively. This restriction is limited to all outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way and from the interior spaces adjoining the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level. Levels shall be determined by product specifications.

(4) Minimize the Visual Impacts of Exterior Building Lighting.

- A. All security lighting shall be shielded so that the light sources are not visible from a public way.

- B. Lighting (uplighting and downlighting) that is positioned to highlight a building or outdoor artwork shall be aimed at the object to be illuminated, not pointed into the sky.
- C. Fixtures shall not distract from, or obscure important architectural features of the building. Lighting fixtures shall be a subordinate feature on the building unless they are incorporated into the over-all design scheme of the building.

(5) Prohibited Lighting on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River.

- A. Flashing lights.
- B. Rotating lights.
- C. Chaser lights.
- D. Exposed neon.
- E. Seasonal decorating lights such as festoon, string or rope lights, except between November 20 and January 10.
- F. Flood lamps.

(6) Minimize the visual impacts of lighting in parking areas in order to enhance the perception of the nighttime sky and to prevent glare onto adjacent properties. Parking lot light poles are limited to thirty (30) feet in height, shall have a 90° cutoff angle so as to not emit light above the horizontal plane.

(k) Curbs and Gutters.

(1) Construct Curb and Gutter Along the Street Edge of a Property.

- A. Install curbs and gutter along the street edge at the time of improving a parcel.
- B. In order to preserve the rural character of RIO-5 and RIO-6, the HPO in coordination with public works and the development services department may waive the requirement of curbs and gutters.

(l) Access to Public Pathway Along the River. These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the river to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the river. The connections are to stimulate and enhance urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the river area.

(1) A stair, ramp or elevator connecting the publicly owned pathway at the river to private property along the river is allowed by right at the following locations:

- A. At all street and vehicular bridge crossings over the river.
- B. Where publicly owned streets dead end into the river.
- C. Where the pedestrian pathway in the Riverwalk area is located at the top of bank and there is a two-foot or less grade change between the private property and the pathway.

(2) If there is a grade change greater than two (2) feet between the private property and the publicly owned pathway at the river then the following conditions apply:

- A. Access to the publicly owned pathway is limited to one (1) connection per property, with the exception that connections are always allowed at street and vehicular bridge crossings. For example if one (1) property extends the entire block face from street crossing to street crossing the owner would be allowed three (3) access points if the distance requirements were met.
- B. The minimum distance between access points shall be ninety-five (95) feet. Only street and vehicular bridge connections are exempted. Mid-block access points must meet this requirement.
- C. Reciprocal access agreements between property owners are permitted.

(3) Clearly define a key pedestrian gateway into the site from the publicly owned pathway at the river with distinctive architectural or landscape elements.

- A. The primary gateway from a development to the publicly owned pathway at the river shall be defined by an architectural or landscape element made of stone, brick, tile, metal, rough hewn cedar or hand-formed concrete or through the use of distinctive plantings or planting beds.

(m) Buffering and Screening. The manner in which screening and buffering elements are designed on a site greatly affects the character of the river districts. In general, service areas shall be screened or buffered. "Buffers" are considered to be landscaped berms, planters or planting beds; whereas, more solid "screens" include fences and walls. When site development creates an unavoidable negative visual impact on abutting properties or to the public right-of-way, it shall be mitigated with a landscape design that will buffer or screen it.

(1) Landscape Buffers Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To buffer the edges of a parking lot from pedestrian ways and outdoor use areas, (such as patios, and courtyards), and as an option to screening in order to buffer service areas, garbage disposal areas, mechanical equipment, storage areas, maintenance yards, equipment storage areas and other similar activities that by their nature create unsightly views from pedestrian ways, streets,

public ROWs and adjoining property.

(2) Screening Elements Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To screen service areas, storage areas, or garbage areas from pedestrian ways.

(3) Exceptions for Site Constraints. Due to site constraints, in all RIOs and specifically for "RIO-3" where there is less than ten (10) feet to provide for the minimum landscape berm, a screen may be used in conjunction with plantings to meet the intent of these standards. For example a low site wall may be combined with plant materials to create a buffer with a lesser cross sectional width.

(4) Applicable Bufferyard Types. Table 510-2 establishes minimum plant materials required for each bufferyard type. For purposes of this section, type C shall be the acceptable minimum type.

(5) Applicable Screening Fence and Wall Types. Screening fences and walls shall be subject to conditions of subsection 35-673(h), Walls and Fences.

(n) Service Areas and Mechanical Equipment. Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations.

(1) Locate service entrances, waste disposal areas and other similar uses adjacent to service lanes and away from major streets and the river.

A. Position utility boxes so that they cannot be seen from the public Riverwalk path, or from major streets, by locating them on the sides of buildings and away from pedestrian and vehicular routes. Locating them within interior building corners, at building offsets or other similar locations where the building mass acts as a shield from public view is preferred.

B. Orient the door to a trash enclosure to face away from the street when feasible.

C. Air intake and exhaust systems, or other mechanical equipment that generates noise, smoke or odors, shall not be located at the pedestrian level.

(2) Screening of service entrance shall be compatible with the buildings on the block face.

A. When it would be visible from a public way, a service area shall be visually compatible with the buildings on the block face.

B. A wall will be considered compatible if it uses the same material as other buildings on the block, or is painted a neutral color such as beige, gray or dark green or if it is in keeping with the color scheme of the adjacent building.

(o) Bicycle Parking. On-site bicycle parking helps promote a long term sustainable strategy for development in RIO districts. Bicycle parking shall be placed in a well lit and accessible area. UDC bicycle parking requirements in UDC 35-526 can be met through indoor bicycle storage facilities in lieu of outdoor bike rack fixtures.

Sec. 35-674.02. - Building Design Principles in RIO-7.

This section provides policies and standards for the design of commercial, multi-family developments in excess of eight (8) units, and single-family developments in excess of five (5) units, institutional developments, and industrial buildings within the river improvement overlay districts. In general, principles align with the standards and guidelines established for the Downtown Business District.

(a) Mass and Scale. A building shall appear to have a "human scale." In general, this scale can be accomplished by using familiar forms and elements interpreted in human dimensions. Exterior wall designs shall help pedestrians establish a sense of scale with relation to each building. Articulating the number of floors in a building can help to establish a building's scale, for example, and prevent larger buildings from dwarfing the pedestrian.

(1) Reduce large floor plates and varying a building's height through the creation of smaller structures or facades when designing large projects that consume half a block or more. Sculpt a building's mass to avoid large bulky structures, which provide more visual monotony than variety. It is the well-balanced variety of building massing and textures of shadow, light and materials that in total adds to the richness of the built environment.

(2) Design building massing to reinforce the street wall with well-scaled elements or structures that are sensitive to the neighborhood context.

A. Divide large building facades into a series of appropriately scaled modules so that no building segment is more than ninety (90) feet in length. Consider dividing a larger building into "modules" that are similar in scale.

B. Monolithic slab-like structures that wall off views and overshadow the surrounding neighborhood are discouraged.

C. New buildings over seventy-five (75) feet tall should incorporate design elements that provide a base, middle and a top. Buildings less than seventy-five (75) feet should have a pedestrian scaled base with a cornice, eave, or other architectural element that gives the building a discernable edge at the top story.

D. Where a new building is infilled between an existing historic buildings on a block:

- i. The new building should, to the extent possible, maintain the alignment of horizontal elements along the block.
- ii. Floor-to-floor heights should appear to be similar to those seen in the area, particularly the window fenestration.
- iii. Align at least one (1) horizontal building element with another horizontal building element on the same block face. It will be considered to be within alignment if it is within three (3) feet, measured vertically, of the existing architectural element.

(b) Height. Building heights vary along the creek corridor, from one-story houses to high-rises. This diversity of building heights is expected to continue. Building heights shall be configured such that a comfortable human scale is established along the edges of properties and views to the creek and other significant landmarks are provided while allowing the appropriate density for an area.

A. The maximum building height and creek-side building step-backs shall be as defined in Table 674-3.

B. Building step-backs shall be at least fifteen (15) feet.

C. Buildings may be built to the height allowed without stepping back by aligning the lower floors with step-back-line creating more street level open space between the building and the creek.

(1) High-rise towers above ten (10) stories are encouraged in RIO-7a and allowed in RIO-7b when not in conflict with the Historic Design Guidelines. Towers are not allowed to form a continuous wall along the creek but shall be carefully sited to provide both views and privacy. Tower forms should be simple yet elegant and add a sculptural quality to the Downtown San Antonio skyline.

A. Towers should be combined with other building forms along the creek including townhouses, stacked flats, and mid-rise mixed-use buildings to create a variety of residential and office opportunities.

B. Towers should have their massing designed to reduce overall bulk and to appear slender as they ascend higher.

C. Towers may extend directly up from the property line at the street and are not required to be setback.

D. Tower siting and massing should maintain key views toward important natural or man-made features.

E. Design the middle segment or tower of the building to break up the overall bulk into smaller segments and address impacts such as shadowing and views. Reduce the perception of mass through architectural detailing such as changes of materials and color.

F. Design the top of buildings to be a "fifth facade" that may be distinctive against the skyline when looked up to or viewed from above. A well-designed roofline creates opportunities for sky views and views to distinctive landmarks; creates opportunities for sunlight to reach the ground, and orients the public when wayfinding. Design the top of the building and/or the top of its podium to include opportunity for communal outdoor amenity space and/or a place for environmental innovation such as green roofs, rainwater recovery and solar panels.

G. Towers should be designed to achieve a simple faceted geometry and large vertical plane movement. They should not appear overwrought or to have over-manipulated elements.

H. Towers that emulate a more streamline modern style should provide variation through subtle details in the curtain wall, and the articulation of a human-scaled base at the street level.

I. If a project has more than one tower, they should be complementary to each other and employ the same architectural design approach.

J. Generally, buildings over one hundred fifty (150) feet tall should not be historicized. They should represent contemporary interventions in the skyline.

K. A tower's primary building entrances should be designed at a scale appropriate to the overall size and design of the tower and be clearly marked.

L. A building's top should be delineated with a change of detail and meet the sky with a thinner form, or tapered point. Unarticulated, flat-topped buildings are not desired in Downtown San Antonio's skyline.

M. Mechanical Penthouses should be integrated into the tower design and should not appear as a separate element, as shown in Figure 5.7.

(2) Low-rise and mid-rise buildings are encouraged in RIO-7c, RIO-7d, and RIO-7e. (3) In RIO 7-d, organize the

mass of the building to step back from established residential neighborhoods. Where a commercial, mixed-use residential, multi-family or industrial use abuts a single-family residential development, or is across the street from a single-family residential development, the following standards shall apply:

A. The massing of the building shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height at the setback line. The building mass can continue upward within a 45-degree building envelope for a distance of fifty (50) feet measured horizontally from the building face, at which point the building massing may continue vertically to the height established in subsection 35-674(c).

(c) Materials and Finishes. After establishing a new building's overall massing and vertical and horizontal variation, it is important to develop a building's visual character at the level of material choices and detailing. The interplay of materials, windows and other elements should support the larger design principles as articulated by the architect. Ensure that buildings have architecturally detailed facades, where publicly visible, with no blank or featureless sides in anticipation of abutting to potential development in later phases or on adjacent land.

(1) Buildings are supposed to aim for a "timeless design" and employ sustainable materials and careful detailing that have proven longevity.

A. San Antonio has strong sun conditions. Use deep reveals to get shadow lines and if colors are desired, saturated colors and evaluate these outside on site.

B. Feature long-lived and local materials such as split limestone, brick and stone. The material palette should provide variety, reinforce massing and changes in the horizontal or vertical plane.

C. Use especially durable materials on ground floor facades.

D. Generally, stucco is not desirable on the ground floor as it is not particularly durable. Detail buildings with rigor and clarity to reinforce the architect's design intentions and to help set a standard of quality to guild the built results.

E. To provide visual variety and depth, layer the building skin and provide a variety of textures that bear a direct relationship to the building's massing and structural elements. The skin should reinforce the integrity of the design concept and the building's structural elements as seen in Figure 7.5 and 7.6 of the Downtown Design Guide and not appear as surface pastiche.

F. Layering can also be achieved through extension of two (2) adjacent building planes that are extended from the primary facade to provide a modern sculptural composition.

G. Cut outs (often used to create sky gardens) should be an appropriate scale and provide a comfortable, usable outdoor space.

H. Design curtain walls with detail and texture, while employing the highest quality materials.

I. Design the color palette for a building to reinforce building identity and complement changes in the horizontal or vertical plane.

J. Value-added materials, such as stone should be placed at the base of the building, especially at the first floor level. Select materials suitable for a pedestrian urban environment. Impervious materials such as stone, metal or glass should be used on the building exterior. Materials will be made graffiti resistant or be easily repainted.

K. Corner buildings at prominent intersections require a higher standard of articulation, detailing, and architectural treatment than other buildings within the middle of the block.

L. RIO-7e is a mixed-use transition area with single family houses, some masonry commercial buildings, concrete warehouses, and long metal sheds built next to railroad sidings. In this district, the historic preservation officer may approve non-traditional building materials, like corrugated metal siding and concrete panels, if well detailed and compatible with the traditional building forms and scale of the district.

(2) Prohibited Exterior Materials.

A. Imitation stone (fiberglass or plastic);

B. Plywood or decorative exterior plywood;

C. "Lumpy" stucco, CMU;

D. Rough sawn or "natural" (unfinished) wood, EIFS;

E. Used brick with no fired face (salvaged from interior walls);

F. Imitation wood siding;

G. Plastic panels.

(e) Pedestrian Orientation. New buildings should follow the principles of good urban design, creating active street and creek facades and focusing on enhancing the public realm of the streets and the creek.

(1) Buildings ought to create a familiar rhythm relative to the overall street. The rhythm and pattern helps to tie the street together visually and provides the pedestrian with a standard measurement of progress. Reinforcement of this facade rhythm is encouraged in new buildings, even if a singular structure (see Figure 7.1 in the Downtown Design Guide).

(2) New development ought to respect the existing fabric of the community by reflecting historic mixed-use development patterns, through the use of building indentations, relationship to the street, first floor plate height, breaks in buildings for open space, and changes in color to avoid monolithic and monochromatic developments.

(3) Horizontal Variation. Vary the horizontal plane of a building to provide visual interest and enrich the pedestrian experience, while contributing to the quality and definition of the street wall.

A. Provide well-marked entrances to cue access and use. Enhance all public entrances to a building through the use of compatible architectural or graphic treatment. Main building entrance shall read differently from retail storefronts, restaurant, and commercial entrances.

B. Avoid continuous massing longer than ninety (90) feet not articulated with shadow relief, projections and recessed. If massing extends beyond the is length, it needs to be visibly articulated as several smaller masses using different material, vertical breaks, such as expressed bay widths, or other architectural elements.

C. Horizontal variation should be of an appropriate scale and reflect changes in the building uses or structure as seen in Figure 7.2.4 of the Downtown Design Guide.

D. Vary details and materials horizontally to provide scale and three-dimensional qualities to the building.

E. While blank street wall facades are discouraged, there is usually one side of the building that is less prominent (often times called "back of house").

(4) Vertical Variation. Both classical and modern buildings can exhibit basic principles of visual order in the vertical plane—often with a distinct base (street and pedestrian lower levels), a middle (core mid-section, and often consistent for multiple floors of a mid- to high-rise building), and a top (the upper level that distinguishes a building and defines how it "meets the sky") as seen in Figure 7.3 of the Downtown Design Guide.

A. Modern or contemporary building designs often layer this principle with more variation and syncopation to create interesting architectural composition as seen in Figure 7.4 of the Downtown Design Guide. Whenever a new infill building is proposed between two (2) existing structures, every attempt should be made to maintain the characteristic rhythm, proportion, and spacing of existing door and window openings. B. Variation in the vertical plane of a building ought to define the building's uses and visually differentiate ground floor uses, from core functions and how the building "meets the sky."

i. Employ a different architectural treatment on the ground floor facade than on the upper floors, and feature high quality materials that add scale, texture and variety at the pedestrian level.

ii. Vertically articulate the street wall facade, establishing different treatment for the building's base, (middle and top) and use balconies, fenestration, or other elements to create an interesting pattern of projections and recesses.

iii. Provide an identifiable break between the building's ground floors and upper floors designed for office or other use. This break may include a change in material, change in fenestration pattern or similar means.

iv. In order to respect existing historic datums, the cornice or roof line of historic structures should be reflected with a demarcation on new infill structures whenever possible.

v. On facades exposed to the sun, employ shade and shadow created by reveals, surface changes, overhangs, and sunshades to provide sustainable benefits and visual interest.

vi. Buildings taller than seventy-five (75) feet should employ at least two (2) vertical breaks or reveals greater than three (3) feet in depth to divide the bulkiness of the mass.

(5) Fenestration. Provide high-performance, well-detailed windows and doors that add to the depth and scale of a building's facade.

A. Windows are to be as transparent as possible at the ground floor of the building, with preference given to grey, low-e glass (eighty-eight (88) percent light transmission).

B. Window placement, size, material and style should help define a building's architectural style and integrity.

C. In buildings other than curtain wall buildings, windows should be recessed (set back) from the exterior



building wall, except where inappropriate to the building's architectural style. Generally, the required recess may not be accomplished by the use of plantings around the window.

D. Windows and doors should be well-detailed where they meet the exterior wall to provide adequate weather protection and to create a shadow line.

E. Windows on upper floors should be proportioned and placed in relation to grouping of storefront or other windows and elements in the base floor. Windows should have a vertical emphasis.

F. Glazing. Incorporate glazing that contributes to a warm, inviting environment for interior spaces.

i. Ground-floor window and door glazing should be transparent and non-reflective.

ii. Above the ground floor, both curtain wall and window and door glazing should have the minimum reflectivity needed to achieve energy efficiency standards. Non-reflective coating or tints are preferred.

iii. A limited amount of translucent glazing at the ground floor may be used to provide privacy.

(6) Street Wall. In order to support a pedestrian-oriented public realm, retail or commercial streets should be framed by buildings uniformly placed at the sidewalk with no setback as seen in Figure 5.5 of the Downtown Design Guide. The height of the street wall is an important element in shaping the character of the public realm. Design building walls along the sidewalk (Street Walls) to define the street and to provide a comfortable scale for pedestrians.

A. Street walls should be located against the back of sidewalk.

B. Walls above the ground floor that step back from the ground floor street wall are considered to be part of the street wall.

C. Breaks in the street wall should be limited to those necessary to accommodate pedestrian pass-through, public plazas, entry forecourts, permitted vehicular access driveways, and hotel drop-offs.

D. An identifiable break should be provided between a building's retail floors (ground level and, in some cases, second and third floors) and upper floors. This break may consist of a change in material, change in fenestration, or similar means.

E. Vertical breaks should also be taken into account with fenestration such as columns or bays.

F. When a property is situated in such a manner as to appear to be the terminus at the end of a street or at a prominent curve in the creek, buildings should incorporate an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. These features may include:

i. Enhanced building facade.

ii. Enhanced garden or landscape in an open space.

iii. Variation in roof shape. iv. Change material and color.

v. Tower element.

(7) In contrast to the design of buildings along the sidewalks described in (b)(9) the creek side of buildings should not establish a uniform, aligned wall but rather a series of related and connected gardens, plazas, and patios. These On-site Open Spaces (see subsection 35-673(q)) should be integrated with the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project. Where a building facade faces the creek it should recognize the historic proportions of lots and resulting building forms. Lots were generally seventy (70) to ninety (90) feet wide along the creek but several hundred feet deep. The resulting building forms are long bar-shapes running perpendicular to the creek.

A. The best views of the creek are generally perpendicular to the creek not parallel to the creek.

Rectangular buildings should have the narrow face parallel to the creek and the long face perpendicular to the creek. See Figure 674-1. i. Bends in the creek provide a unique opportunity for siting buildings to maximize views and may provide unique challenges. The Historic Preservation Officer may consider different building orientations for these sites if the overall goals for RIO-7 are met.

B. Buildings are not allowed to have a continuous, flat facade lot-line to lot-line along the creek property line. Building massing should turn perpendicular to the creek and form gardens, courts, patios, paseos, and plazas between buildings and/or different building masses. Windows, balconies, or other ways of viewing these publically accessible open spaces is high encouraged. The following On-Site Open Spaces required by building length may be used as one of the On-Site Open Spaces required by Table 673-3. i. The maximum length of a building wall plane is ninety (90) feet. Buildings with facades longer than ninety (90) feet must use side-yard courts, courtyards, or forecourts to divide the facade into modules less than ninety (90) feet long. ii. Buildings or a collection of buildings built concurrently with a creek-face longer than two hundred seventy (270) feet are required to have a forecourt, courtyard, creek-side plaza, garden, paseo, or pedestrian-oriented service drive to divide the mass of the building and provide publicly

accessible open space. iii. Single developments with three hundred (300) linear feet of creek frontage or greater should have at least two (2) distinct building types or building heights along the creek property line with no more than seventy (70) percent of any one building type. Building types are defined in Downtown Design Guidelines. iv. Buildings that setback more than thirty (30) feet from the creek-side setback line and provide publicly accessible gardens, patios, plazas, or terraces are not required to provide additional publicly accessible open spaces. v. Sites that are five hundred fifty (550) feet or longer should provide mid-block paseos, pedestrian oriented mid-block service drives and fire lane, or pedestrian friendly public access and should connect from a public street to another public street, public alley, or the San Pedro Creek. Where San Antonio Public Works and/or Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has provided approval, per Chapter 8 Section C of the Downtown Design Guide, connections should try to align within one hundred (100) feet of the mid-block connection.

(8) Develop the first floor to activate the creek paseos and street sidewalks.

A. In mixed-use buildings, retail buildings, or office buildings the creek side facade should be primarily transparent with seventy-five (75) percent of the length of the facade devoted to display windows and/or windows affording some view into the interior areas or offices. Facades facing Primary and Secondary Pedestrian Streets listed in subsection 35-672(b)(1)D Curb Cuts should have at least fifty (50) [percent] of the facade devoted to windows. Facades facing side streets should have at least twenty-five (25) percent of the facade devoted to windows. Side-street facades should contribute to the pedestrian friendly environment and activate the street when possible. These facades are important in activating the connections from the surrounding neighborhoods to the creek.

B. In multi-family residential buildings with no retail, arrange support facilities, management offices, and building amenities along the creek and streets with a minimum of seventy-five (75) percent of the exterior facade associated with these spaces. Provide building and ground floor residential unit entrances to pedestrian paths that connect to the high-bank paseo or publicly accessible path at the top-of-bank along the low-bank paseo.

C. Institutional and civic buildings should arrange functions and entrances to provide access and views to internal functions.

D. Alternate arrangements that provide creek and street activation may be approved by the historic preservation officer.

(9) Design ground floor space for retail or other active uses, orienting tenant spaces to the street and creek and maximizing storefronts and entries along the sidewalks to sustain street level interest and promote pedestrian traffic.

A. Locate active uses along the street and creek facade to enhance the building's relationship to the public realm. Uses include: lobbies, dining rooms, seating areas, offices, retail stores, community or institutional uses, and residences.

B. Ground floor retail space shall be provided to a depth of at least twenty-five (25) feet from the front facade and shall include an average fourteen (14) foot to zero (0) inch floor-to-ceiling height, with heights above fourteen (14) feet being very desirable.

C. The primary entrance to each street level tenant that does not have its frontage along a public street shall be provided from a pedestrian paseo, courtyard or plaza, which is connected to the public street, creek, or alley.

D. Wall openings, such as storefront windows and doors, shall comprise at least seventy (70) percent of a commercial building's street and creek level facade as seen in Figure 3.2. of the Downtown Design Guide.

E. Clear glass for wall openings, i.e., doors and windows, shall be used along all street-level commercial facades for maximum transparency, especially in conjunction with retail and hotel uses as illustrated in Figure 3.3 of the Downtown Design Guide. Dark tinted, reflective or opaque glazing is not permitted for any required wall opening along commercial street level facades.

F. A building's primary entrance, defined as the entrance which provides the most direct access to a building's main lobby and is kept unlocked during business hours, shall be located on a public street or on a courtyard, plaza or paseo that is connected to and visible from a public street or the San Pedro Creek.

G. At least one building entrance/exit, which may be either a building or tenant and resident entrance, shall be provided along each street frontage.

H. Use clear windows and doors to make the pedestrian level facade highly transparent and accessible.

Along retail streets, provide a nearly continuous band of windows. Ensure doorways in glass walls exhibit

sufficient contrast to be clearly visible.

I. The facades on downtown commercial streets should be detailed as storefronts, except where the proposed ground floor use is live and work units, residential units or other non-commercial building types as seen in Figure 3.1.10 of the Downtown Design Guide. Where non-residential streets intersect, the ground floor retail space should wrap the corner onto the intersecting streets wherever possible.

J. Residential units with separate entries should include windows or glass doors on the ground floor that look out onto the street.

K. If a residential unit's individual entry along the street is the unit's primary entry, it should be accessible from the sidewalk.

L. More public entrances than the minimum specified by code, including building and or tenant and resident entrances are highly encouraged. Incorporate a pedestrian-oriented scale at the street and river level.

(10) Incorporate a pedestrian-oriented scale at the street and creek level.

A. Awnings and canopies shall be fabricated of woven fabric, glass, metal or other permanent material compatible with the building's architecture

B. Street wall massing, articulation and detail, street level building entrances and storefront windows and doors, as well as the use of quality materials and decorative details should be used to promote pedestrian-scaled architecture along the street.

C. Architectural features that reinforce the retail character of the ground floor street and creek wall and/or help define the pedestrian environment along the sidewalk, such as canopies, awnings, and overhangs, are encouraged and should be integral to the architecture of the building.

D. The design of the ground floors of hotels should exhibit a series of public space and entries that equally welcome the general public as well as guests. The first floor should be as transparent as possible. Hotel uses such as bars, lounges, restaurants, cafes, spas and other uses open to the public should exhibit a direct pedestrian connection from the public right-of-way whenever possible Don't waste valuable street frontage on "back of house" uses.

E. Electrical transformers, mechanical equipment and other equipment should not be located along the ground floor street wall. Electrical transformers, mechanical equipment, other equipment, enclosed stairs, storage spaces, blank walls, and other elements that are not pedestrian-oriented should not be located within one hundred (100) feet of the corner property line as seen in Figure 3.6 of the Downtown Design Guide or visible from public right-of-way.

(11) Street Entrances. Design building entries to be clearly visible from the street as well as to promote pedestrian comfort, safety, orientation and accessibility. In order to increase personal safety, entries and associated open spaces should be designed to avoid the creation of isolated areas and to maintain lines of sight into and out of a space.

A. Reinforce a building's entry with one or more of the following architectural treatments:

- i. Extra height lobby space;
- ii. Distinctive doorways;
- iii. Decorative lighting;
- iv. Distinctive entry canopy;
- v. Projected or deep recessed entry;
- vi. Building name and address integrated into the facade;
- vii. Artwork integrated into the facade or sidewalk;
- viii. A change in paving material, texture, or color within the property line;
- ix. Distinctive landscaping, including plants, water features and seating.

B. The primary street entrance of single buildings will be off the public sidewalk in RIO-7a, RIO-7b, and RIO-7c as seen in Figure 7.7 of the Downtown Design Guide.

- i. In RIO-7d and RIO-7e, entrances may be off of a walkway connected to both the public sidewalk and the parking area as shown in Figure 673-1.
- ii. In projects with multiple buildings arranged on one site, building entrances may be off of pedestrian paths connecting streets with the creek or courtyards and plazas within a site similar to Figure 672-2.

C. Strong colors should emphasize architectural details and entrances.

D. Deep recessed entries into the building are encouraged. (12) Creek Side Facade and Entrances. The Creekside of buildings should be responsive to the park-side of an urban building. Materials may be less formal, trellises and pergolas may be used in place of more traditional street side canopies and formal entries.

UDC Section. 35-675. Archaeology.

When an HDRC application is submitted for commercial development projects within a river improvement overlay district the city archeologist shall review the project application to determine if there is potential of containing intact archaeological deposits utilizing the following documents/methods:

- (1)The Texas Sites Atlas for known/recorded sites, site data in the files of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission;
- (2)USGS maps;
- (3)Soil Survey maps;
- (4)Distance to water;
- (5)Topographical data;
- (6)Predictive settlement patterns;
- (7)Archival research and historic maps;
- (8)Data on file at the office of historic preservation.

If after review the city archeologist determines there is potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, an archaeological survey report shall be prepared and submitted. If, after review by the city archeologist, a determination is made that the site has little to no potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, the requirement for an archaeological survey report may be waived.

Upon completion of a survey, owners of property containing inventoried archaeological sites are encouraged to educate the public regarding archaeological components of the site and shall coordinate any efforts with the office of historic preservation.

Unified Development Code, Section 35-678 – Signs and Billboards in the RIO

(a) General Provisions.

- (1) This section governs all exterior signs and all interior signs hung within ten (10) feet of an exterior fenestration, or those signs intended to be read by exterior patrons.
  - A. All signage within an RIO district shall conform to all city codes and must have approval of the historic preservation officer prior to installation.
  - B. Permits must be obtained following approval of a certificate of appropriateness.
  - C. No sign shall be painted, constructed, erected, remodeled, refaced, relocated, expanded or otherwise altered until it has been approved and a permit has been obtained from the development services department in accordance with the provisions of this section and applicable city code.
  - D. Signs, visual displays or graphics shall advertise only the business on the premises unless otherwise allowed in this section.
  - E. Temporary displays for permitted events are authorized if in accordance with chapter 28 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas.
- (2) When reviewing applications for signage the historic preservation officer and the historic and design review commission shall consider the visual impact on nearby historic resources.
  - A. Signs should respect and respond to the environment and landmark or district character in which constructed.
  - B. Signs should respect and respond to the river improvement overlay districts character and the historic Riverwalk.
  - C. The content or advertising message carried by permitted signs shall pertain to the business located on the same premises as the sign or to any otherwise lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to a commodity or service for sale, provided that signs erected on buildings with multiple businesses within shall pertain to any such business within.
- (3) For signs with changeable message panels, the changeable message area of the sign shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the total sign area, except for gasoline price signs which shall not exceed seventy-five (75) percent of the total sign area. Electronic changeable message boards shall be prohibited.

(4) The name of a business may be changed through the administrative approval process if the sign conforms to the provisions of this section, and if the color, size, and style of lettering, and illumination of the sign remain the same.

(5) Provisions under this section shall comply with chapter 28 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas. In cases where provisions under this section are stricter or a sign is designated as a contributing structure, then this section shall control.

(6) Special consideration should be given to the character of the sign itself proposed in the application, and whether the proposed sign has inherently historic characteristics which may fall outside of the guidelines presented below but which would contribute to the historic district, landmark or area for which it is being proposed. Additionally, when reviewing applications for signage the historic preservation officer and the historic and design review commission shall consider the visual impact on nearby historic resources.

(7) Memorials, markers, naming rights of public property, and recognition of charitable donations given to the City of San Antonio shall be additionally governed by any formal action passed by city council.

(b) Sign Definitions. For signage definitions, refer to subsection 35-612(b) and chapter 28 of the City Code.

(c) Standards for Sign Design and Placement. In considering whether to recommend approval or disapproval of an application to construct or alter signage on a building, object, site, or structure in a river improvement overlay district, review shall be guided by the following standards in addition to any specific design guidelines approved by city council.

(1) Primary sign design considerations shall be identification and legibility. Size, scale, height, color and location of signs shall be harmonious with, and properly related to, the overall character of the district and structure. Sign materials shall be compatible with that of the building facade. Highly reflective materials that will be difficult to read are not permitted.

(2) Signs which describe, point, or direct the reader to a specific place or along a specific course, such as "entrance," "exit," and "disabled persons access," as well as government signs, shall be reviewed but shall not be included in total allowable signage area. Emergency signs shall be exempt from historic and design review commission approval.

(3) All graphic elements shall reinforce the architectural integrity of any building. Signs shall not disfigure, damage, mar, alter, or conceal architectural features or details and shall be limited to sizes that are in scale with the architecture and the streetscape. Emblems and symbols of identification used as principal structural or architectural design elements on a facade shall not be included in the total allowable signage per facade per structure when approved. Review shall be guided by the building's proportion and scale when such elements are incorporated.

(4) Graphics and signage may be illuminated by indirect, internal, or bare-bulb sources, providing that glare is not produced; by indirect light sources concealed by a hood or diffuser; by internal illumination with standard opal glass or other translucent material or with an equal or smaller light transmission factor. All illumination shall be steady and stationary. Neon lighting shall be permitted when used as an integral architectural element or artwork appropriate to the site. For purposes of this subsection, "Glare" shall mean an illumination level of six (6) Lux or greater at the property boundary. If internal illumination is used, it shall be designed to be subordinate to the overall building composition. Light fixtures should reflect the design period of the building on which they are placed. The use of ambient light from storefront or streetlights is encouraged.

(5) Signage requests for multi-tenant buildings must complement existing signage with regards to size, number, placement and design, unless such existing signage is not in conformity with regulations in this article. It is recommended that the building owner or their agent develop a master signage plan or signage guidelines for the total building or property. If a property has an approved master signage plan on file with the historic preservation officer, then applications for signage may be approved administratively at the discretion of the historic preservation officer provided that they comply with such master signage plan. Notwithstanding the above, signs may not exceed the maximum size and height limitation of signage contained in chapter 28, article 9.

(d) Proportion of Signs. For all signage, signage width and height must be in proportion to the facade, respecting the size, scale and mass of the facade, building height, and rhythms and sizes of window and door openings. The building facade shall be considered as part of an overall sign program but the sign shall be subordinate to the overall building composition. Additionally, signs shall respect and respond to the character and/or period of the area in which they are being placed.

(e) Number and Size of Signs.

(1) Number and Size. The historic and design review commission shall be guided in its decisions by the total number of businesses or services per building and the percentage of visible storefront occupied by each business or service. Applicants may apply for up to three (3) signs total. Total signage for all applicants shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet unless additional signs and/or additional total footage is approved. Additional square footage may be approved provided that the additional signage is in conformity with, and does not interfere with, the pedestrian experience on

the Riverwalk. The additional square footage shall be based upon the size and scope of the site. Signs should reflect the type and speed of traffic they are meant to attract. Signs designed for pedestrians and drivers of slow moving cars should not be the same size as signs designed for highway traffic.

(2) Sign Area. The sign area shall be determined in the following manner:

A. Sign Areas. The area of a sign shall be computed on the actual area of the sign. Sign area shall be calculated as the area within a parallelogram, triangle, circle, semicircle or other regular geometric figure including all letters, figures, graphics or other elements of the sign, together with the framework or background of the sign. The supporting framework of the sign shall not be included in determining sign area unless such supporting framework forms an integral part of the sign display, as determined by the historic preservation officer. If the sign is located on a decorative fence or wall, when such fence or wall otherwise meets these or other ordinances or regulations and is clearly incidental to the display itself, the fence or wall shall not be included in the sign area. In the cases of signs with more than one (1) sign face, including but not restricted to double-faced signs, back-to-back signs, overhanging signs, and projecting signs, each side of the sign shall be included in total allowable signage area.

B. Channel Letter Signs. For channel letter signs, the sign area shall be the smallest rectangle that will encompass the limits of the writing, including spaces between the letters. Each advertising message shall be considered separately.

(3) Building Identification Signs. An additional building identification sign may be placed on a building with multiple tenants, if the building name is not the same as the business(s) housed within and such sign is recommended for approval by the historic and design review commission. This type of sign is to identify a building as a destination, shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, shall not be included in the total allowable signage area, and shall not include names of individual businesses.

(4) Freestanding Signs. Freestanding signs are allowed provided the sign does not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Freestanding signs shall be perpendicular to the street, two-sided and no taller than six (6) feet. Freestanding signs shall not be located in the right-of-way.

A. Projecting Arm Signs. Signs hung from poles are allowed. Pole height shall not exceed six (6) feet and the pole diameter shall not exceed three (3) inches. Blade signs are not allowed to project over a sidewalk or other right-of-way.

(f) Allowable Signs Not Included in the Total Signage Area.

(1) Parking lot signs identifying entrances and exits to a parking lot or driveway, but only when there is one-way traffic flow. No more than one (1) sign shall be permitted for each driveway entrance or exit, and no corporate or business logos shall be permitted. Additionally, parking lot signs to identify divisions of the parking lot into sections and to control vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic within the lot provided that no corporate or business logos shall be permitted. Signs approved under this category shall not be included in the total allowable signage per structure.

(2) Dates of erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets, insignia of local, state or federal government, and like when carved into stone, concrete or similar material or made of bronze, aluminum or other permanent type construction and made an integral part of the structure. Signs approved under this category shall not be included in the total allowable signage per structure.

(3) Information signs of a public or quasi-public nature identifying or locating a hospital, public building, college, publicly-owned parking area, historic area, major tourist attraction or similar public or quasi-public activity; and also including signs identifying restrooms or other facilities relating to such places or activities. Signs approved under this category shall not be included in the total allowable signage per structure.

(4) Incidental signs, including signs designating business hours, street numbers, credit card acceptance and the like provided that the signs are not freestanding, the total of all such signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet for each business, and the signs are non-illuminated. Incidental signs shall not be included in the total allowable signage per structure.

(5) Real estate signs, advertising the sale, rental or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the signs are displayed. The maximum sign area shall be eight (8) square feet. Only one (1) sign will be permitted for each building for sale or lease that is adjacent to the Riverwalk. The sign is permitted to remain only while that particular building is for sale or the lease space is available.

(k) Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited:

(1) Billboards, junior billboards, portable signs, and advertising benches;

- (2) Any sign placed upon a building, object, site, or structure in any manner so as to disfigure, damage, or conceal any window opening, door, or significant architectural feature or detail of any building;
- (3) Any sign or sign spinner which advertises commercial off-premises businesses, products, activities, services, or events unless otherwise allowed in this article;
- (4) Any sign which does not identify a business or service within the river improvement overlay district unless otherwise allowed in this article;
- (5) Any non-contributing sign which is abandoned or damaged beyond fifty (50) percent of its replacement value, including parts of old or unused signs. All remnants such as supports, brackets and braces must also be removed;
- (6) Any attachment to an already affixed sign which does not meet the provisions of the City Code;
- (7) Roof mounted signs, except in the cases of landmark signs or unless approved in accordance with standards set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Contributing roof mounted signs may be resurfaced with an approved certificate of appropriateness. The square footage of roof mounted signs shall be included in the total allowable signage for the building;
- (8) Pole-mounted cabinet signs and pylon signs;
- (9) Digital displays, digital and/or LED lighted signs, not to include LED light sources that do not meet the definition of a sign, with or without rotating, flashing lettering, icons or images.

Except as provided below:

- A. A public transportation agency may incorporate transit information signage into transit shelters, utilizing LED or digital technology, provided the signage is contained within or under the transit shelter, and is limited to five (5) square feet of signage area, and one (1) sign per thirty (30) linear feet of pedestrian shelter.
  - B. A public transportation agency may incorporate transit information signage into a monument sign at transit stops, utilizing LED or digital technology, provided it is limited to five (5) square feet of signage area.
  - C. A public transportation agency may incorporate transit information signage into a monument sign at transit facilities (other than transit stops), utilizing LED or digital technology, provided it is limited to seven (7) square feet of signage area.
  - D. The historic preservation officer may impose additional restrictions on illumination to ensure that the character of signs are harmonious with the character of the structures on which they are to be placed and designated landmarks or districts in the area, provided that such restrictions are reasonably related to other conforming signs and conforming structures in the area, do not unreasonably restrict the amount of signage allowed by this section, and are in keeping with the intent of this section. Among other things, consideration shall be given to the location and illumination of the sign in relation to the surrounding buildings, the use of appropriate materials, the size and style of lettering and graphics, and the type of lighting proposed.
  - E. Digital displays, digital and/or LED lighted signs are authorized in conjunction with a temporary display for a permitted event if in accordance with chapter 28 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas.
- (10) Revolving signs or signs with a moving component.
  - (11) Any sandwich board which conflicts with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or which disrupts or interferes with pedestrian or other traffic.
  - (12) Any sign that obscures a sign display by a public authority for the purpose of giving instructions or directions or other public information.
  - (13) Any sign which consists of pennants, ribbons, spinners or other similar moving devices.
  - (14) Any sign, except official notices and advertisements, which is nailed, tacked, posted or in any other manner attached to any utility pole or structure or supporting wire, cable, or pipe; or to any tree on any street or sidewalk or to public property of any description.
  - (15) Moored balloons, wind jammers or other floating or inflated signs that are tethered to the ground or to a structure.
  - (16) Any permanent or temporary sign affixed to, painted on, or placed in or upon any parked vehicle, parked trailer or other parked device capable of being towed, which is parked so as to advertise the business to the passing motorist or pedestrian; and whose primary purpose is to provide additional on-site signage or is to serve the function of an outdoor advertising sign. Excluded from this are vehicles or equipment that are in operating condition, currently registered and licensed to operate on public streets with a valid inspection sticker, and actively used in the daily function of the business to which such signs relate; vehicles/equipment engaged in active construction projects; vehicles or equipment offered for rent to the general public and stored on-premises and otherwise allowed under applicable city ordinance. Notwithstanding the above, signs designated as a contributing sign or structure by the historic preservation officer shall not be prohibited unless or until such designation is revoked.

## FINDINGS:

- a. The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to perform exterior modifications, site work and install signage at 111 Soledad. The structure is located within the Main and Military Plaza Historic District, as well as the District 3 of the River Improvement Overlay.
- b. CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL – This request received conceptual approval from the Historic and Design Review Commission on June 5, 2019, with the following stipulations:
  - i. That the applicant coordinate with the City of San Antonio Center City Development Office, Transportation and Capital Improvements and the Disability Access Office in regards to the street level details, width of public walkways and public access across the site.
  - ii. That a width of six (6) feet in width is maintained between the curbcut and building façade at all times.
  - iii. That the applicant eliminate the rooftop signage facing Main Plaza and that the applicant continue to incorporate signage into the architecture of the building. Signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- c. ROOFTOP BAR – The applicant has proposed to construct a rooftop bar featuring a canopy and trellis element. Staff finds the proposed addition to be appropriate and consistent with the UDC as the proposed trellis and canopy element creates a cap to the lower massing of the structure.
- d. EXTERIOR MODIFICATIONS (Vertical circulation) – The applicant has proposed to modify the east (Soledad) façade to include new façade materials oriented in a vertical emphasis to the proposed rooftop terrace to differentiate the circulation element from existing façade elements. Staff finds the proposed modification appropriate as it further creates façade separation. Additionally, the proposed modification creates an architectural focal point. This is consistent with the UDC.
- e. EXTERIOR MODIFICATIONS (Street level) – The applicant has proposed to modify the street level façades on both Soledad (east) and E Commerce (south) to feature entrance elements that more adequately address pedestrian traffic and the human scale. These modifications include the installation of entrance canopies, in addition to new and detailed pedestrian entrances. The UDC Section 35-673 provides standards for pedestrian entrances, including arranging entrances in a hierarchy. The UDC Section 35-674 notes that entrances shall be the most prominent on streets, shall be places to be highly visible, shall have a change in material and/or wall plane and should not use excessive storefront systems. The proposed modifications to entrances on both Soledad and E Commerce and consistent with the UDC.
- f. EXTERIOR MODIFICATIONS (West façade) – The applicant has proposed to add two columns of windows on a northern facing wall portion on the west façade. Staff finds the proposed additional fenestration to be appropriate and consistent with the UDC.
- g. LIGHTING – The applicant has proposed to install both up and down lighting on various architectural elements including at the building's base, capital, roof deck and street canopies. Generally, staff finds the inclusion of architectural lighting on site to be appropriate. The applicant should avoid lighting that will cause light pollution.
- h. SIDEWALK – At the street level on Soledad, the applicant has proposed to modify the existing sidewalk to feature a vehicular access point to accommodate valet parking. This would require the removal of portions of the public sidewalk; however, the applicant has noted that the existing pedestrian pathway within the structure's existing colonnade would be open to pedestrians. Per the submitted site plan, a width of six (6) feet will be maintained on the sidewalk at all times. The applicant shall coordinate with the City of San Antonio Center City Development Office, Transportation and Capital Improvements and the Disability Access Office in regards to the street level details, width of public walkways and public access across the site.
- i. SIGNAGE – The applicant has noted the installation of ten (10) total signs, for a total size 455 square feet. The UDC Section 35-678 (e) notes that applicants may apply for up to three (3) signs total for a total of fifty (50) square feet. Additional square footage and signs may be approved by the Commission based on square footage and the size and scope of the site.
- j. SIGNAGE (Channel letters, east) – The applicant has proposed to install a channel letter wall sign to read “AC Hotels” to face east to feature 10’ – 0” in height and 10’ – 0” in width for a total size of 100 square feet. This sign will be located fourteenth level of the existing structure. The applicant has not specified materials; however, the applicant has noted that the proposed letters will glow. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated



and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.

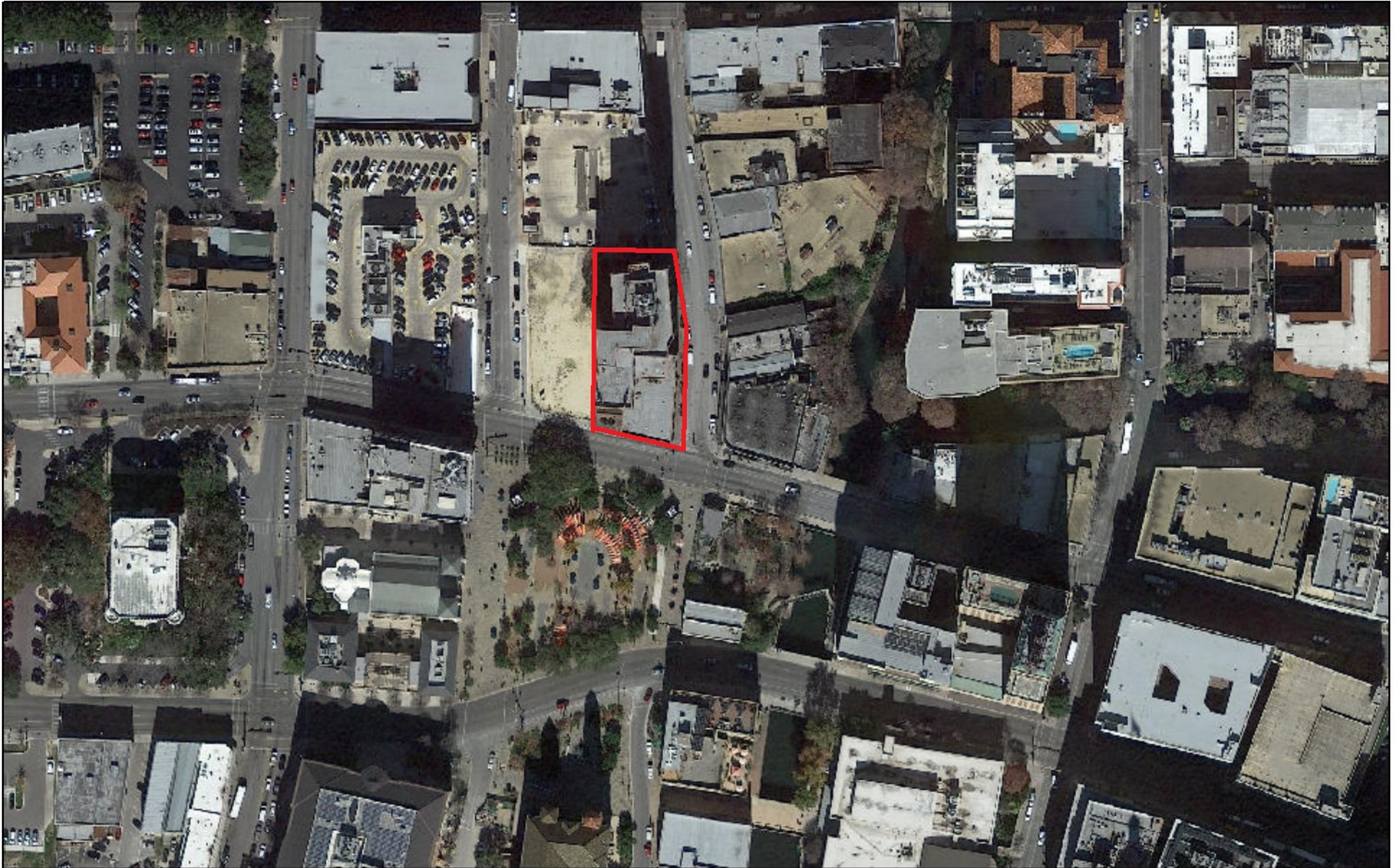
- k. SIGNAGE (Channel letters, west) – The applicant has proposed to install an illuminated channel letter wall sign to read “AC Hotel, Element Hotel By Marriott” to face west. The applicant has not specified materials; however, the applicant has noted that the proposed letters will glow. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- l. SIGNAGE (Pedestrian entrance signs) – The applicant has proposed to install two (2) hotel entrance signs at the pedestrian level on Soledad to feature 2’ – 0” in height and 2’ – 0” in width for a total size of four (4) square feet each. The proposed signs will be back lit with acrylic faces and metal frames. Staff finds the proposed location and sizes to be appropriate; however, staff finds that the proposed signs should not feature acrylic faces.
- m. SIGNAGE (Soledad canopy sign) – The applicant has proposed to install an illuminated channel letter canopy sign on Soledad to read “AC San Antonio” to feature 2’ – 0” in height and 24’ – 0” in width for a total size of forty-eight (48) square feet. The applicant has noted that the proposed sign will feature glowing channel letters. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- n. SIGNAGE (Secondary hotel entrance, Soledad) – The applicant has proposed to install a painted metal logo sign on Soledad at the hotel’s secondary entrance to feature a 4’ – 0” in height and 4’ – 0” in width for a total size of sixteen (16) square feet. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel. The applicant has noted that the proposed sign will feature glowing channel letters. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- o. SIGNAGE (Corner sign) – The applicant has proposed to install a wall sign at the corner of Soledad and E Commerce to feature a total size of sixty (60) square feet. The proposed sign will be applied to both the south and east elevations. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- p. SIGNAGE (Blade sign, Soledad) – The applicant has proposed to install a blade sign at the street level on Soledad to feature 4’ – 0” in width and 10’ – 0” in height for a total size of eighty (80) square feet, counting both sides. The proposed sign will feature illuminated channel letters with a brushed metal backer panel. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.
- q. SIGNAGE (Street level bar signage) – The applicant has proposed to install a street level bar signage to read “14 ½ Rooftop Bar” to feature an overall height of 2’ – 0” and an overall width of 10’ – 0” for a total size of twenty (20) square feet. The applicant has noted that the proposed signage will feature brushed metal letters. Staff finds this to be appropriate.
- r. SIGNAGE (Canopy sign, E Commerce) – The applicant has proposed to install an illuminated channel letter sign on the canopy element on E Commerce facing Main Plaza to read “AC Hotel San Antonio” to feature an overall height of 1’ – 0” and an overall width of 23’ – 0” for a total size of twenty-three (23) square feet. Staff finds that signage should be indirectly illuminated and feature metal construction. Signage should not feature plastic faces.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

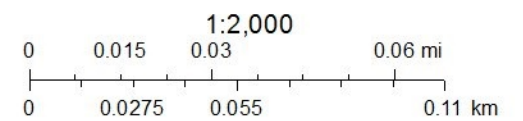
Staff recommends approval of items #1 through #12 based on findings a through r with the following stipulations:

- i. That the applicant coordinate with the City of San Antonio Center City Development Office, Transportation and Capital Improvements and the Disability Access Office in regards to the street level details, width of public walkways and public access across the site.
- ii. That a width of six (6) feet in width is maintained between the curbcut and building façade at all times.
- iii. That all signage feature indirect illumination and metal construction. All acrylic faces should be modified to metal faces and back lighting, or indirect lighting should be incorporated. Signage details for all signage including materials and installation methods are to be submitted to staff for review and approval prior to installation.

# City of San Antonio One Stop



September 26, 2019







111 Soledad St

El Comercio St





111 Soledad St



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## SITE PLAN

SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"  
When Printed at 11"x17"

09/13/19

PAGE A.001



### **Project Description**

111 Soledad Street is a proposed mixed-use redevelopment project located on 0.4659 acres in downtown. The building currently consists of 280,000 square feet of office space with retail on the street level. The proposed new use would be for a hotel with approximately **350 rooms**, 70,000 square feet of office, and 10,000 square feet of retail on the street level. A rooftop bar is also planned on top of the 11-story section of the building. The property is properly zoned "D" Downtown District and is located within the Historic District, RIO-3 AHOD.

# Photos

**HDRC Application – 111 Soledad Street**

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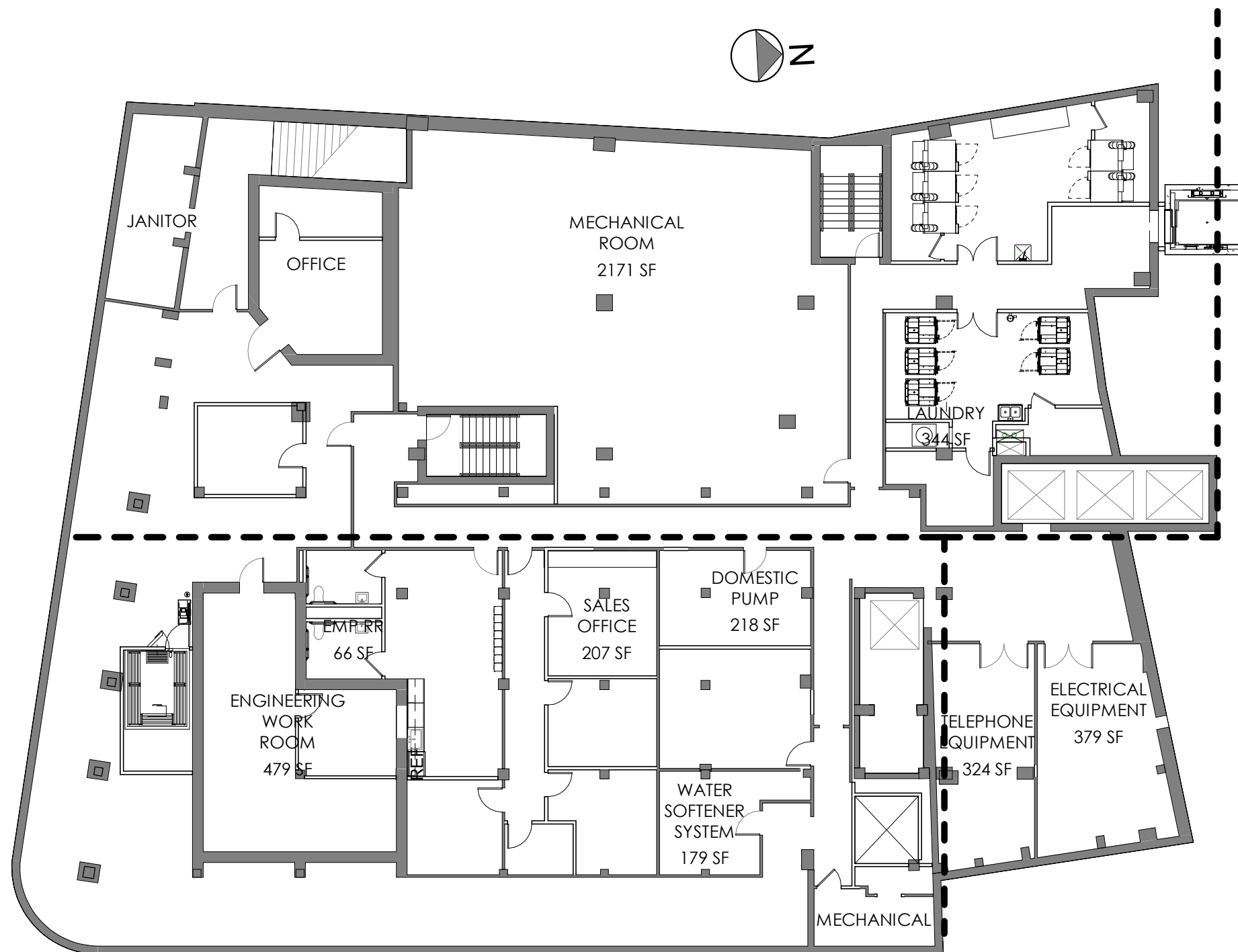








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**BASEMENT PLAN**  
SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

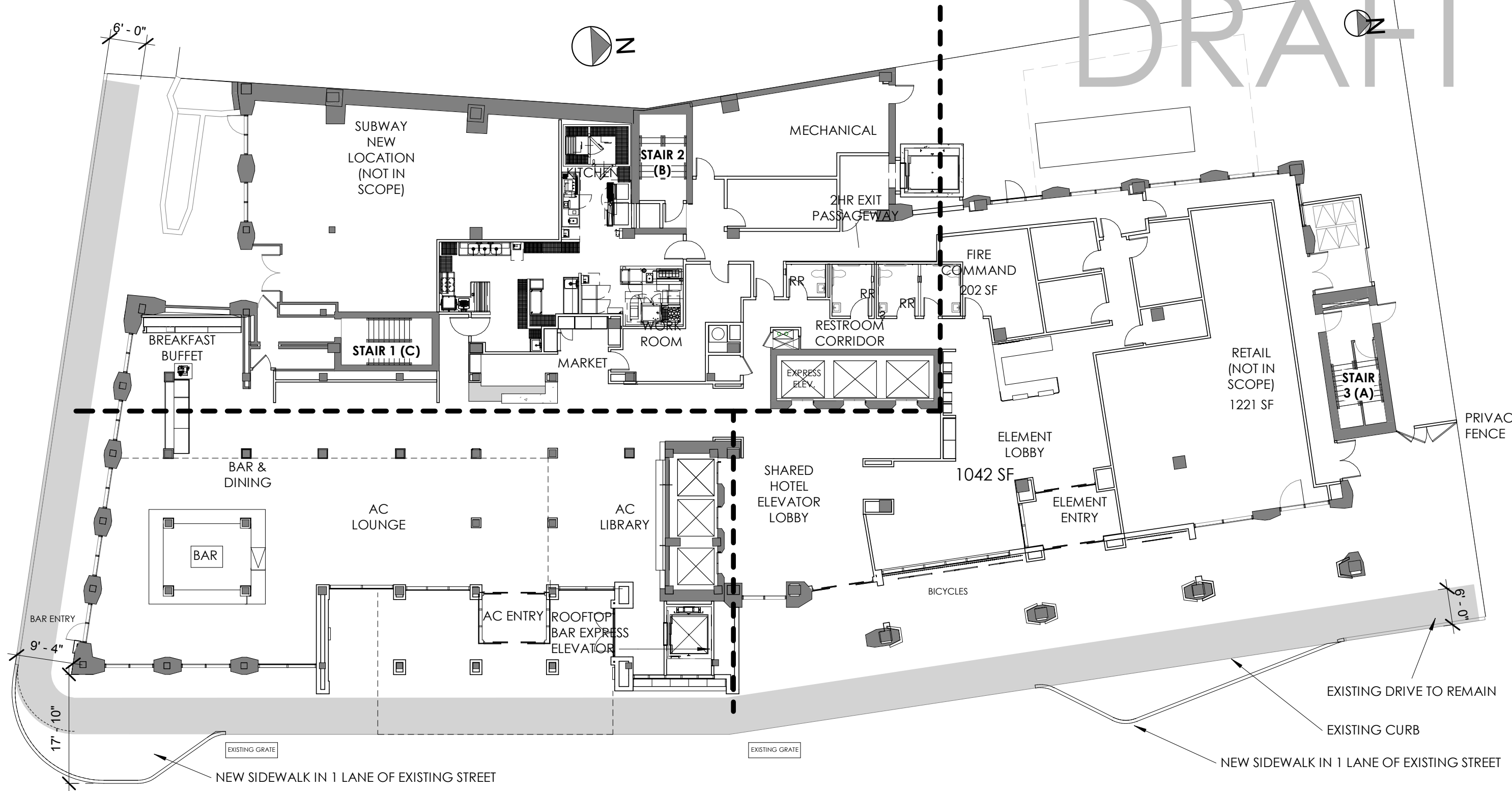
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SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"  
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# FIRST FLOOR PLAN

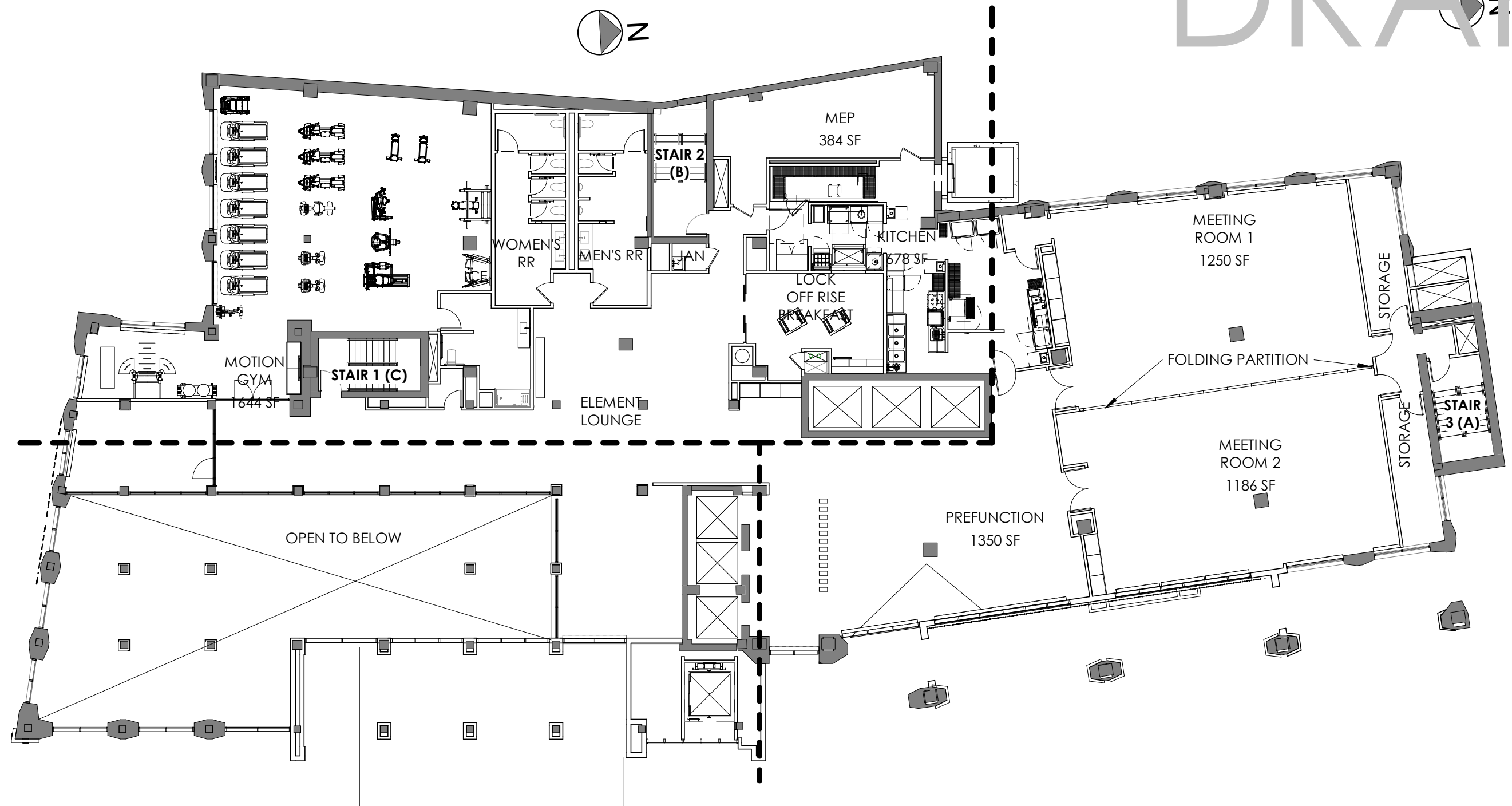
## SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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## SECOND FLOOR PLAN

### SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

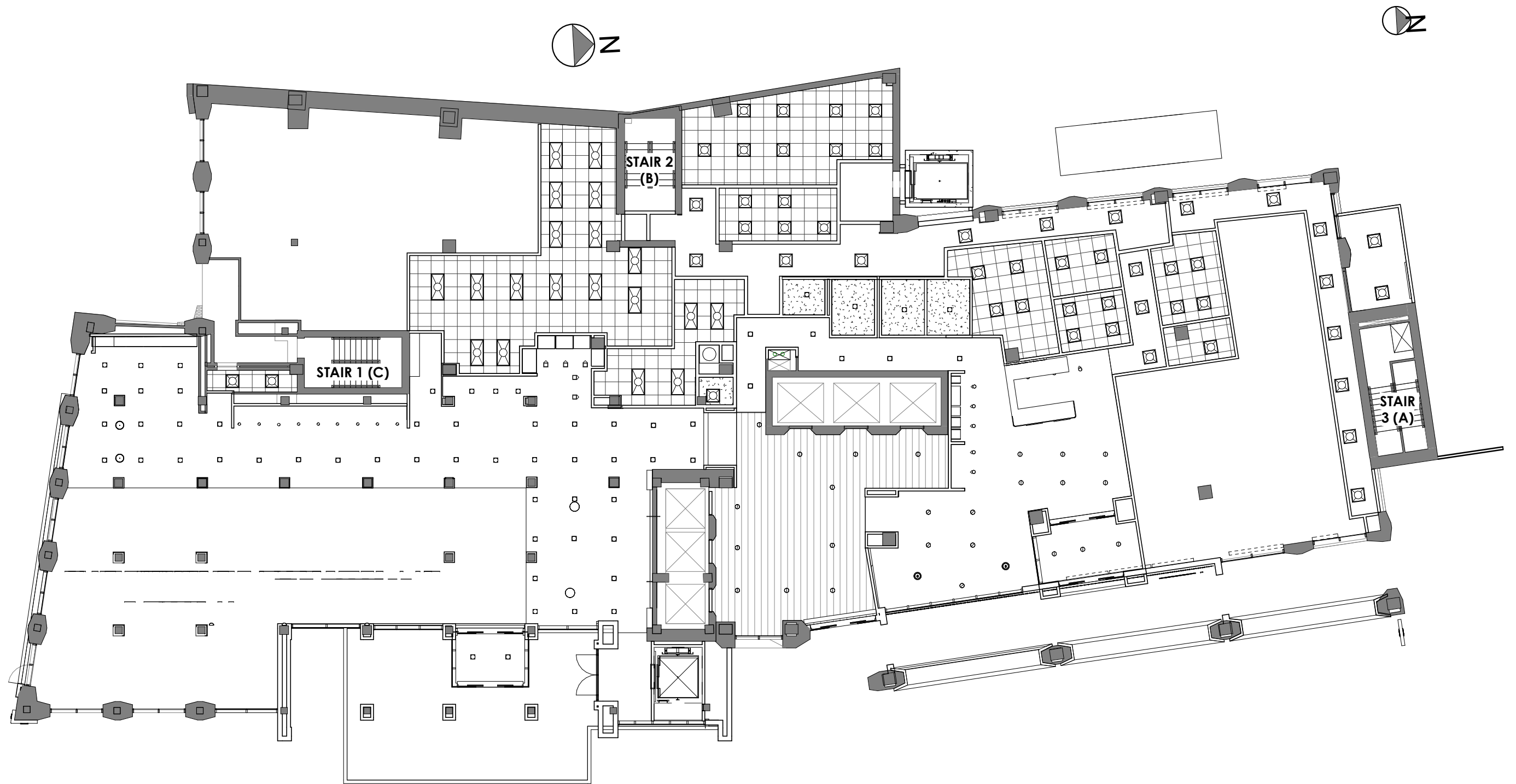
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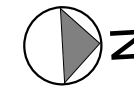
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PAGE A.102







RCP - SECOND FLOOR  
SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

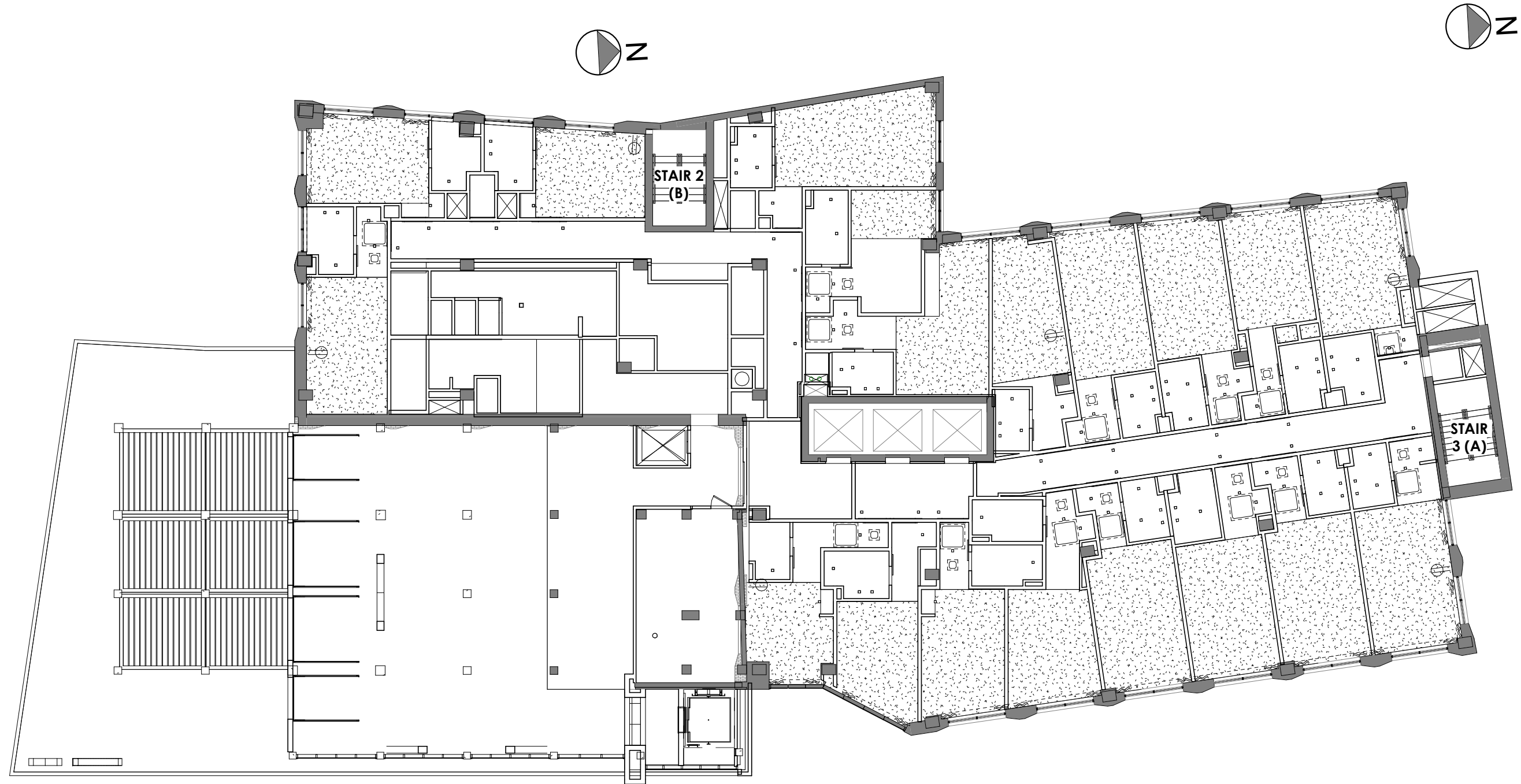
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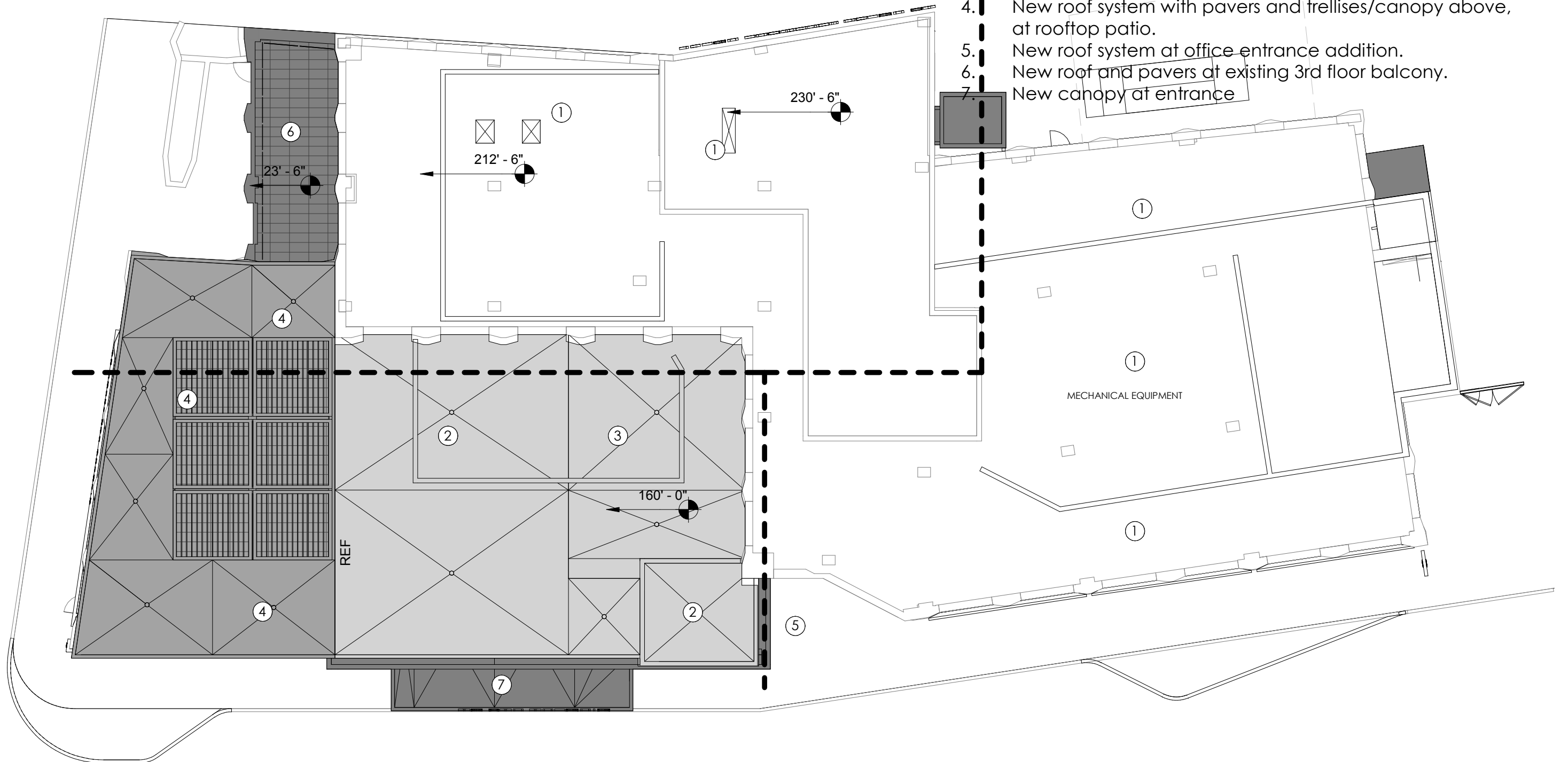
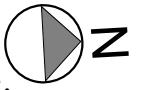




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## ROOFING SCOPE OF WORK

1. New roofing above 20th floor and Penthouse levels.  
Adjust for new mechanical equipment.
2. New roof and structure at rooftop bar.
3. New roof at existing low elevator penthouse.
4. New roof system with pavers and trellises/canopy above, at rooftop patio.
5. New roof system at office entrance addition.
6. New roof and pavers at existing 3rd floor balcony.
7. New canopy at entrance



## ROOF PLAN

### SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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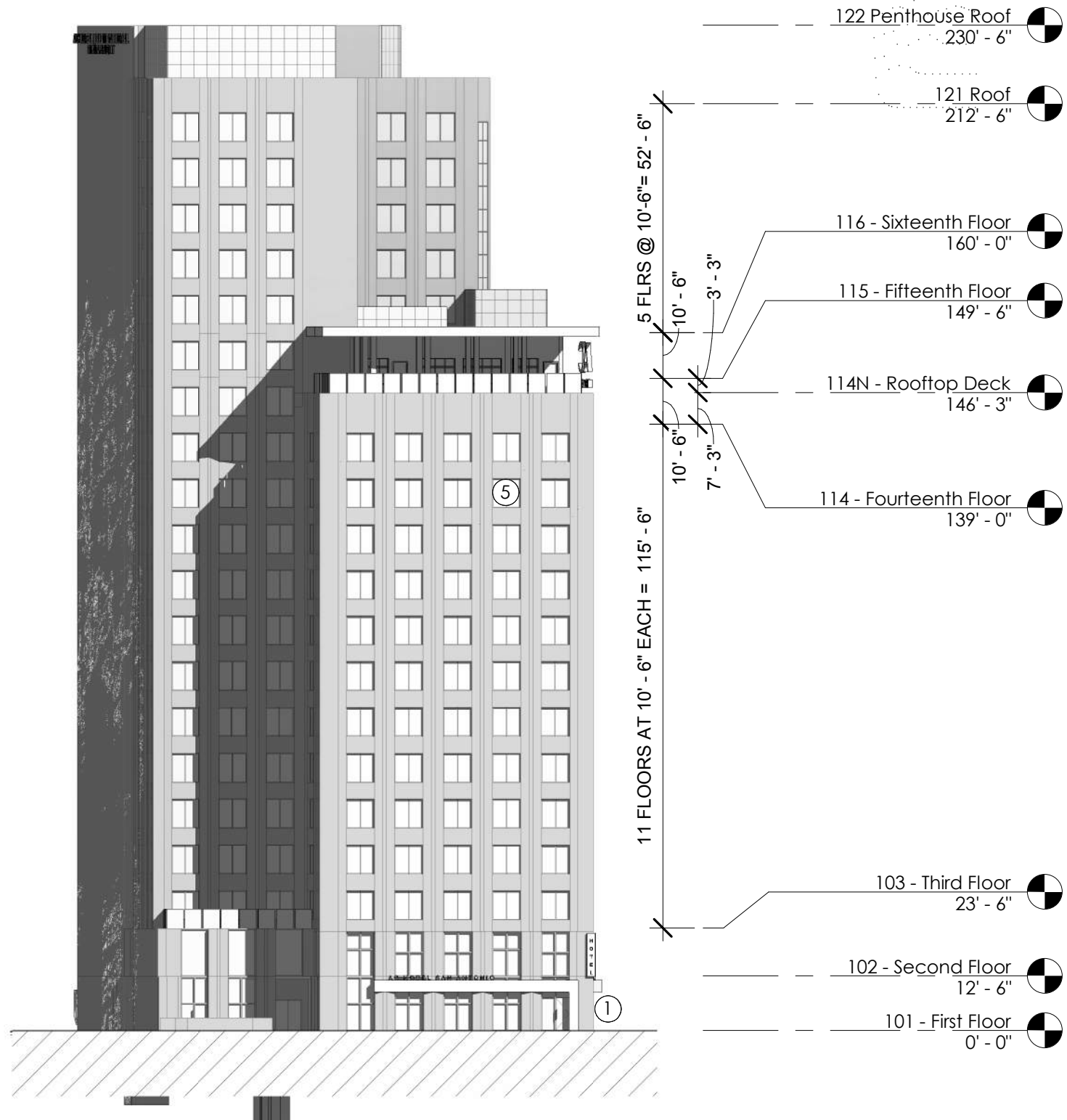
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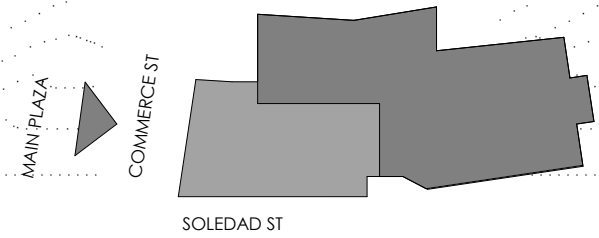
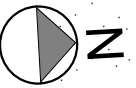
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# MAIN PLAZA ELEVATION SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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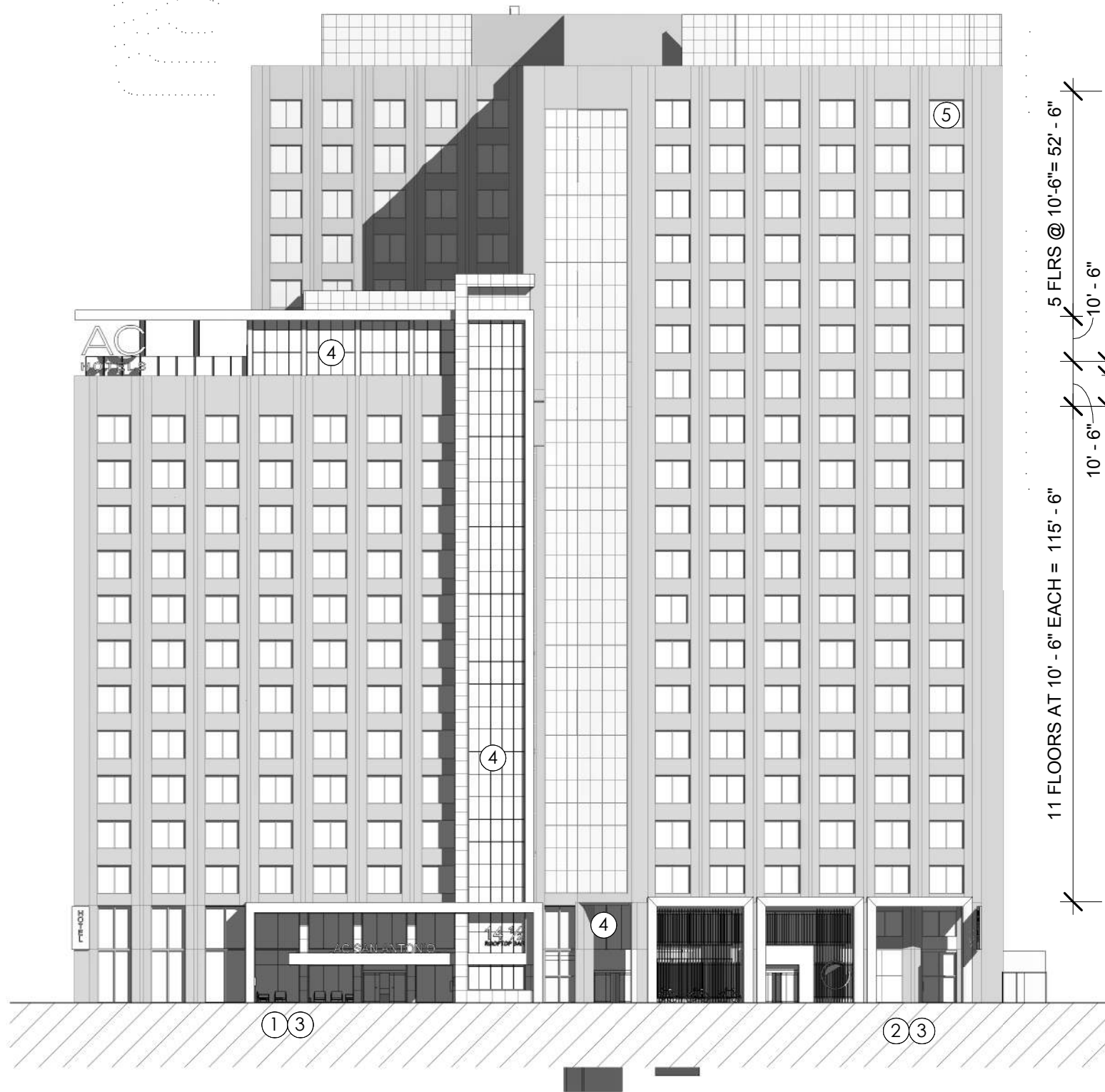
## KEY PLAN



## MATERIALS

- Canopies, new cladding:  
Metal Panel or Similar Look:  
(White, Gray, Dark Gray)
- Archways at Right:  
Cast Stone or Similar Look
- Canopy interiors:  
Wood or Similar Look
- Curtainwall & Storefront systems
- Remove, replace window films, all windows.
- Cut 2 new windows into blank wall, each hotel floor

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122 Penthouse Roof  
230' - 6"

121 Roof  
212' - 6"

116 - Sixteenth Floor  
160' - 0"

115 - Fifteenth Floor  
149' - 6"

114N - Rooftop Deck  
146' - 3"

114 - Fourteenth Floor  
139' - 0"

103 - Third Floor  
23' - 6"

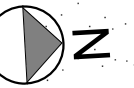
102 - Second Floor  
12' - 6"

101 - First Floor  
0' - 0"

5 FLRS @ 10' - 6" = 52' - 6"

11 FLOORS AT 10' - 6" EACH = 115' - 6"

KEY PLAN



MAIN PLAZA

COMMERCE ST

SOLEDAD ST

MATERIALS

1. Canopies, new cladding:  
Metal Panel or Similar Look:  
(White, Gray, Dark Gray)
2. Archways at Right:  
Cast Stone or Similar Look
3. Canopy interiors:  
Wood or Similar Look
4. Curtainwall & Storefront systems
5. Remove, replace window films, all windows.
6. Cut 2 new windows into blank wall, each hotel floor

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## SOLEDAD ELEVATION

### SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

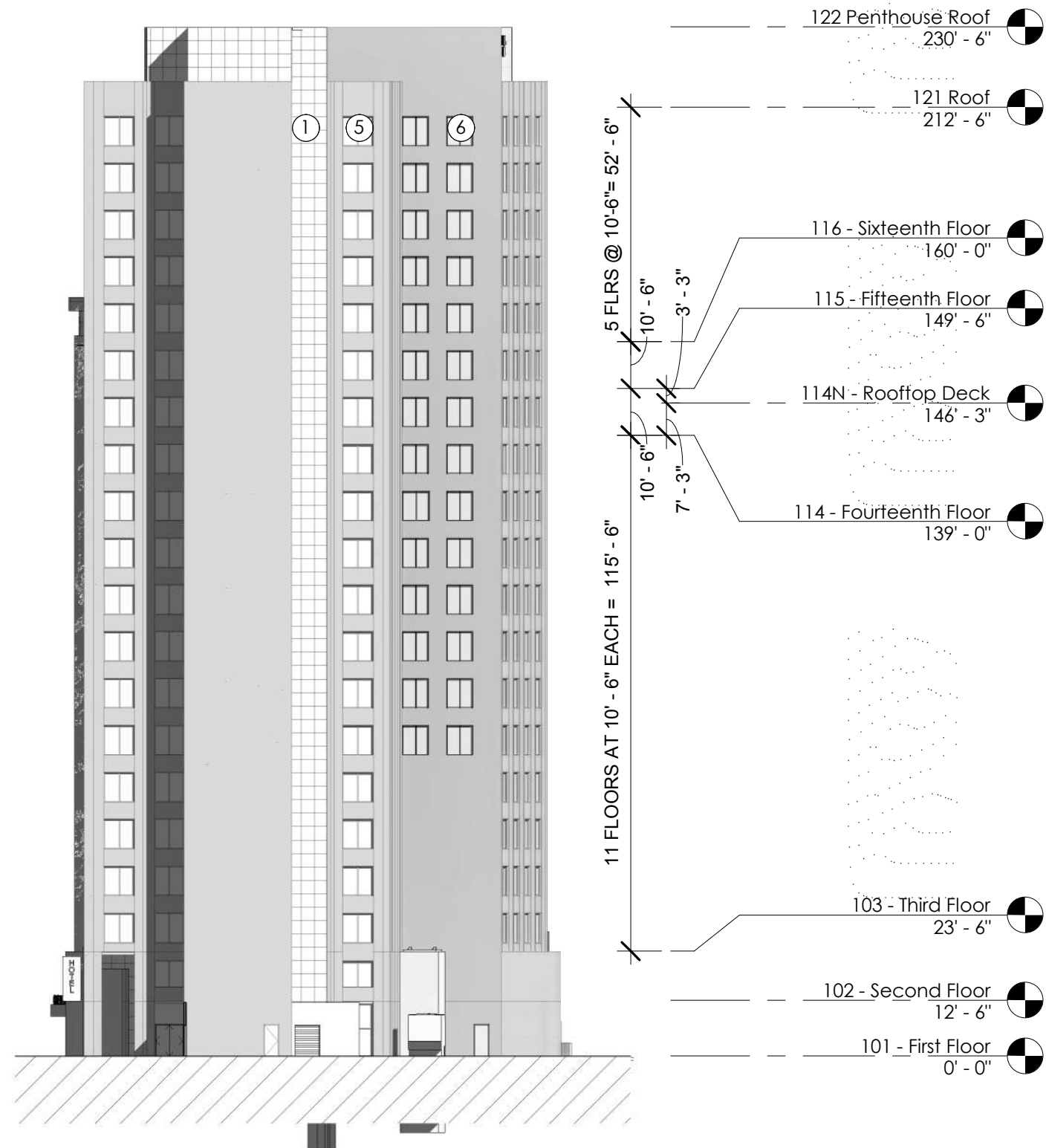
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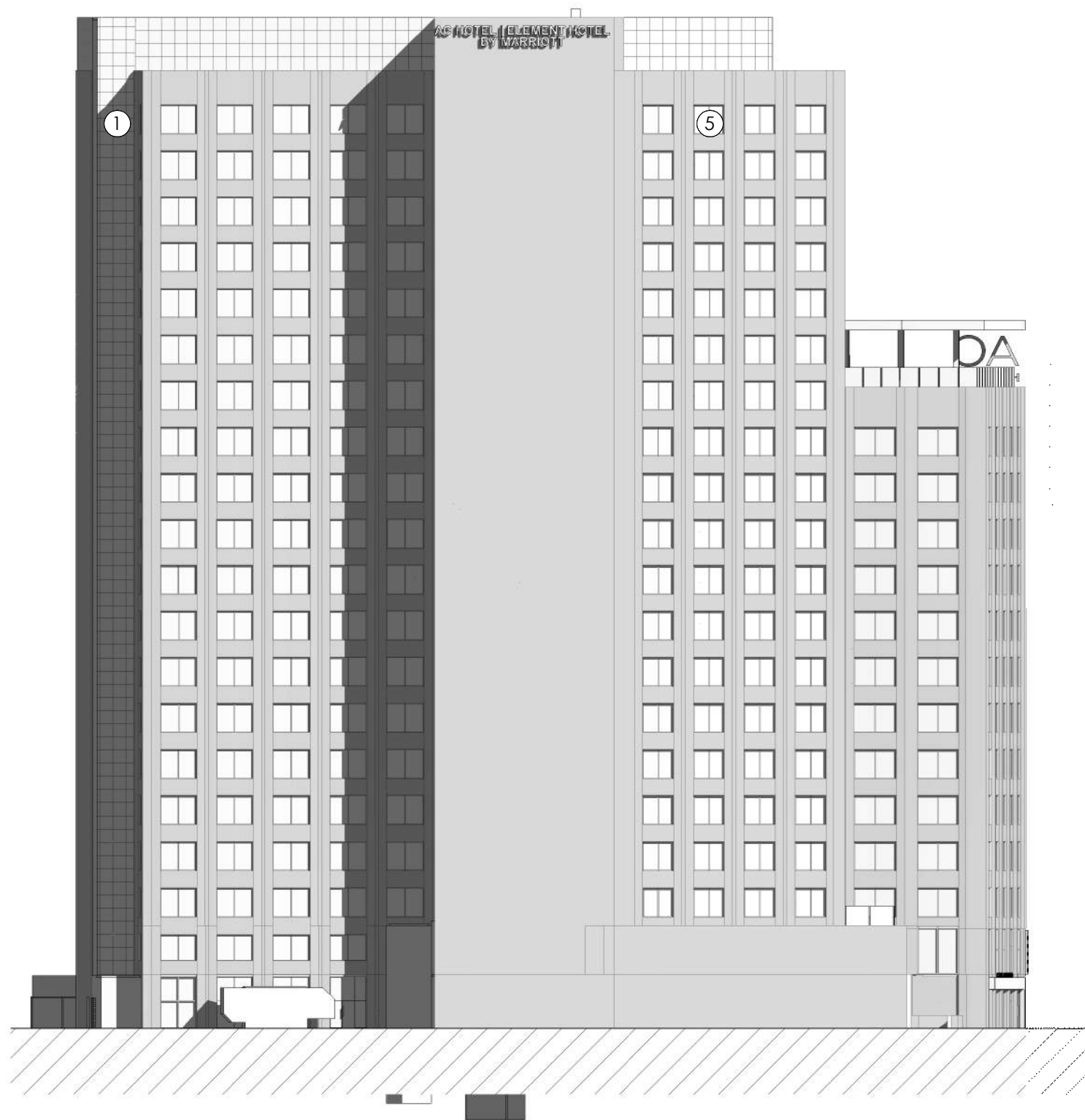
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# NORTH ELEVATION SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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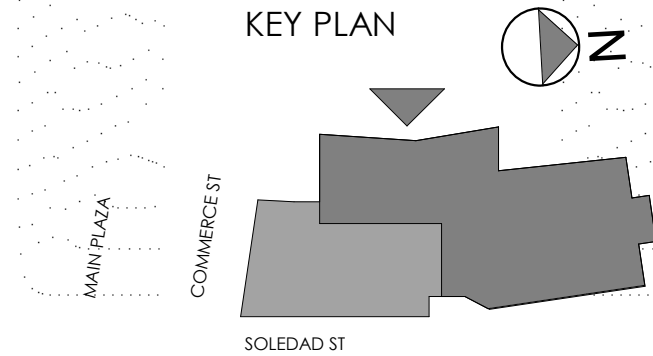


122 Penthouse Roof	230' - 6"	
121 Roof	212' - 6"	
116 - Sixteenth Floor	160' - 0"	
115 - Fifteenth Floor	149' - 6"	
114N - Rooftop Deck	146' - 3"	
114 - Fourteenth Floor	139' - 0"	
103 - Third Floor	23' - 6"	
102 - Second Floor	12' - 6"	
101 - First Floor	0' - 0"	

5 FLRS @ 10'-6" = 52' - 6"

11 FLOORS AT 10' - 6" EACH = 115' - 6"

## KEY PLAN



## MATERIALS

1. Canopies, new cladding:  
Metal Panel or Similar Look:  
(White, Gray, Dark Gray)
2. Archways at Right:  
Cast Stone or Similar Look
3. Canopy interiors:  
Wood or Similar Look
4. Curtainwall & Storefront systems
5. Remove, replace window films, all windows.
6. Cut 2 new windows into blank wall, each hotel floor

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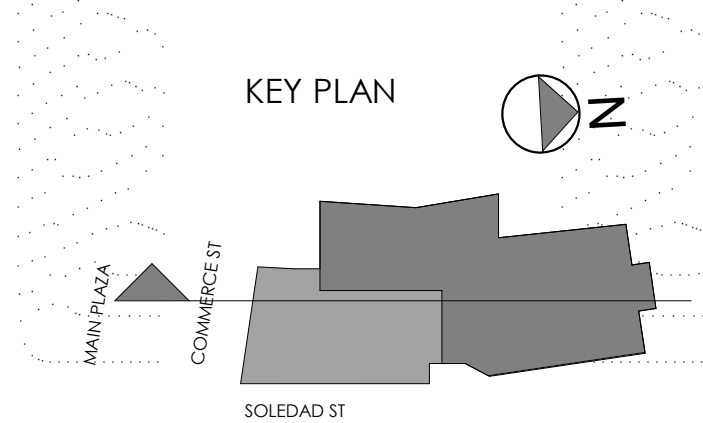
## WEST ELEVATION

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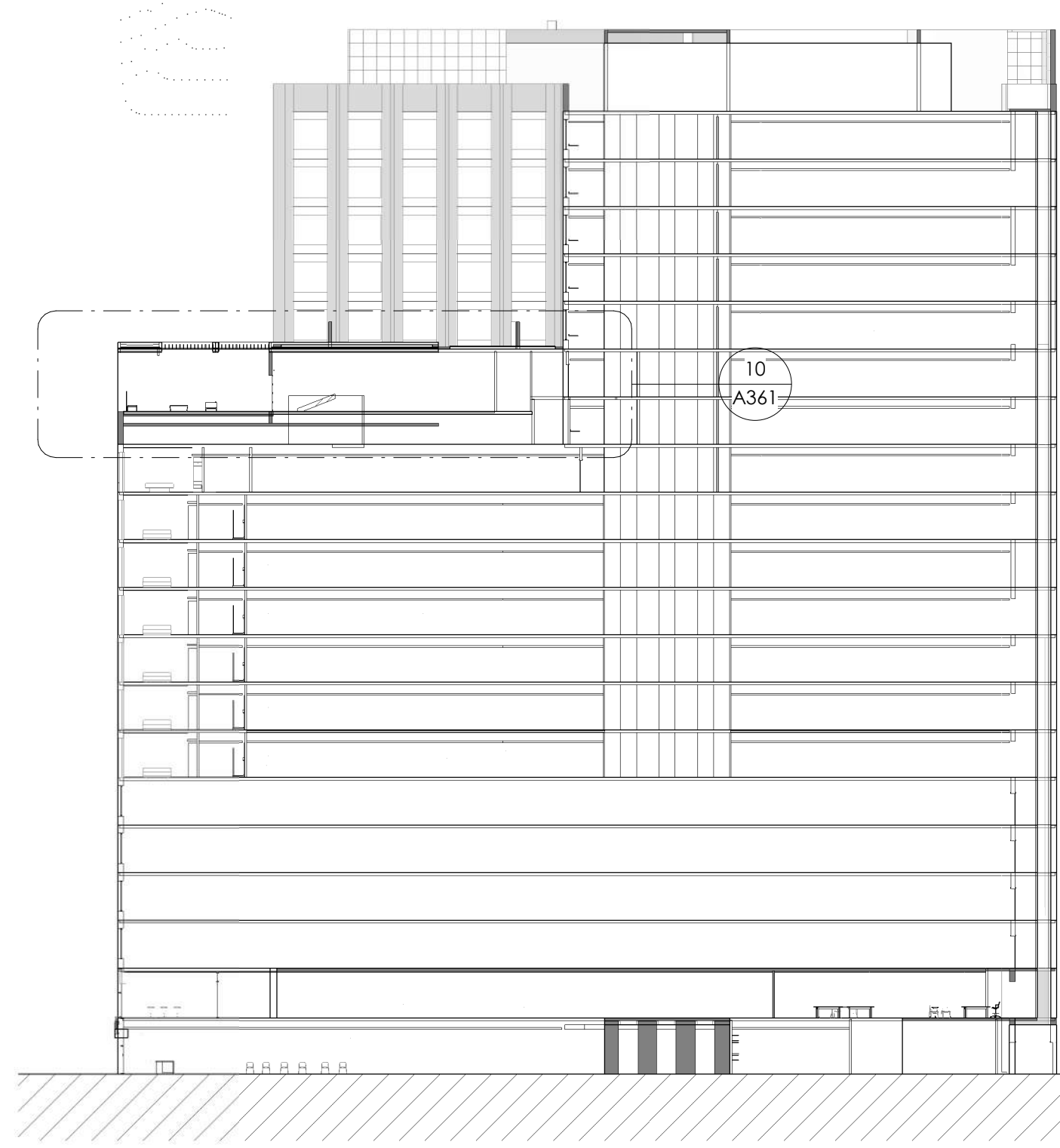
09/13/19

PAGE A.404



- MATERIALS
- 1. Canopies, new cladding:  
Metal Panel or Similar Look:  
(White, Gray, Dark Gray)
  - 2. Archways at Right:  
Cast Stone or Similar Look
  - 3. Canopy interiors:  
Wood or Similar Look
  - 4. Curtainwall & Storefront systems
  - 5. Remove, replace window films, all windows.
  - 6. Cut 2 new windows into blank wall, each hotel floor

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- 122 Penthouse Roof  
230' - 6"
  - 121 Roof  
212' - 6"
  - 116 - Sixteenth Floor  
160' - 0"
  - 115 - Fifteenth Floor  
149' - 6"
  - 114N - Rooftop Deck  
146' - 3"
  - 114 - Fourteenth Floor  
139' - 0"
  - 103 - Third Floor  
23' - 6"
  - 102 - Second Floor  
12' - 6"
  - 101 - First Floor  
0' - 0"
- 5 FLRS @ 10' - 6" = 52' - 6"
- 11 FLOORS AT 10' - 6" EACH = 115' - 6"
- 10' - 6"
- 3' - 3"
- 10' - 6"
- 7' - 3"



BUILDING SECTION  
SAN ANTONIO DUAL BRAND HOTEL

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EXTERIOR SCOPE OF WORK

ROOFTOP AREA

- Rooftop bar at 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> floor

FAÇADE

- Express elevator to rooftop bar, including reskinning façade for 1 bay from 1<sup>st</sup> floor to rooftop bar level
- Two (2) new guestroom windows on each floor on West side of building

1<sup>st</sup> floor changes

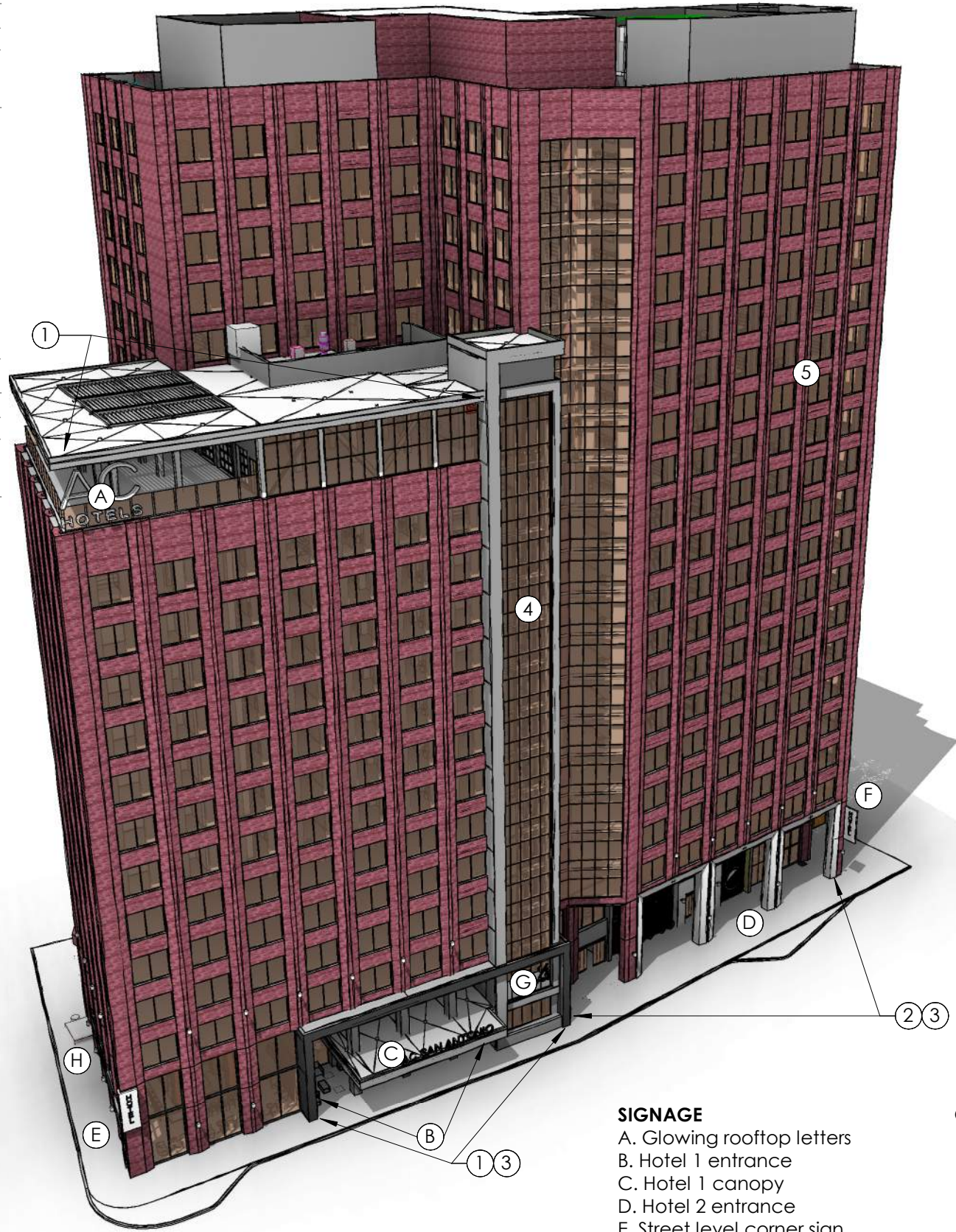
- Main drive-up entrance canopy for Hotel 1
- Entrance canopy for Hotel 2
- Glass box entrance for office space
- Smaller entrance off Main Plaza for bar
- Archway for retail space at North end of Soledad street

MATERIALS

1. Canopies, new cladding:  
Metal Panel or Similar Look:  
(White, Gray, Dark Gray)
2. Archways at Right:  
Cast Stone or Similar Look
3. Canopy interiors:  
Wood or Similar Look
4. Curtainwall & Storefront systems
5. Remove, replace window films, all windows.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING

- Uplights at bottom two stories
- Uplights at top two stories
- Downlights above roof deck
- Downlights at first floor canopies
- Lighting at signage



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SIGNAGE	Qty	Size	Area	Material
A. Glowing rooftop letters	(2)	10'x10'	200 sf	Glowing channel letters
B. Hotel 1 entrance	(2)	2'x2'	8 sf	Backlit rectangular acrylic in metal frame
C. Hotel 1 canopy	(1)	2'x24'	48 sf	Standalone glowing letters
D. Hotel 2 entrance	(1)	4'x4'	16 sf	Painted metal/moss 3d logo
E. Street level corner sign	(1)	2'x4'x10'	60 sf	Brushed metal with glowing letters
F. Street level blade retail sign	(1)	4'x10'	80 sf	Brushed metal with glowing letters
G. Street level rooftop bar signage	(1)	2'x10'	20 sf	Brushed metal letters
H. Main Plaza Low Hotel 1 Signage	(1)	1'x23'	23sf	Standalone glowing letters on canopy
Total	(10)		455sf	



RENDERING - OVERVIEW

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## RENDERING - HOTEL 1 ENTRANCE

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## RENDERING - ROOFTOP BAR ENTRY

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## RENDERING - HOTEL 2 ENTRANCE

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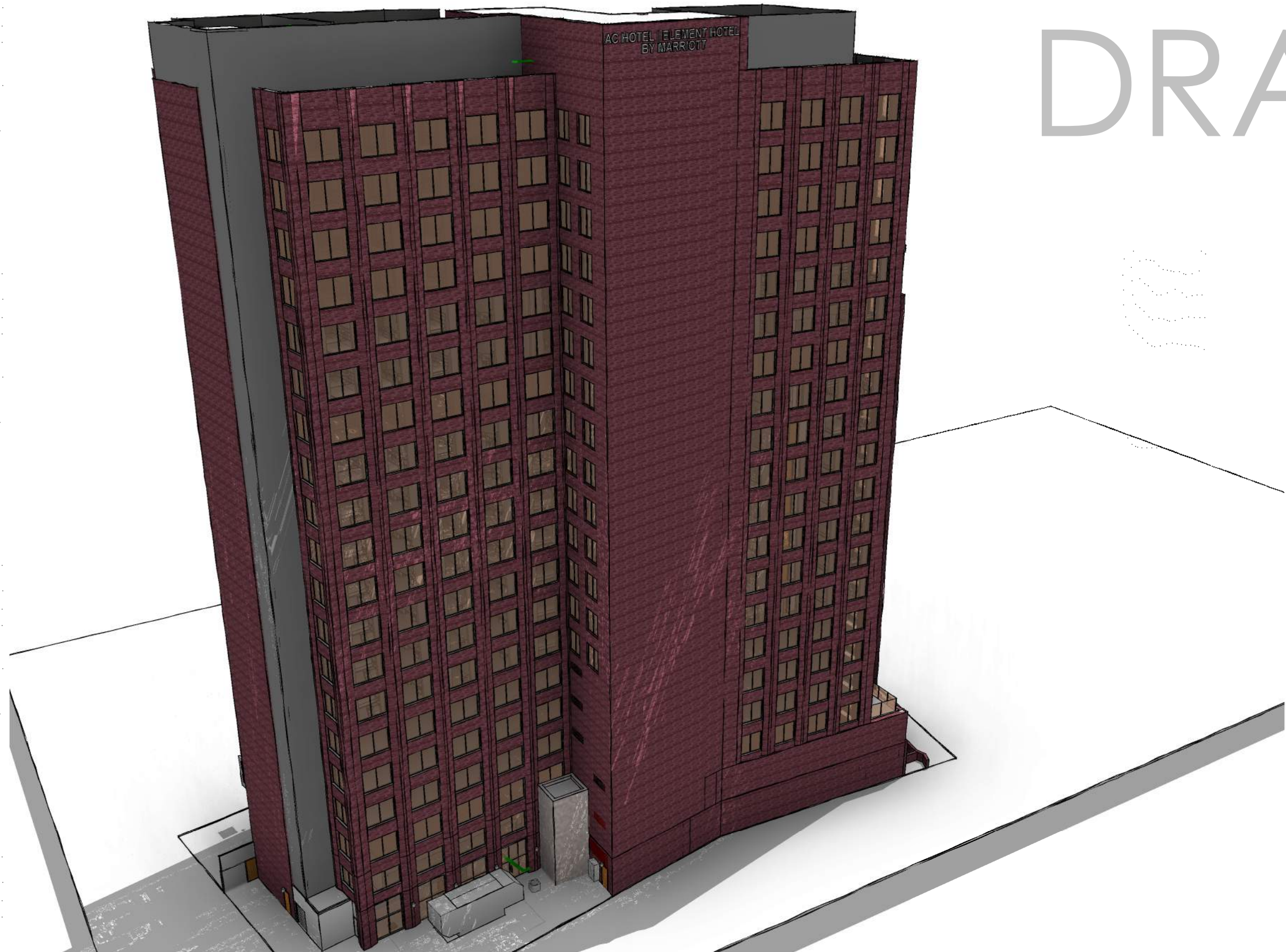
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RENDERING - REAR  
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## RENDERING - MAIN PLAZA

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